THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Board of Trustees
Thursday, 12 December 2013, 12:00 pm
The Claiborne Robertson Room

Presiding: William A. Royall, Jr., President
Secretary: Ms. Suzanne Broyles

There were present:
William A. Royall, Jr., President
Karen C. Abramson
Martin J. Barrington
Mary Anne Carlson
James C. Cherry
Margaret Irby Clement
Michael M. Connors
W. Birch Douglass III
Thomas F. Farrell II
Cynthia Kerr Fralin
Richard B. Gilliam
Susan S. Goode
Ms. Margaret N. Gottwald
John H. Hager
Terrell Luck Harrigan
Dr. Elizabeth F. Harris
Jil Womack Harris
Ivan P. Jecklin
Mrs. Jane Joel Knox
Charles Levine
Steven A. Markel
Thurston R. Moore
Dr. Claude G. Perkins
Satya Rangarajan
Michael J. Schewel
Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.
Dr. Lindley T. Smith
Dr. Shantaram K. Talegaonkar

Speaker William J. Howell, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:
Alex Nyerges, Director
Ms. Kelly B. Armstrong
Stephen D. Bonadies
Ms. Suzanne Broyles
Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield
Ms. Laura Keller
Robin Nicholson
Cameron O’Brion
I. CALL TO ORDER

The President, William A. Royall, Jr., called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and welcomed everyone including special guest, The Honorable William J. Howell, Speaker of the House, who was able to join us today.

II. MINUTES

Motion: proposed by Mr. Royall, seconded by Mr. Connors that the Minutes of the last meeting of the Full Board of Trustees held on the 18th of September 2013 be approved as distributed on the 22nd of November 2013. Motion carried.

III. CURATORIAL EXHIBITION PROJECTS – Dr. Sylvia Yount

Dr. Sylvia Yount, Chief Curator and Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art, gave a presentation on scheduled banner exhibitions created by VMFA curators including Forbidden City: Imperial Treasures from the Palace Museum, Beijing (Li Jian); Working Among Flowers: Flower Painting in France (Dr. Mitchell Merling); and Making America: Myth, Memory, Identity (Dr. Sylvia Yount). Dr. Yount next discussed banner exhibitions in development by curators on staff including: Jasper Johns/Edvard Munch (John Ravenal); Faith and Worship in Imperial Rome (Dr. Peter Schertz); Paris Fashion and Art Deco 1910-1930 (Barry Shifman); Global Zulu (Richard Woodward); and Awakenings: Becoming a Buddha (Dr. John Henry Rice). President Royall thanked Dr. Yount for the overview of these exciting projects.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Royall reminded the board that in September when fellow Trustee Moffett Cochran resigned, we approved a resolution for his service on the Board and now we have the sad job of asking for a moment of silence in honor of Moffett’s passing. He added that Mr. Cochran will truly be missed by us all.
Mr. Royall announced that the Governor has reappointed Tom Farrell, Cynthia Fralin, John Luke, Jim McGlothlin and Mike Schewel. He welcomed the newly appointed trustees: Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms who could not be with us today, Jil Harris whose husband Hiter is on the VMFA Foundation Board, and Charles Levine of Williamsburg. We are disappointed that the Governor did not reappoint long-time Trustee John Staelin and Trustee Debbie Quillen has decided to resign from the Board. They will both be missed. President Royall read the following resolutions honoring them.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Royall and seconded by Dr. Harris that the Board adopt the following resolutions as distributed. Motion carried.

DEBORAH H. QUILLEN  
VMFA Trustee 2011-2013

WHEREAS, Deborah H. Quillen was appointed to the Board of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2011 by Governor Robert F. McDonnell; and
WHEREAS, during her time in office Ms. Quillen ably served on the Art and Audience Committee and the Strategic Plan Task Force; and
WHEREAS, Debbie Quillen throughout her tenure maintained a high level of both financial and moral support for the Museum as a member of the Commonwealth Society; and
WHEREAS, this valued trustee has been an interested advocate of the statewide partnership program, gladly sharing her advice in this area when needed; and
WHEREAS, Ms. Quillen during her years of service has demonstrated her love of the arts by attending Museum events showing her personal dedication to the Museum; and
WHEREAS, Debbie Quillen served as an ambassador of goodwill for this institution in the Southwestern Virginia area, always bringing the Museum to the attention of new friends and potential supporters and traveling a great distance to attend the Trustee meetings; NOW THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, in the Full Board Meeting on the 12th of December 2013, express to Ms. Deborah H. Quillen their appreciation for her contributions to the Museum and to the Commonwealth; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy be sent to her.

