



APPROVED Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
Forum
2500 West Broad Street

June 15, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Present: Cristina Ramirez, Dr. Denise Walters, Elsa Falls, John Benton, Patricia Nicoson (Teleconference), Dr. Rodney Berry, Dr. Richard Groover, Glenn Davidson, David Mills.

Staff Present: Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Ada Sue Siler, Justin Bartel, and Ash Harris. Summer Interns: Kaylyn Nguyen, Azaria Jackson, Aiden Gibson, Sawyer Tabor, Mollie Bowman

Other Attendees: Cindy Norwood-Marquez, Office of the Attorney General
Dr. John O'Bannon.

Dr. Berry called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone and asked for everyone present to review the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2023 Education Committee Meeting. Dr. Berry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2023 Education Committee meeting. The motion was called by Dr. Walters and seconded by Ms. Ramirez. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

Timshel Purdum took a few moments to introduce the summer college interns. This is the second term of paid college internships at the Science Museum.

Education Team and Inspiration Index

Ms. Purdum shared an overview of the last two months from Team Education.

- Group attendance is steadily increasing and at 60% of pre-pandemic numbers.
- Lesson attendance year-to-date is just under 17k, equivalent to 74% of FY19.

- The most popular topics for Demos are Supercool, Amazing Animals, and Sound Science.
- Groups are booking larger classes instead of multiple smaller groups.
- Bus availability and cost is an expressed barrier from school groups.
- The Museum is offering grant funded busing to and from the Museum for field trips, but many schools are not utilizing this offering.
- Discussions with teachers and schools will continue to figure out why this offering is not better utilized.
- Science After Dark programming topics have proved very popular with the community and members.
- Two recent Science AFter Darks were Revenge of the 5th on May 5, 2023, and Ready to Launch on June 2, 2023.
- The Astronomy and Maker Educations teams are busy developing new programming for guests.
- The Dome is getting ready for much needed upgrades in September, installation of lasers.
- Finishing up the programming for the Lego grant.
- Lego donated 300 space themed Lego kits.
- As part of the Lego grant, the Museum Staff surveyed guests to determine why people visit the Museum.
- Responses showed that the majority of guests come to the Museum for family time, to learn something new, and to have fun.
- Development is underway for proposals for next year's Lego grant cycle.
- New Lego factory opens in Chesterfield County in 2025.
- The Museum will continue to foster the partnership development with Lego to sustain it in the years to come.
- Community Science initiatives, including RVAir and Science Within Reach, are thriving.
- The Summer RVAir event will take place this evening.
- Cristo Rey High School student interns are wrapping up their semester.
- The Experience Development team(EDT) is working on finalizing the interpretive signage for The Green.
- EDT worked with the Library of Virginia to scan historic blueprints of Broad Street Station.
- A new art installation, BioArt, will be installed on Level 2 The Galleria at the end of the month
- Upcoming programming includes the first Curiosity Camp Out, additional Science AFter Darks, Summer Camp and a teacher open house.

Dr. Groover expressed the need to send a letter of thanks to the Library of Virginia for their assistance in scanning the historic blueprints. Mr. Conti responded that a letter would be drafted and sent promptly.

New Business

Ms. Purdum asked for any new business.

Dr. Groover expressed a growing concern in the academic community surrounding the topic of artificial intelligence. Dr. Groover suggested that the topic of A.I. might be a programming topic with a great draw for the community.

Dr. O'Bannon shared about digital outreach in schools and communities.

Dr. Berry expressed thanks to the interns in attendance.

Adjournment

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Walters made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Ramirez. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on October 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.