

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019, PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, IN STUDIO 6, 4TH FLOOR, AT THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE, 215 W 57TH ST., NEW YORK, NY.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. with President Thomas Harvey in the chair.

Board of Control (BoC) Members Present: Thomas Harvey, Mary Jo Anzel, Ezra Bookstein, Beth Berns, Charlotte Bialek, Cathy Blake, Robin Frank, Luz-Mary Harris, Robert Morris, Julia Salinas, Jeff Sundheim (by telephone). **Absent:** Raj Shahani

Also present: Executive Director Michael Rips, Jennifer Solomon, CDO, Karen Gaines, CFO, and Manager Thomas Tacik, taking minutes.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the BoC, held May 8, 2019, having been circulated to the board members, were approved unanimously.
3. **Certificates of Completion:** There were no Certificates of Completion for approval.
4. **Membership Reinstatement Requests:** The following membership reinstatement request was approved:

Sandra Gorman Carol Thaler

5. **President's Report:** President Harvey delivered the following remarks:

I'm sorry that I missed the last Board meeting, but I would like to thank Mary Jo Anzel, Vice President for Women, for running it in my absence. All seems to have run smoothly, as I would have expected.

Shortly prior to that meeting we had our annual Instructors' Dinner. It was held this year, as it was last, at the Harmonie Club on East 60th Street — a truly elegant venue. This is an opportunity to express our appreciation to our very fine instructors. And it gives them an opportunity to socialize with a group that, because of diverse teaching schedules, isn't often together.

All of our committees have been very active, probably none more than the Strategic Planning Committee. That committee put together an interesting survey of our students and members. The survey was completed by about 800 individuals — I would say a very good response rate. I have read over the survey results several times and have been struck by a few of the findings.

1. Among the things most appreciated about the League are the affordability of our classes, the quality of our instructors and the sense of community one finds here.
2. People appreciate the studio-based art instruction.
3. People would like more and larger studio space. Also, more locker storage space and more space in which to congregate.
4. When asked about revenue raising activities, several supported such things as soliciting grant applications, soliciting bequests and the concept of a capital campaign. A resounding 81.13% did not find the idea of raising tuition and fees appealing.

I have spoken about the fact that only about 16% of our membership contributes to the League. In the survey several did say that they would consider donating if that would help maintain low tuition, provide need-based financial aid, provide instructor support, maintain/improve facilities and add space — more classes/more room.

I don't know that there are any earth-shaking revelations here, and I am sure that we will be slicing and dicing the information the survey provided — as well as the results of the various focus groups that we have conducted with the different League constituencies. Hopefully it is obvious that we want to hear from everyone whose life is touched by the League. We are listening to what they have to say about what they value — and don't value — and what they would like to do to improve this institution that they love. The problem is that there are some conflicting aspirations among these different groups. For example, the League facility occupies a fixed number of square feet divided into a number of studios and other functional areas. You just can't cram additional studios — especially larger ones as some would like — into that space. And if we were to expand into annex space, is there the unmet demand that would make new and larger studios economically viable?

In 2014, the Board conducted another survey of our students. That survey asked participants to write in what their concerns were — it did not give them a range of options. Essentially, the results were the same. Among the issues raised were lighting, easels, general cleaning and air quality. Ken Park was very involved in that survey, and I know he has been working with Charlotte Bialik on the current one.

Models to Monuments launched at Riverside Park (145th Street and the Hudson River) on May 22nd. The event was well received by the representatives of the city who were in attendance. Four artists participated, to include Board Member Jeff Sundheim. Our congratulations to all. M2M has been an opportunity for the League to show its stuff for the past several years. In the past there have been challenges in the program and costs have gotten out of hand. Michael believes that we are on top of that now and that the program can continue to be successful going forward.

On May 28th Michael hosted a town hall meeting for all of the instructors. There were probably about 35 in attendance, as well as a number of Board members. It seemed very well received. A few of the things that were discussed include:

Michael's own comments: We have some of the finest instructors in the art world. They represent our past — and our future. The League is committed to the atelier method with each instructor having extensive autonomy in his or her own class. He is looking at the possibility of distance learning. Considering adding Master Classes. Should we be adding new artistic mediums to the curriculum — photography, digital, etc.? He is seeking ways that the instructors can best advise him.

There was discussion of how to enable the faculty to get together — possibly an email list including all. Robin Frank has undertaken to put that together and has circulated it among the instructors. Some discussion of whether we should have the requirement that students take classes in “fundamentals” with a disagreement among some instructors as to what constitutes “fundamentals.” An ability to draw is one such, yet there were some who thought that skill was secondary. One observed that most consider fundamentals to derive from the Italian Renaissance and ignore African, Chinese, etc. artistic tradition. Also, discussion of whether we should add art history classes — with several instructors saying that they include history in their own teaching. Some concern that students were remaining in a class for too long. This may be in part because they can't afford to establish their own studio outside. It is up to the instructor to encourage students to move along so that they can broaden their skill sets by studying under other instructors. And the feeling among many in the printmaking department that they were being ignored was made quite clear by Bill Behnken.

