

Columbia Art Center  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 6:30pm  
Minutes

Attendance: Joyce Bell, Janet Brady, Robert Coe, Adam Goode, Dennis Gilbert, Barbara Herschman, Nicole Patterson, Mark Russo, Doug Satteson, Chaya Schapiro, and Janet Evans (Long Reach representative on Columbia Association Board of Directors)

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

Advisory Committee Members not in Attendance: Marlene Jackson, Molly Miller, Suzanne Waller, Deanna Williford, Lynn Foehrkolb, Carol Zika, Christina McCleary

#### Introductions

Liz welcomed the Advisory Committee and had everyone introduce themselves.

Representative of Columbia Association Board of Directors - Update:  
Janet Evans, Long Reach representative on Columbia Association Board of Directors, began the meeting explaining the goals for redevelopment of Long Reach Village which includes the stores, grocery store building, and the parking lot area. Orchard Development has created a proposal to tear down the existing structures, (excluding Columbia Art Center and Stonehouse). In the place of the existing structures, they propose to build a multi-purpose development. This development will include residential, commercial, and medical office areas. The county is selling the property and buildings at a loss to Orchard Development.

The commercial area will specialize in food-oriented business areas. Including a "food incubator." This will include food stalls that will sell specialty food items. There will also be an industrial kitchen space that can be rented by catering companies for food preparation. The plan is to work with Howard Community College to provide instruction in food preparation.

A parking area will be included, along with a dog park, daycare, and community green. The hope is that the construction and facilities will be environmentally friendly, providing a net positive energy footprint, contributing power to the power system.

The residential area will include about 300 units. They will include townhomes for sale, some senior-living facilities, and multi-family units. Approximately 52 units will be for sale.

Janet recommended Columbia Art Center compile a list of enhancements that it would like to see made to the current facility. Because of the existing specialized amenities, such as the kilns, replacing the building is not feasible. However, enhancements are possible and should be considered. One suggestion would be a third floor with more studio areas, etc.

The plans are online and available for review. Liz will provide a link for the Advisory Committee to view the plans, and provide feedback. Janet recommended that interested parties check them out right away and let the Association know they are in favor of the changes. It is important that the final phase be approved quickly so the contract work can be completed by the end of this year.

Janet also said that Columbia Association will be inviting Advisory Board members from different facilities to meet with them in July. Representatives need to describe the use of the Advisory Committee, with recommendations of purpose, how the facility can be used, and how the Board of Directors can help themselves. Each Advisory Board will have 15 minutes to present.

Monica Herber, Program Manager next updated the group on daytime programming.

Enrollment in the Art Center's School's Out program was up 25% this year. Art Camp is just beginning. It is now run independently from the Art Center with the Art Center housing the eight week program.. Columbia Association decided to bring all camps under one manager and one budget. The camp director is a long-time member of the Art Center staff.

A collaboration with Head Start's Summer Enrichment program begins in June for two art workshop days.

The Youth Department and Ceramics Program will both be hosting free activities as part of Columbia Art Center's June 24 open house. This is event is one of several that Columbia Association is holding on June 24.

New youth, tween, and teen workshops and classes will be offered in July and August. The aim is to compliment the week-long camp sessions.

Monica announced that she will be taking over the monthly Salon Series which is a collaboration with Little Patuxent Review. She is working with the LPR committee to formulate the fall, winter and spring line-up of offerings.. Possibilities include podcasting, music, refugees, and local Baltimore area writers. One of her aims is to

expand the age range of the regular audience and pull in artists, writers and community members from Baltimore.

Liz Henzey, Art Center Director, gave an update on the Ceramics Department. (Note: Christina McCleary, Ceramics Manager, was unable to attend the meeting.) The ARTrospective Ceramics Reunion Show has been well-received. New pedestals were purchased and Christina and her team sanded, primed, and painted all of them for use with the 75+ ceramic works on display. There has been a lot of foot traffic to the galleries with several ceramics sales. The reception had 100+ people attend. A panel discussion coincided with the show and covered the timely topic of how technology, including 3d printers, is impacting the ceramics world.

Trudy Babchak, Gallery and Events Specialist, gave a report on Art Center gallery and event news.

In honor of Columbia's 50th birthday, Columbia Art Center is hosting several events. In September, there will be Color Columbia: Plein Air Paint Out, a painting event at Lake Kittamaqundi. Two jurors have been selected to judge the show. There is \$3000+ in prize funds available. The paint-out will take place September 9, around Lake Kittamaqundi and Wilde Lake with a follow-up art exhibit September 16-30 in Columbia Art Center Galleries.

In March 2018, Columbia Art Center will host an invitational show in honor of International Women's Month. (March 8 is International Women's Day.) There will be a coinciding panel discussion. More details are forthcoming. Trudy also shared that ManneqART runs in the September in the Window Gallery, Erase Hate.

Through Art runs in October, during Anti-Bullying Month, the Photography Alliance of Maryland is hosting a juried show in November, and Singular Sensations Annual Holiday Art Show will run in December.

#### Miscellaneous Updates

Liz shared that spring programming for adults had gone well. Sampling classes have been very popular. There was a large attendance for the sign-painting night which Advisory Committee member Mark Russo taught. In this workshop, students painted a Maryland-themed work on reclaimed wood materials. 12 people attended the most recent offering of the workshop.

Liz shared that the Art Center recently had a moveable medium size stage/platform constructed for use with art camp, salon series, panel discussions, and for renting.

New ideas/suggestions for the Art Center were discussed and include  
More craft/paint nights: A low pressure way to paint with friends. A place to relax and have fun.

Focus on casual introductions to art like sampling workshops and art gathers.  
However, also offer programming that targets serious professional artists and art groups.

It was agreed that a balance would be best.  
Make main level more inviting to the community. Ex: Lower Level of Art Center concentrates on ceramics and invites participation. The main level often appears non-specific and generic. The multi-functional nature of the main level gives a mixed message as to what is available and offered. It was agreed that in the future, classes should not be moved around week to week. It is disruptive to the students and teachers. The digital lab really needs to be re-evaluated and updated as it lacks inspiration, order and a welcoming atmosphere.

It was suggested that it might be good to have rotating resident artists, so visitors can see art being made. This suggestion was inspired by the recent stay of nationally recognized artist Gail Holliday who used one of the Art Center's studios for 3 months to refurbish panels for an outdoor permanent installation.

Other suggestions include: (note: absent Advisory Committee also emailed suggestions.)

Development of a print shop

Expand programming to include linocuts, rubber stamp carving, Gelli plate printing

Offering a 3-d printing lab

Expand advertising and promotion that includes more images of art and artists

Advertise at other venues

More video demonstrations for promotion

Time-lapse video of a gallery show installation process

Adding a sentence to the current Art Center mission statement reading, for example: Everyone can create, come join us!

Dedicate more space to storage so that studio areas appear more tidy

New programming: Painting on photographs to produce new and exciting image, oil pastel drawing of flowers,

color and abstraction in drawing and painting with acrylics, encaustics and mixed media, felt vessel using either dry or wet felting techniques.

Conclusion:

Janet reiterated the information about the possible new construction and encouraged people to email their support to the County Council. Liz concluded the meeting at 8:10pm. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30pm at Columbia Art Center.