



Draft Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
3 East Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2500 West Broad Street

October 16th, 2019
1:00 p.m.

Present: Chris Adams, Jacqueline Hale, Mary Anna Broadbent

Staff Present: Rich Conti, Elizabeth Voelkel, Timshel Purdum, Chuck English,
Brandon Smith, Niki Grishkevich, Ada Sue Siler

Other Attendees: Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Purdum called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum was not present so the board was not able to approve the minutes.

Inspiration Index and Collections Report

Ms. Purdum reviewed the following points:

- The summer went phenomenally well
- Pompeii was excellent, we're hoping that Sharks will do just as well
- We're planning to use similar format regarding programming from now on, including coordinating with other Museum programs such as Lunch Break Science; this format has worked really well for the Museum this summer
- We had a 98% full summer camp
- Forge and the Mix have been very busy
 - Mix Kids had more membership than ever
 - We now have a full team in the Mix, a full time manager
 - My favorite program was the battle bots, they learned to cook they made sushi
 - Participation in the Richmond Zine Fest
 - The Forge has open making hours
 - Continuing with additional projects in the Forge
 - Armstrong School Partnership comes in regularly with their after school program

- Tomorrow we're doing GLOW, a project with the Autism Society of Virginia
 - Social skills learning
 - Practice with sensory overload
 - Project in the Forge
 - Might do it every month
- 5 schools for out of school time: this Fall Falling Creek and Providence Middle School from Chesterfield they are paying out of [need details].
- The Experience development team couldn't attend
- New boost gallery, we have a new dance floor coming in as well as a water bottle wall
- We have an IMLS grant with Citizen Science it is being used to expand work Jeremy has been working on urban heat islands and moving into air quality
 - We've got people collecting data
 - Working with Scott's Addition and community partners
 - Another part of that is Brandon's team will be building a digital display that will help show this data that people have been collecting
- Bionic Me will only be here until December, it's about technology that helps humans to be healthier and to be superheroes in their own way
- January's Giant Insects will be here until the Summer just like George was
 - It will have live bugs
 - Animatronic insects very large
- In the summer we'll be leveraging our platforms and we'll have planet shark
 - It will be a mix of multimedia plus hundreds of fossils and objects
 - Incredible exhibits
 - A little bit of everything for everyone in terms of gateways to experience the exhibit
- Superhero dogs is doing very well
- Science After Dark GLOW tomorrow night, Science After Bark in November
 - November 15th, monthly Science After Dark
 - About dogs

Ms. Voelkel introduced Lori Buckley-Van De Putte. She has been working in European museums for the last 15 years, just relocated to Virginia. She's only been here for three weeks but she's already made a huge impact, mostly cleaning up the mess that was left after not having a registrar for 8 months.

Ms. Voelkel added that this is still the centennial year of the last trains leaving Broad Street Station, we've been celebrating our hundredth anniversary all year. The Museum has participated in two conservation projects. Through the work of the Foundation we have raised enough funds to restore two chandeliers from the early years of the station. We have hired an object conservator to work on this

project. The chandeliers are gargantuan: they are 7 feet in diameter, 675 lbs, made of architectural iron, they have 48 milk glass panels that are being meticulously restoring. There are 108 bronze leaves that we thought were iron, turns out they're bronze.

Ms. Voelkel added that another large-scale conservation project the Museum just wrapped is the metal and wood failures of CarOne. CarOne is one of the seven pieces of rolling stock outside of the Museum; it's one of our largest artifacts. We hired Southwest Restoration to refabricate 88 window-glazing bars that had failed. We had metal failures on the platform. This project was privately funded. We invested \$110K into these two projects. Ms. Voelkel added that one possible location for the chandeliers is the town hall area.

VA Space Grant Consortium

Ms. Grishkevich discussed the following points:

- This summer we are offering the Teen Astronomer Program with itty bitty radio telescopes that was sponsored by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.
 - This was a one-week long intensive program for teens
 - Build their own itty bitty radio telescope, the overall emphasis is hands-on activity
 - You can do astronomy in so many different ways, not just looking through a telescope
 - The program will be Monday through Friday, 2 to 5 p.m., the kids will be 13-16 years old, it will take place on August 19-23
 - Did various different activities, most of them hands on, working on grasping different concepts regarding astronomy
 - Built their own itty bitty radio telescope and made their own observations and collected data, thought this was difficult
 - Gave kids a lot of different ways to think about collecting data
 - Astronomy is more than looking through a telescope: we need engineers, programmers, photographers, speakers, and more

State of STEM in Virginia

Mr. English discussed the following points:

- A lot has changed in the past year
- The biggest part was in July we got the Governor to sign an executive order for a STEM commission, as of last Friday we've had our second commission meeting, the main charge is to develop a statewide STEM plan moving forward, what does it mean to create a common language in STEM, a lot of great things are happening throughout the state, people going off in their own directions, common rubrics
- Developing the state plan, working with Virginia Department of Education, they're developing a plan at the same time, will be working to develop supports, community partnerships, after school/ other school programs, aspirational goals, be in support in whats happening with DOE

Mary Anna asked if K-12 included preschool. Mr. English responded that the commission will include preschool programming. What does it mean to start building these concepts in kids? Trying to get experts. We're looking to the structure of Elementary (single teacher for all subjects) and middle and high with different teachers for different subjects. We're looking at how to create a cohesive approach.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Conti discussed the following points:

- Thinking about where we want to be down the road
- Looking at four different areas:
 - Site and space planning
 - VCU School of Education might be using the Worker's Comp building
 - Parking Deck
 - Green Space
 - Programming
 - Community and citizen science
 - Pre-K through 12 programs
 - NOVA
 - \$78M project
 - Will probably open in four years
 - "Science is everything" as opposed to Danville's "Science for everyone"
 - Great organizations
 - How can we make technology work for the Museum
 - Looking at diversity, inclusion, and accessibility
- Committees might be reorganized to reflect these four areas of focus and accurately reflecting our goals

(45:00) (?) pointed out that data collected over the summer indicated that not only are people unfamiliar with the term "citizen science," people misinterpreted the term with a negative connotation. Community science might be a better term for this project.

New Business

No new business was heard from the committee.

Adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.