JOHN R. STAELIN  
VMFA Trustee 2005-2013

WHEREAS, John R. Staelin was appointed to the Board of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 2005 by Governor Mark R. Warner and reappointed in 2008 by Governor Timothy M. Kaine; and
WHEREAS, during his terms of office Mr. Staelin ably served with dedication on the Executive, Museum Expansion, Government Affairs, Strategic Planning, Marketing & Branding, Restaurant Operation, and the Artistic Oversight Committees; and
WHEREAS, this engaged Trustee, with great interest and attention, Chaired the Partnership with Virginia Task Force from 2005-2008, which created the VMFA Business Plan, and for eight years served as a very effective Vice-Chairman of the Fiscal Oversight Committee; and
WHEREAS, this valued member of the Board consistently provided wise and effective counsel to the Museum by sharing his financial and business expertise, providing sound advice and guidance whenever needed; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Staelin demonstrated his dedication to the institution and love of the arts by participating in many Museum events and meetings, and always bringing the Museum to the attention of new friends and potential supporters; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Staelin and his wife, Ms. Elizabeth Locke, so generously provided sponsorships for the VMFA Picasso Exhibition Gala and the Hollywood Costume Exhibition, and hosted a 75th Anniversary event at their home in Millwood; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the board Mr. Staelin has been a generous exhibition sponsor and contributor to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts at a leadership level, he has been a helpful source of advice and support to the Advancement effort, and he has been an excellent good-will ambassador in the Northern Shenandoah region; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, in the Full Board Meeting on the 12th of December 2013, express to Mr. John R. Staelin their appreciation for his many contributions to the Museum and to the Commonwealth; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting, and a copy be sent to him.

President Royall asked for a Trustee volunteer to serve on the Advancement Committee. He explained his committee restructuring and asked that each trustee contact him with their choice of committees. He encouraged Board members to attend the January 21st Legislative Event and the second Trustee Orientation on January 29th from 11:00am – 5:00pm open to all Trustees, not just newcomers. Mr. Royall asked Trustees to note the future meeting dates in their folders and Lee Anne Chesterfield told the group about the Trustee website, Huddle, and Trustee engagement with curators.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Alex Nyerges

Alex Nyerges discussed the progress of the search for the new Division Head to be the Executive Director of the VMFA Foundation and Executive Vice President of Marketing and Advancement including Visitor Services and the Parking Deck. He said that three candidates will be called back for interviews next week and all are extremely experienced.

VI. REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION – Benjamin W. Rawles III

President Ben Rawles reported that the Foundation approved the FY14 budget housekeeping adjustments of adding a new Major Gifts Officer position, adding adjustments for carrying costs of The Oaks through the balance of the fiscal year, and added existing restricted gifts so that our conservators and curators can accelerate projects initially excluded from the FY14 project list. He listed the Foundation Directors who must rotate off the Board: Billy Armfield, Mary Ann Frable, Eva Teig Hardy, Charlotte Minor, Marshall Morton, David Randolph and Ellen Gray Maybank. At the last Foundation Board meeting the following officers were voted in: Treasurer – Hiter Harris and Secretary – Jay Olander. They also appointed new members: Rick Olson, David Bruce Smith, Barbara Howard, Anna Van Buren, Sarge Reynolds and Ned Valentine. Investment consultant, Monticello, reported a 5.1% quarterly return on the Foundation’s portfolio and the one year return totaled 12.92%. The Investment Committee agreed to further diversify the portfolio by adding two new portfolio managers and to work with Davenport again to explore the option to refinance the Foundation’s outstanding debt.
VII. REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT – Jayne Shaw, Interim Deputy Director for Advancement

