

VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present: Faye Cooper, Makunda Abdul-Mbacke, and Siri Russell

Board Members Absent: Cord Cothren (chair), Nathan Sanford, and Joan Montgomery (Foundation representative)

Staff Members Present: Christy Deatherage and Zach Ryder

- Welcome – members briefly introduced themselves
- Committee meetings between standing board meetings (next full board meeting- February 13, committee meeting details tbd)
- Christy provided an update of virtual programming; sharing images of recently conducted programs.
 - The committee discussed how the current COVID situation allows VMNH not only to grow our virtual program offerings but also our range of participants. Virtual programming has reached local and surrounding county schools and organizations. The virtual Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy (twice monthly) reaches local and surrounding county families as well as participants in Richmond, Charlotte Court House, Charlottesville, Waynesboro, Eden NC as well as Laurence County, PA.
 - Education Activity tables within the exhibit galleries have transitioned to one Saturday per month after the first of the year (no longer open to the public on Friday). Table material correlates to the Facebook series “Museum Minute” videos that are posted each Friday. “Museum Minute” videos highlight an object on display and shares details beyond the exhibit text.
 - Teacher professional development project continues. Presentations will be added to the museum’s YouTube channel.
 - The museum has started a microscope loan program in which families can “check out” a microscope for one week.
 - Summer Camps are in the discussion phase and will depend on COVID guidelines at that time. The education pavilion is waiting final approval and anticipate a summer opening, allowing an ideal setting for programs.
- The committee discussed how even though education programs are open/ advertised to multiple audiences (schools, day cares, and community groups) the average age of participants is in the elementary range. An emphasis on

community centers and older population groups could expand our reach. Contacts will be sent to Christy for communication.

- The committee discussed updating museum content to multilingual, which will be a gradual process. Currently we do not have staff fluent to translate, and are seeking outside assistance.
- The committee discussed the importance of equity and inclusion with museum wide programs.

Exhibit Subcommittee:

- Christy provided updated images and discussed:
 - *Lepidoptera* exhibit currently being installed in the hallway leading to the Walker Lecture Hall. The exhibit will feature over 700 butterfly and moth specimens.
 - *Wild Watersheds* exhibit has been upgraded with a 400-gallon tank currently housing brook trout. Drawers for furs and skulls as well as an animal trackway display will be added in the future.

Next Board Meeting: February 13 – details tbd

DEPP Quarterly Numbers

MONTH	Outreach (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern)		At-the-Museum		Distance Learning	
	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED
October 2020	1	235	9	82	8	46
November 2020	0	0	6	45	8	51
December 2020	0	0	6	47	7	46
	1	235	21	174	23	143

NOTES:

October Outreach – Waynesboro Drive Thru Dinosaur event

No public comments will be taken at this meeting