

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL OF THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK HELD AUGUST 19, 2020, PURSUANT TO NOTICE DULY GIVEN, VIA INTERNET TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM).**

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

**Board of Control (BoC) Members Present:** Robin Frank, Beth Berns, Charlotte Bialek, Cathy Blake, Ezra Bookstein, Nelsena Burt-Spano, Michael Jacobs, Stephen Rosenthal, Julia Salinas, Jeff Sundheim, and Jacquetta Szathmari. Absent: Louis Henry Mitchell.

Also present: Karen Gaines, CFO; Eric Raff, HR Officer; Development Consultant Rachel Weingeist and Manager Thomas Tacik, taking minutes.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of previous meetings of the BoC, held May 13 and July 22, 2020, having been circulated to the board members, were approved.
3. **President's Report:** President Robin Frank introduced new Board members Jacquetta Szathmari, Louis Mitchell, and Stephen Rosenthal, and delivered the following report:

**Donations**

Each week, Database Associate Elizabeth Botta has been sending a donations report to me and Development Committee Chair Jeff Sundheim. This has been extremely helpful in monitoring our progress. From 4/1/20 to 8/14/20 there were 730 separate donations totaling \$740,000 compared to 147 donations totaling \$201,000 (excluding the Morse estate). This represents an increase of 583 donations.

**Class Registration**

Registration is broken up into two parts: Zoom classes and Email classes. Zoom classes are any classes that are taught online via Zoom. Email classes are those instructors who prefer not to teach via Zoom and are doing either critiques or are using some other method to teach students.

| <b>August 2020</b> | <b>Students</b> | <b>Revenue</b>   |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Email Class        | 334             | 39,700           |
| Online Class       | 1,051           | 134,700          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1,385</b>    | <b>\$174,400</b> |
| <b>August 2019</b> |                 |                  |
| Studio Class       | 981             | 112,000          |
| Workshops          | 74              | 24,000           |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1,055</b>    | <b>\$136,000</b> |

**This represents an increase in revenue year to year of \$38,400.**

The registration for September is taking place as we speak. We will be offering over 105 classes online for September as compared to 49 classes in August. I want to commend Robert Telenick, Director of Programs, for doing an upstanding job in transitioning us to online. Currently, he is in the process of applying to Zoom to be able to broadcast our classes in High Definition. I will keep you abreast on this front.

As you all know, we set the prices for Zoom classes at \$149 for two times a week for 1 ½ hours and \$99 for once a week for 1 ½ hours. We did not increase the price in September as we are starting classes on the 8<sup>th</sup>. In October, Robert and I recommend (based on surveying other schools) the price of \$185.00 for two-day and \$120 for the one day classes.

## **Gallery**

Genevieve Martin has been plugging away at the Cinqué Exhibition. During the summer she had brought on a Fellow from the Art Table Fellowship Program. I met Jewel Ham via Zoom and it was decided that we would continue her Fellowship. This program is profound for a number of reasons, one being that of all our pre-existing grants and scholarship initiatives none are actually devoted to promoting diversity at the League.

There will be an exhibition on September 1<sup>st</sup> of student work taking place at One Brooklyn Bridge Plaza in partnership with Chashama. Allison Green has put together a committee of Instructors to select the works. The works will be for sale; the League will be receiving 30% commission.

The Red Dot exhibition is now online. Anki King's hard work is very evident in the presentation. Mostly all artists in the Red Dot exhibit have a link to their own websites and the pieces on virtual display are for sale. Again, The League will be receiving a 30% commission on all sales.

## **Collections**

Anki has been tasked with the job of looking through our temporary collection. This is a monumental task. She will be presenting a report to the Board of any pieces that meet the standards for our collection. The Board will need to vote to designate those works into our permanent collection.

I am proud to announce Stephanie Cassidy has a new job title: Head of Research and Archives. In addition to LINEA she will be building a database for our library. Furthermore, she will be taking the helm of publishing for the first time in our history an Annual Report. Or, as Karen corrected me, an "Integrated Financial Report," the details of which will be hashed-out with a task force that needs to be put together. The IFR will be a correlation of finance reports, programming inside and outside of the League, special workshops, lectures, exhibitions, events, etc. This report will be useful in so many ways. It will be helpful in highlighting what we do every year in one place. It will be helpful for donors, students, new Board members and the art world outside of our doors to see all of the wonderful initiatives we bring to the table.

The Collections Committee, of which Charlotte is Chair, is now tasked with reviewing our collections policy and creating a new gift policy. I will be visiting the warehouse most likely in the next month to have eyes on the collection and also to try and negotiate with Hahn to remove the viewing fee. Eventually, we would like to analyze what to do with the pieces that are in our temporary collection that are not designated for the permanent collection.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harvey Dinnerstein teaching at the League. In honor of his 40th year we will be presenting approximately 25 works consisting of charcoal, graphite and pastel drawings. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be designated for a fund to help League models during this trying period in our history.

## **Website**

Thanks to Paul Livornese we have an upgrade to our website. Please take a look. We added a gallery option and have a new landing page. The upgrade is not complete and needs some minor changes and fixes. Paul is away this week but will be focusing on this when he returns.