Advancement Committee Chair Kelly Armstrong reported that of the $4.9 million overall goal, $3.4 million has been raised to date and that there has been a 23% increase in unrestricted giving. Mary Scott Swanson was recognized for her great work on grants as every one of them has been accepted. Ms. Armstrong asked those present to please send in their annual gifts and consider an increase. She brought attention to the VMFA folders distributed asking if anyone could introduce us to the names listed there to help bring them into the VMFA family. She also spoke about raising money for ARTshare, VMFA’s digital initiative that Bill Royall and Satya Rangarajan got us started with. Jayne Shaw continued on saying that detailed revenue reports are in the folders and giving is in good shape. She said we are raising money for the Forbidden City exhibition now. Ms. Shaw then showed the VMFA Exhibition Portfolio folders she distributed asking for help identifying possible donors. She reported that we had 35,735 members now and gave a list of corporate partners for all to see and maybe add to.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Art and Audience Committee – Susan S. Goode, Acting Chair, and Robin Nicholson, Deputy Director for Art & Education

Robin Nicholson reported that the Committee met this morning and looked at two new major exhibition proposals for 2016 and 2017. The Board was told in confidence about these exhibitions as they cannot be announced just yet. The first exhibition of a very well known artist will include 55 works on paper. The second exhibition from an ongoing archeological sight will bring major world treasures to VMFA. Slides were shown of each proposed exhibition and the Board was impressed with the plans. Mr. Nicholson brought forward the following motion recommended by the Art & Audience Committee.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Schewel and seconded by Mr. Rangarajan that the Full Board endorse the multi-year conceptual plan to improve the museum’s campus based upon the findings of the Project for Public Spaces study, with the yearly priorities for implementation articulated as part of the museum’s ongoing budgeting process, as recommended by the Art and Audience Committee. Motion carried.

b. Fiscal Oversight Committee – William A. Royall, Jr., Acting Chair and Anne Kenny-Urban, Budget Manager

Anne Kenny-Urban provided the October financials and reviewed the Thanksgiving holiday weekend sales at today’s Fiscal Oversight Committee meeting. Also provided were sales projections for the new Stony Point shop, and the November operating revenues and expenses for Food Services and the Museum Shop. At the meeting Tom Zydel reported the good news that Membership is slightly ahead of its projection. Ms. Kenny Urban said that Hollywood Costume is off to a strong start and with three fourths of that exhibition’s visitors still to come, we look...
forward to it meeting its goals. She noted that there were not as many people shopping as we would like but we are on target for this month and Food Service is in the black.

At 1:20 pm the meeting went into closed session with the following motion.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Royall, seconded by Mr. Douglass that the meeting go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A) (3), (6), and (7) of the Freedom of Information Act to discuss a real estate matter which is not public; and to discuss the investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the Museum would be adversely affected; and consultation with legal counsel pertaining to litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture of the Museum. Motion carried.

At 1:39 pm by motion proposed, seconded, and carried, the meeting resumed in open session.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Royall and seconded by Mr. Barrington, that the Board certify that the closed session just held was conducted in compliance with Virginia State law, as set forth in the Certification Resolution. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken by the Secretary, the results of which are outlined in the First Certification Resolution below.

**Motion:** proposed by Ms. Fralin and seconded by Ms. Harrington that the Board ratify the recommendation the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee made in today’s meeting to accept the following purchase considerations from the funds specified:


4. *Suite de Palissy - dit d’Avon* (School of Fontainebleau) (French, 1530s-1610), *Pilgrimage Flask*, ca. 1600, colored earthenware (*terre vernissée*), 9 x 6 ¼”, from the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, Vendor: Works of Art, Antwerp, Belgium

5. Marie Bracquemond (French, 1840-1916), *Woman with Flowerpots*, 1879, hand-colored faïence plate, 10” diameter, from the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund, Vendor: Larry Simms, Lambertville, NJ


and the following gift/purchase consideration:

