VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee

May 20, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Hooke House at University Farms, JMU

Board members present: Cord Cothren (chair) and Nathan Sanford, Roberto Quinones (guest)

Board members absent: Makunda Abdul-Mbacke, Emma Ito, Joan Montgomery (VMNH-F)

Staff Present: Christy Deatherage and Ryan Barber

* Welcome and introductions
* The committee was briefed on Education Updates-
  + Quarterly updates- (see table below) Program numbers and numbers served were discussed for January – March 2022.
    - At-the Museum highlights: Flight festival (January) education activities were popular at this first time festival that coincided with the *Science of Flight* exhibit opening. We hosted a Cub Scout Sleepover (February) for a Christiansburg pack. We have seen an increase in birthday party programs this year. We are starting to see an increase in school groups visiting the museum and participating in on-site programs as COVID restrictions loosen in school districts.
    - Outreach highlights –In-person programming with local and surrounding county school districts are still increasing. The museum is continuing our partnership with afterschool programs during spring 2022 (was on hold due to COVID). The Education Dept. provided afterschool programs for 6 different MHC (Martinsville/Henry County) After 3 sites and is currently scheduling summer and fall sessions.
    - Distance Learning – We continue to offer Virtual Programming with local and surrounding county school districts throughout the school year.
  + KidWind project - We are excited to partner with JMU’s Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy as a host site. The museum will house a KidWind Wind Tunnel for loan or access to any school participating in the KidWind wind challenge (4th -12th grade students create wind turbines and test their energy output). We will receive a wind turbine kit that can be added to our suite of program offerings for the 2022-2023 school year.
  + New Educator, Jordan Brim (started April 25, 2022) Ms. Brim interned with the Education Department in 2018 before attending Longwood University. She has joined us during a busy “end of school year” time frame and is quickly becoming an integral part of the team.
* Upcoming:
  + Summer Camps 2022 – We will host four summer camps (two in June, two in July) for the general public ages 6-11. Registration is online through our website and we are close to maximum capacity on all four camps.
  + The Education Department has partnered with the Roanoke County Library system for their Summer Reading Program. We will provide programming for six of their library branches. Our Charlottesville educators will provide programming for two Charlottesville area libraries.
  + Contracts with Martinsville City and Franklin County schools for 2022-2023 school year programs are currently in discussion. Multiple programs for each grade level will be provided.
* Grant Updates: The Education Department will have scholarship options available for programming starting summer of 2022 through the 2022/2023 school year. Scholarships will cover outreach, at-the-museum or virtual program costs.
  + Boxley Grant (Continuation of partnership) for 2022-2023 Programming (all formats) ($10,000 total - $7,000 towards scholarships)
  + Edgar Thurman Charitable Foundation grant for 2022-2023 programming (all formats)- $10,000 total - $8,500 towards scholarships)
* Exhibit Subcommittee –
  + VMNH Dino Maze traveling exhibit will be at Greenwood Museum (Greenwood, SC) May – September 2022 The museum received the remaining payment of $13,800 May 24th for the dinosaur maze rental. The $1,200 deposit was received in February. Incoming funds for the rental can be used for dino maze maintenance.
  + The following are upcoming exhibit priorities:
    - Mural to replace the projector screen in the HAL (ordered yesterday from Solid Stone, with the ~$500 cost already reflected in the above account totals)
    - Petra exhibit ($13,000 in hand from Hermes Family Foundation)
    - Additional exhibit elements for the Jean S. Adams Education Center
    - By this time next summer, we'll need to book the next special exhibit to follow the AMNH *Dinosaur Discoveries*exhibit closing in January 2024.
* Report/Recommendation to BOT: Committee Chair Cord Cothren will report on: review of quarterly numbers served and the KidWind JMU partnership.

**DEPP Quarterly Numbers**

Total Programs for Quarter: **134**

Total Number Served for Quarter: **2,585**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| January 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 46 | 6 | 33 |
| February 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 48 | 10 | 146 |
| March  2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 16 | 488 |
| Totals | **0** | **0** | **6** | **134** | **32** | **667** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| January 2022 | 29 | 506 | 9 | 314 | 1 | 75 |
| February 2022 | 24 | 421 | 13 | 243 | 0 | 0 |
| March 2022 | 34 | 488 | 17 | 258 | 7 | 280 |
| Totals | **87** | **1,415** | **39** | **815** | **8** | **355** |

**Notes:** January 2022 At-the-Museum includes Flight Festival (237)