

**Columbia Art Center
Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2016, 6:30pm
Minutes**

Attendance: Carol, Zika, Suzanne Waller, Chaya Schapiro, Sophie Shen, Robert Coe, Dennis Gilbert, and Janet Evans, Long Reach Representative on Columbia Association Board of Directors

Staff in Attendance: Liz Henzey, Trudy Babchak and Monica Herber

Advisory Committee Members not in Attendance: Molly Miller, Janet Brady, Nicole Patterson, Adam Goode, Marlene Jackson, Christina McCleary, Joyce Bell, Deanna Williford, and Barbara Herschman

Welcome and Introductions:

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting and members took turns introducing themselves.

Request for Secretary to take the Minutes:

Chaya Schapiro volunteered to take the minutes for the meeting.

Review and Approval of 9/14/16 Minutes:

The Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the 9/14/16 minutes.

Update on New Front Desk Supervisor:

Liz shared that the Art Center hired a new front desk supervisor in October 2016. This position was filled by Donna Lonegro. In this role, Donna oversees the front desk team and all administrative aspects and functions of the office including registrations, sales, coordination of events and classes.

Update on Programs Manager Promotion

Liz shared that the current daytime program and youth coordinator, Monica Herber, received a promotion to programs manager with expanded duties in her new position, including overseeing the monthly salon series and coordinating expanded daytime programming.

Update on New Gallery and Events Specialist:

Liz updated the Advisory Committee that the Art Center hired for a new position - gallery and events specialist. Trudy Babchak was hired in this position and her responsibilities include coordinating and installing rotating gallery shows for the Art Center and at community venues, as well as assisting with special art events and guest artist workshops.

Update on Columbia Association Topics:

CA Board member Janet Evans shared that Columbia Association Board of Directors will have more interaction with each of Columbia Association's Advisory Committees and will show more support of the goals of each of the community service programs. There are plans to provide opportunities for Advisory Committee representatives to share and give updates at the monthly CA Board meetings on various programs and goals.

Exhibitions and Salon Series Update:

Trudy updated the Advisory Committee about the success of the annual theme invitational show Erase Hate Through Art sponsored and coordinated by arts and human rights activist Grant Meyers and his company How Do You Like Me Now, Inc. More than 75 artists were represented with more than 200 works reflecting the theme that focuses on anti-bullying concepts. The reception was held October 9 with poetry readings and music performances held in the outdoor amphitheater near Columbia Art Center's main entrance. More than 55 people attended the reception. Trudy updated the meeting attendees that the two solo shows featured in the galleries in November (April Rimpo Paintings and Dennis Revitsky Linocuts) were well received and the reception for both solo shows attracted close to 35 people. A review

of both solo shows was included in the Baltimore Sun. Trudy also shared that the annual holiday show, Singular Sensations, was coming up December 8-18 with a gala reception on December 8, 6-8pm. Trudy communicated that as of November 28, more than 55 artists had confirmed participation in the annual holiday sales show.

Ceramics Department Update:

Liz shared updates about the Ceramics Department on behalf of Christina, the ceramics manager who was unable to attend the meeting. Liz communicated that a new ceramics assistant had been hired during September- Edna Knox - who would assist with firings, loading of kilns, studio clean-ups, and program/events assistance. Plans for the show ARTrospective, Columbia Art Center's ceramics exhibition have moved forward during the past few months. The exhibit, which will celebrate Columbia's 50th Birthday and run in May-June 2017, will showcase artists of the Art Center from the last 35 years. Christina and her gallery subcommittee have confirmed participation with more than 20 artists and invitations are currently out to another 25 artists located throughout the nation. The exhibition will include a panel discussion of featured artists. Details are being coordinated.

Mugs for Columbia's 50th Birthday Celebration:

Liz shared that artist and Art Center instructor, Joe Vitek, has continued to create mugs to be sold through Columbia Archives to commemorate Columbia 50th birthday in 2017. Joe has created more than 100 mugs thus far, and is scheduled to create another 150. The ceramics studio is donating the clay, glazes, materials, and firings to help with this community project.

Youth Department/Art Camp Update:

Monica, Columbia Art Center's new programs manager, shared that the Youth Department was now a part of the popular and educational website ArtSonia. Monica gave a presentation navigating on the website the pages on which Art Center youth artworks are featured. Monica also discussed the upcoming partnership show with Howard County Public School System slated for January 2017. The 2017 annual theme school show is called Postcards Home: Wish You Were Here and will feature more than 325 works by grades 1-12th. Monica also highlighted the service activity being developed for Martin Luther King Day in January 2017 during which volunteers will create small ornaments.

Special Programs and Partnerships

Trudy shared that the October salon series presentation on Protest Art with a Message with art historian Ann Wiker had been well received with more than 35 people attending. Several advisory committee members who attended the lecture commented on how fascinating Ann's talk had been as she incorporated art through history and how it was used to raise awareness for political and cultural issues. Trudy also shared that the Candlelight Concert Series lecture, The Art of Modigliani with Steve Ackert of the National Gallery of Art, had gone well with more than 30 people attending the evening event.

Renovations:

Liz shared that the main level of Columbia Art Center would receive renovations mid-December through mid-January. These enhancements would include new flooring in the hallways, gift shop, Studio I, II, III, kitchen, programs manager's office, and the digital room. All the walls were scheduled to be painted too. The renovation process would be done by January 15, 2017.

Conclusion:

The Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:30pm in Columbia Art Center Studio I.**