1. Six Native American Objects
   Gift:
   - Northwest Coast (Tlingit, Haida, Bella Bella, or Fraser River Salish), Dagger, walrus ivory, abalone shell, steel, rawhide, 22 x 2" (L.25.2009.26)
   - Northwest Coast (Tlingit, Haida, Bella Bella, or Fraser River Salish), Eagle Mask, 19th century, wood, pigment, feathers, 18 x 9 x 11" (L.25.2009.30)
   Purchase:
   - Navajo, Classic Child's Serape, ca. 1870, wool, 33 x 57" (L.25.2009.41)
   - Yupik, Eskimo "Dream" Dance Mask, late 19th century, wood, pigment, feathers, 13 x 12" (L.25.2009.3)
   - Cree, Pipe, wood, porcupine quills, catlanite, pewter, 31" x 3" x 4" (without bowl) (L.25.2009.152a/b)
   - Cheyenne, Southern Girl's Dress, ca. 1880, hide, seed and brass beads, pigments, 21 x 38 x 7" (L.25.2009.140)

From the Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment Fund
Donor/Vendor: Robert and Nancy Nooter Collection, Washington DC

and the following gift considerations:

1. Seven African Objects:
   - Yaka (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Phuungu Figure (Charm), 19th-20th century, wood, beads, cloth, fiber, horn, feather, 10 ¾"h
   - Kongo culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Whistle with Frog and Snake Motif, 19th-20th century, ivory, glass beads, fiber, 5 ½"h
   - Pende culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Whistle, 19th-20th century, ivory, 3 ¾"h
   - Holo culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Pipe with Seated Figure, 19th-20th century, wood, metal, 6 ½" long
   - Holo culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Pipe with Two Kneeling Figures and Crocodile, 19th-20th century, wood, metal, 8 ¾" long
   - Kuba culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Cosmetic Box, 19th-20th century, wood, 5 ½"h
   - Kuba culture (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Ngady amwaash mask, 19th-20th century, wood, cowrie shells, glass beads, cloth, fiber, 13"h
   Donor: Drs. Kenneth and Carol Adelman, Arlington

2. Joseph Foxcroft Cole (American, 1837-1892) French Farm Scene, 1861, oil on canvas, 13 x 21", Donor: Charles Thalhimer, Richmond

3. Wilfrid de Glehn, (British, born Germany, 1870-1951), Breakfast in the Bower [Déjeuner sous la Tonnelle], 1908, oil on canvas, 40 ½ x 35 ½”
   John Koch (American, 1909-1978), Sunday Morning, 1974, oil on canvas, 15 x 15”
   Donor: Jane Joel Knox, Richmond
4. Sara November (American, 1900-1983):
   - *Daily Devotions*, ca. 1936, oil on canvas, 22¼ x 28¼”
   - *Study for “Daily Devotions,”* ca. 1936, oil on canvas, 16 x 20”
   - *Card Players*, 1944, graphite, pen, and ink on paper, 11¼ x 10¼”
   - *Neil Sleeping*, ca. 1934, red conte crayon on paper, 9-15/16 x7½”
   - *Neil Reading*, ca. 1937, graphite on paper, 11 x 8½ “
   - Five advertising illustrations, 1920s
     - *Lentheric Perfumes*, watercolor on paper, 11 x 8”
     - three *Sachs Wraps* sketches, pen, ink, and wash on paper, 31 x 16” (framed)
     - *Untitled (Seated Woman)*, charcoal on paper, 24 x 17¼” (framed)

Donor:  Sara Belle and Neil November, Richmond

   - 40 Prints: woodblock prints, ink and color on paper
   - 3 Watercolor: album leaves, ink and color on paper

Donor:  René and Carolyn Balcer, Los Angeles
Credit:  The René and Carolyn Balcer Collection

6. Félix Bracquemond (French, 1833–1914), 180 works on paper; 62 ceramic objects
   - Giovanni Battista Piranesi (Italian, 1720–1778), 127 works on paper

