VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee

November 21, 2020, 9:00 A.M. Zoom Meeting

Board members present: Cord Cothren (chair), Faye Cooper, Nathan Sanford, and Joan Montgomery (Foundation representative)

Board members absent: Makunda Abdul-Mbacke, Siri Russell

Staff members present: Christy Deatherage and Ryan Barber

* Welcome and introductions
* Education Updates-
  + Third quarter 2020 programming highlights were reviewed
    - Overall numbers for the quarter (2nd page)
  + At- the- museum highlights: Drive Thru Dino event on July 23 and partner event with Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (Danville) for a pop-up education activity
  + Outreach highlights- canceled due to COVID
  + Distance Learning –The committee discussed Homeschool Virtual Open House and Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy - Virtual sessions are allowing for participants from outside the local service area such as Richmond, Charlotte Court House, and Charlottesville are participating.
  + Cord mentioned the additional CARES Act funds that could be used for virtual programming in the next few months.
* COVID-19 Impacts/Updates-
  + Cancelation of summer camps and programs
  + Creation of Discovery Kits for public purchase ($20 pick up/$30 shipped). New kit titles are being added for the out of school holiday season.
  + Online education content (web and social media)
  + Modifications of existing programs and preparedness for fall programming in virtual learning format
* Upcoming/Ongoing –
  + Christy serving on Virginia Resource Use Education Council (VRUEC) as Secretary – Virtual Meetings
  + Professional Development for staff (Smithsonian-July, ASTC-October, VAST-November)
  + Creation of virtual teacher professional development opportunities with curator Science Talks material that will be available in Spring 2021.
  + Friday Education Activity Tables for visitor interaction (coincide with Museum Minute videos) each Friday as well as one Saturday/month.
  + Communication through emails with local and surrounding school districts, day cares and other program partners for virtual learning opportunities (with social media push also). This has brought about new programming inquires and upcoming scheduled programs. Programs are scheduled with Martinsville/Henry County, Patrick County, and Halifax County.
  + Committee meetings between standing board meetings. The committee will discuss next meeting (possibly the first week of January)
* Exhibit Subcommittee -
  + Modifications for hands-on exhibit components (open to public F and Sat)
  + Tank installed for *Wild Watershed* exhibit and brook trout eggs added, construction for drawers
  + Projector/Sand table/Contour table ordered (Uncovering Virginia space)
  + Butterfly exhibit
  + Flight exhibit (November 2021), Cats exhibit will extend viewing due to COVID closure
  + Ryan updated the committee on the new av and sound system and discussed a possible video (tv) wall.
* Report/ Recommendations to BOT
  + Discovery Kits
  + Education Activity Tables in exhibits each Friday and one Sat/month
  + Professional Development videos with curator Science Talks due Spring 2021
  + Continuing virtual programming for schools and public (homeschool)

No public comments will be taken at this meeting

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| July 2020 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 236 | 0 | 0 |
| August 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| September 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 48 |
|  | **0** | **0** | **2** | **236** | **7** | **68** |

**DEPP Quarterly Numbers Comparison**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | |
| July 2019 | 10 | 218 | 28 | 3,929 | 0 | | 0 |
| August 2019 | 8 | 164 | 6 | 241 | 0 | | 0 |
| September 2019 | 44 | 1,569 | 14 | 263 | 1 | | 26 |
|  | **62** | **1,951** | **48** | **4,433** | **1** | | **26** |

**Notes: 2020 Numbers Affected by COVID-19**

**July 2020 – Drive Thru Dino Event (Education Craft take aways) and Pop Up education event**

**August and September 2020- Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy Virtual Sessions**

**July 2019 Dino Festival**