



APPROVED Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
Forum
2500 West Broad Street

June 20, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Denise Walters, Gina Burgin, Patricia Nicoson, Dr. Rodney Berry, Karey Malyszko, Fran Bradford, Thomas Gottwald

Staff Present: Dr. Rose Basom, Rich Conti, Ada Sue Siler, Ash Harris, Courtney Moyer, MJ Benson

Other Attendees: Adam Kane, Office of the Attorney General
Dr. John O'Bannon

Dr. Berry called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone and asked for everyone present to review the meeting minutes from the April 18, 2024, Education Committee Meeting. Dr. Berry asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was called by Ms. Bradford and seconded by Ms. Malyszko. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

Education Team and Inspiration Index

Dr. Basom shared an overview of the last three months from Team Education.

- Summer activities at the Museum commenced with the start of Summer Camp on June 17, featuring the themes such as "Animal Adventures" and "Mess Fest."
- In May, the "Science After Dark: Prehistoric Party" event celebrated the installation of the Quetzalcoatlus exhibit.
- Additionally, the Garner Pavilion hosted sixty-two guests during May's astronomy-themed Camp Out.

- Guests at the Sunrise Science program had the opportunity to learn about and taste ice cream while also exploring cutting-edge cancer research.
- Furthermore, the museum launched its summer hours and programming in The MiX on June 4, offering a variety of engaging activities and events.
- The Science with Reach team attended 13 community events (11 in April alone!) and engaged over 3,000 people.
- The Museum is now certified as an Accessible Hospitality Location in Richmond by VisitAble.
- The Museum hosted Tablespoons Bakery Pop-Up in the Rotunda; a vocational culinary training program that provides internship experiences and employment opportunities for young adults with developmental disabilities.
- The team wrapped up the first year of Senior Morning programming with a Kugel painting class in April and bird walk in The Green in June.
- The review of statistics highlighted several key points regarding school and group visits:
 - In Fiscal Year 2024, 20% of field trips were supported by funding for Title 1 schools, up from 18% in FY 23.
 - Total revenue from admission and lesson fees from July 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, amounted to \$626,474, with \$121,804 coming from grant funding.
 - Grant support was predominantly utilized in January (45%), followed by November (29%), February (25%), and October (19%).
 - The busiest months for school visits, based on attendance, were April, March, November, and February.
 - Large group demonstrations have become the most booked type of program for two consecutive years, surpassing small group lessons.
 - In April and May, there were 85 unique volunteers who collectively contributed 1,400 hours of service.
 - Additionally, the Museum welcomed six summer interns, including representation from the Partnership for the Future, Girls for Change, and the Mayor's Youth Academy.
- Review of upcoming events
 - July 27 - Minds of All Kinds
 - August 1 - Science on Tap: 80s Night
 - August 4 - Family Math Day with VCU
 - August 18 - Discover Steampunk closes
 - September 2 - BODY WORLDS: The Anatomy of Happiness closes
 - September 11 - Senior Morning
 - September 28 - Math Alive! opens

- Summer Friday hours for BODY WORLDS: An Anatomy of Happiness 5-8 p.m.

New Business

Dr. Berry asked for any new business.

During the discussion, Dr. O'Bannon inquired about the possibility of hosting representatives who could provide coaching to interested body and organ donors.

Ms. Bradford raised a question regarding extended after-hours access for the BODY WORLDS exhibit. Ms. Basom confirmed that while the rest of the Museum remains closed, access to BODY WORLDS is available with adjusted ticket pricing, as explained by Ms. Moyer.

Mr. Conti elaborated on the plastination process pioneered by Dr. Von Hagen, noting that the Museum first hosted this exhibit in 2012. In 2018, an animal-themed version was featured, and the current exhibit emphasizes storytelling around happiness.

Dr. Basom provided insights into BODY WORLDS, highlighting the natural poses designed to evoke positive emotions and offering viewers a unique perspective on human anatomy and health systems.

Mr. Conti emphasized the exhibit's credibility, noting that all specimens have provenance and are respected, distinguishing it from similar exhibitions.

Mr. Conti also discussed plans for the Northern Virginia Science Center (Nova Sci), expressing hope to include two specimens from the BODY WORLDS exhibition in the center's human themed gallery.

Dr. Berry sought clarification on the authenticity of the specimens, to which Dr. Basom confirmed that they are indeed real, formed from authentic specimens.

Dr. Berry commended Ms. Purdum for her recent appearance on local television networks.

Adjournment

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Burgin made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Malyszko. Dr. Berry called for a vote

which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on October 17, 2024.