## **SEEDS of the League**

Denise Greene, who heads up Seeds of The League, has reported for FY 20 that Seeds expanded its collaboration with NYC Parks by expanding the art program into three sites we had not offered arts instruction in and we re-established the program in a previous site. Seeds provided a total of 415 visual art classes and 215 after school classes for ages 6-13, 59 summer art classes for ages 6-13, and 102 toddler art classes for ages 2-5. We increased the number of centers serving toddlers from one to six.

We serve the LGBTQ community through our partnership with the Ali Forney Center, the largest homeless youth organization in the country, and its partner, The Gay Center. Their case workers identify youth who have a talent for art and ask them to apply for a Seeds of The League scholarship. Seeds also provides teaching artists to high schools that either require skills to supplement their art department or don't have an art department.

Our newest collaboration is with Harlem School of the Arts. Seeds will grant scholarships to the children they recommend. HSA will promote League classes on their website and Seeds teachers will supplement their visual arts program on site. Seeds is an expansive program, and these are just a few of the highlights.

## **Building**

Testing for mold and asbestos was performed. I am pleased to report that we have no asbestos. However, we do have mold. Ezra will be presenting the mold report and preliminary quotes for construction. We are moving forward with the insurance claim, of which Karen Gaines is organizing the proper paperwork and will be working with the adjuster going forward. She will elaborate further on this very topic.

As per our lawyer, the insurance company will reimburse us and the issue with Extell is left up to the insurance companies to fight it out. We are required to give Extell notice to inspect. However, we can proceed with any demolition if there is a safety issue. We started demolition in the lithography and etching studios. The printing presses have been dismantled, lithography stones stored; the walls and floors are being taken up. We have two separate companies giving us quotes on the mold remediation and we should have the quotes by the end of the week.

We will also be contacting a structural engineer to give us an assessment of the building at this point in time. When the blasting occurred next door they were monitoring the cracks in the basement with meters. Reports were issued at that time. I also noticed minor cracks on the outside of the building. Therefore, for safety purposes and for future negotiations with Extell, this will be an important report. The lawyer will also be evaluating the timeframe for the scaffolding to come down.

I also wanted to report that the lockers in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor hallway have been cleaned out and the lockers have been thrown away because they are damaged. Any student who has damaged items can make a claim and we will be replacing items on a case by case basis. Thank god we have not had any major losses from locker damage. Jimmy from registration was kind enough to perform an analysis of the locker situation and we have enough lockers without replacing them. We were not ADA compliant by having lockers in the fourth floor hallway. Tomorrow or today we will be moving the lockers from the walls in studio's on the fourth floor in order to start demolition in those areas.

I want to personally thank Kenneth David, our Facilities Director, for his outstanding job. The Maintenance team saved The League from what could have been a much worse situation. Thank you, Thank you.

## **Learning Management System**

Eric will be updating the Board with the status of the online manager.

There followed discussions regarding donations, new communication to the membership, and instructor compensation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, with one abstention, the Board approved, the distribution of a total of \$12,600 in Board designated stipends to two instructors in recognition of their significant tenure teaching at The Art Students League of New York.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved \$5,000 in Board designated funds for the purchase of an artwork by League Instructor Harvey Dinnerstein during the upcoming online retrospective of Mr. Dinnerstein's drawings, pastels and prints.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to establish criteria for the distribution of Board discretionary funds for models, staff and instructors.

President Frank led a discussion regarding proposed tuition increases.

## **4. Committee Reports:**

Artistic/Executive Director Search: Committee Chair Charlotte Bialek updated the Board on the progress of the search for the Artistic/Executive Director position. Three candidates have been identified and will be undergoing interviews with committee members and HR Officer Eric Raff. A procedure for a second round of interviews with Board members will be developed. There followed a discussion regarding diversity and the search process, and the advantages and disadvantages of hiring an executive search firm.

Finance: There was no discussion regarding current financial reports. CFO Karen Gaines remarked that Board members could contact her with any questions.

Programs Committee Chair Charlotte Bialek noted that the programs update was provided in President Frank's report.

Development: There was no development report.

Member Outreach: Committee Chair Cathy Blake welcomed new Board members Louis Mitchell and Jacquetta Szathmari onto the committee, and reported that there has been no recent committee activity. Ms. Blake noted plans for a committee meeting in September to discuss outreach efforts with an emphasis on communications to the membership from President Frank.

Building: Committee Chair Ezra Bookstein provided an update on the recent industrial hygiene report, noting that no asbestos was found in the League building. Mr. Bookstein further reported that mold remediation was commencing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. Mr. Bookstein noted that the estimated cost of \$200,000 to \$225,000 for the remediation and renovation should be covered by insurance. President Frank provided further details regarding mold remediation.

**5. New Business:**

HR Officer Eric Raff led a discussion regarding staff salaries. Mr. Raff also provided an update regarding the new position for an Online Learning Manager and in-progress review of candidates.

Board Member Julia Salinas led a discussion regarding model salaries and hardship assistance.

There being no further business, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to executive session.



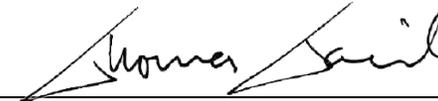
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Robin Lechter Frank, President

9/23/2020

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Date



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Thomas Tacik, Staff Member (Taking Minutes)

9/23/2020

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Date