Donor:  Frank Raysor, Richmond

7. Antoine-Louis Barye (French, 1796-1875):
   - *Percheron*, ca. 1870, bronze (atelier) (L.122.2010.12)
   - *Bear in a Trough*, ca. 1832, bronze (Barbédienne) (L.122.2010.10)
   - *Wolf Caught in a Trap*, ca. 1870, bronze (L.122.2010.8)
   - *Seated Bear (Bear Assis)*, 1833, bronze (L.122.2010.9)
   - *Walking Lion* (Lion Qui Marche), 1840, bronze (atelier) (L.122.2010.5)
   - Arab Riding a Dromedary, ca. 1874, bronze (atelier) (L.122.2010.4)
   - *Lion and Serpent (“Lion of the Tuileries”),* after 1833, bronze (L.122.2010.14)

Donor:  Mrs. Nelson St. Clair, Williamsburg

Motion carried.  **Note:** William A. Royall, Jr. abstained from voting.

**Motion:** proposed by Ms. Fralin and seconded by Mr. Markel to ratify the recommendation of the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee that the Director, and in his absence Dr. Sylvia Yount, be authorized to accept gifts of art offered to the Museum between December 13, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Motion carried.

IX.  **STRATEGIC PLAN OVERSIGHT UPDATE – Alex Nyerges**

Alex Nyerges thanked Marty Barrington for heading up the Strategic Plan Task Force. The Director provided two slides of the FY2014 Strategic Plan First Quarter Initiatives and said the first shows that the Robinson House project was delayed slightly but now is proceeding in good stead. The submission to the National Park Service for National Register Status is complete and the architect has been hired and the preliminary design drawings are complete. Mr. Nyerges...
thanked Bill Royall and Satya Rangarajan for their service on the Technology Task Force because the IT initiative is going well. The second slide shows that WiFi has been installed in all public spaces, the Digital Asset Management System has been acquired, and the Collections Management System is in place. A project manager has been hired also. Mr. Nyerges asked if Board members had any questions on the Strategic Plan process for Fiscal Year 2014 they should feel free to inquire.

X. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

President Royall dismissed VMFA staff and made the following motion at 1:45 pm.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Royall and seconded by Mr. Moore that the meeting go into closed session under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3711 (A) subsection (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss a personnel matter which is not public. Motion carried.

At 2:06 pm by motion proposed, seconded, and carried, the meeting resumed in open session.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Royall and seconded by Mrs. Goode, that the Board certify that the closed session just held was conducted in compliance with Virginia State law, as set forth in the Certification Resolution distributed. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken, the results of which are outlined in the Second Certification Resolution below.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Royall adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Royall MEETING: Board of Trustees
SECOND: Mr. Barrington DATE: 12 December 2013

FIRST CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Full Board of Trustees has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Trustees hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Full Board of Trustees.

VOTE
AYES: Royall/Abramson/Barrington/Carlson/Cherry/Clement/Connors/Douglass/Farrell/Fralin/Gilliam/Goode/Gottwald/Hager/Harrigan/E. Harris/J. Harris/Jecklin/Knox
NAYS: None

[For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described.]

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Schewel
ABSENT DURING MEETING: Cochrane/M. Harris/Lockhart/Luke/Malek/McGlothlin Sessoms

MOTION: Mr. Royall MEETING: Board of Trustees
SECOND: Ms. Goode DATE: 12 December 2013

SECOND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Full Board of Trustees has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Full Board of Trustees hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Full Board of Trustees.

VOTE
AYES: Royall/Abramson/Carlson/Cherry/Clement/Connors/Douglass/Farrell/Fralin Gilliam/Goode/Gottwald/Hager/Harrigan/E. Harris/J. Harris/Jecklin Knox/Levine/Markel/Moore/Perkins/Seilheimer/Smith/Talegaonkar

NAYS: None

[For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described.]

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Barrington/Rangarajan/Schewel
ABSENT DURING MEETING: Cochrane/M. Harris/Lockhart/Luke/Malek/McGlothlin Sessoms

Suzanne Broyles
Secretary of the Museum