There were also a number of process questions. Who makes decisions about hiring? Other issues. The Catalog and its layout could be improved with better — and possibly more — images of an instructor's work (and possibly the work of students in that class.) Michael said that this was under consideration for next year.

I read in the paper just this morning that a suit against the City trying to halt progress on creating a homeless shelter in the former Park Savoy Hotel at 158 West 58th Street — about a block from the League — has been dismissed. The shelter project will now proceed. I have spoken about my concerns regarding that shelter before. Each morning some 140 homeless men will be discharged onto the street where they will have to fill their day before returning to the shelter in the evening. I am concerned about the security implications for us here at the League, as well as for students coming and going from here. We will have to monitor this situation as it develops and most likely, develop new security protocols to address it.

This is the last full Board meeting of the year. Our next is in September. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer; and I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

6. **Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Michael Rips delivered remarks on the following:
 - Mavis Pusey exhibition in the AFAS Lobby Gallery (New York Time Obituary of Pusey was circulated to Board members)
 - Work with the Board's Strategic Planning Committee on a 5-10 year strategic plan
 - Summary report of the town hall meeting with instructors, and the intention of holding two large meetings and several focused meeting throughout the year
 - Implementation of art history lectures by instructors
 - Planned film series on art and artists
 - Progress of Gala planning
 - Art for Justice project, a collaboration with the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation
 - Discussion with Robin Frank on the InCollect exhibition project
 - Anticipated reports regarding HVAC system upgrade

7. **Development Report:** Chief Development Officer Jennifer Solomon reviewed the Development Report. Ms. Solomon went on to discuss member outreach initiatives in the form of studio visits to discuss fundraising with students, and asked board members to provide suggestions for contacts. Ms. Solomon provided an update on the fall gala and outlined the effectiveness of the League's public relations firm as illustrated by the New York Times obituary of Raymond Kinstler. Also discussed were efforts to engage donors who support grants and scholarships in order to increase giving. Ms. Solomon concluded with a review of the Provincetown workshop brochure. There followed a discussion of art travel and its potential for the Art Students League. Board member Robin Frank asked how travel workshops would be organized going forward. Ms. Solomon responded that art-related travel would be distinct from workshop programming. Board member Charlotte Bialek noted that it would be a missed opportunity if League students were to attend such trips with other organizations.

8. **Finance Report:** Chief Financial Officer Karen Gaines presented a review of the Investment Policy Statement for ratification. There followed a discussion regarding clarifying the language of the Statement around two areas: donor intent and spending policy. Ms. Gaines discussed adding language to the policies and procedures area of the statement. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Investment Policy Statement was approved unanimously, with changes, as discussed in the meeting.

Ms. Gaines went on to review the capital budget. There followed a discussion of various in-progress and forthcoming building improvements. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the capital budget was approved unanimously.

10. Committee Reports:

Programming: Committee chair Robin Frank reviewed progress with the InCollect exhibition of League instructors and discussed plans for proceeding with an exhibition in September. Mr. Rips discussed the framework of exhibiting with InCollect and legal issues that need to be resolved regarding the license agreement. There followed a discussion regarding the mechanics of the InCollect model and possible issues concerning licensing the League name. Mr. Rips stated that he would consult with attorneys over the matter.

Development: There was no committee report.

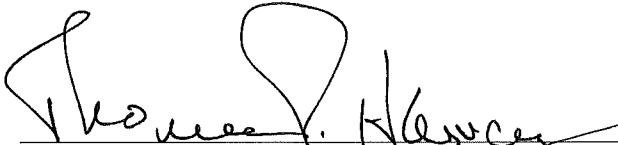
Strategic Planning: There was no committee report.

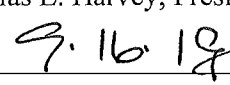
Finance: There was no committee report.

Building: There was no committee report.

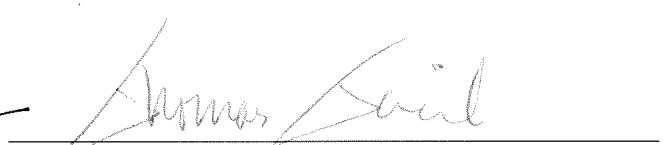
11. New Business: Board members discussed the status of the annual membership fee.

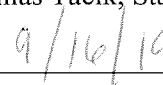
There being no further business and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.



Thomas E. Harvey, President


Date



Thomas Tacik, Staff Member (Taking Minutes)


Date