VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members Present: Nathan Sanford, chair, Dr. Tom Benzing (guest), and Cindy Marquez (guest)

Board Members Absent: Dr. Makunda Abdul-Mbacke, Emma Ito, and Lauren Woodson

Staff Present: Christy Deatherage, Bethany Fisher, and Mary Zell Galen

* Welcome and introductions
* The committee was briefed on education updates for the quarter. Program numbers and numbers served (see table below) were discussed for April through June. The committee reviewed charts for programs and numbers served for the fiscal year with comparison to last fiscal year. A recommendation was made for quarterly chart information (versus yearly) to increase viewability/comparability.
  + Quarterly updates- (see table below)
    - At-the Museum highlights: Reptile related educational crafts and activities were offered during the annual Reptile Festival. The Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy program has gained recognition with local private schools, which have scheduled monthly programs, mirroring the HS Academy. The 2023 Summer Adventure Camps started during the reporting quarter.
    - Outreach highlights – The Education Department traveled to several Library Systems to conduct programs in conjunction with their summer reading program., We also wrapped up Spring programs with the MHC (Martinsville/Henry County) After 3 program (6 sites) and started with their summer camp programming (4 sites). Martinsville educators traveled to Waynesboro for a community event to support the proposed branch campus. Our Charlottesville educator, Bruce Gatling-Austin, presented programming with Waynesboro schools.
* Upcoming:
  + The VMNH Summer Adventure Camps will continue through August, with a total of 4 camps offered, serving 64 total students.
  + NCI (New College Institute) program collaboration in the Fall. More details to come.
  + Educators Terri Robertson and Jordan Brim will attend the VAST (VA Association of Science Teachers) Conference in November.
* The museum offered a “sensory friendly” time/activity for the Reptile Festival, with positive comments from attendees.
* Microscope Lab:
  + IMLS grant with Drs. Moncrief and Ivanov, 15 student stereo microscopes
  + Lab set-up complete in December 2022 and have thus far worked with 42 classes, serving 824 students. Classes will be offered during the 2023-2024 school year.
* Grant Updates for the 2023-2024 school year:
  + Received Edgar Thurman Charitable Foundation grant for programming- $5,000 total (continuation of partnership)
  + Received Boxley Grant for 2023-2024 Programming ($10,000 total - $7,000 towards scholarships) (continuation of partnership)
  + Resubmitted Monogram Foods/Monogram Loves Kids Foundation Grant for 2023-2024 Programming ($10,000 total - $7,000 towards scholarships) (continuation of partnership)
* Exhibit Subcommittee – Bethany Fisher, Museum Experience Manager, joined the committee meeting and provided an update of current and upcoming projects:
  + *Dino Discoveries* temporary exhibit open through January 2024
  + Solar Panel display in lobby
  + *Masters of the Night* exhibit Feb 2024-Jan 2025. Dr. Benzing referenced a bat detector app (through Wildlife Acoustics) as an exhibit add-on possibility.

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|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| April 2023 | 40 | 629 | 21 | 426 | 1 | 15 |
| May 2023 | 17 | 319 | 28 | 442 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2023 | 13 | 207 | 22 | 392 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **70** | **1155** | **71** | **1260** | **1** | **15** |

* + Permanent exhibit updates

No public comments will be taken at this meeting

**DEPP Quarterly Numbers**

Total Programs for Quarter: **142**

Total Number Served for Quarter: **2,430**

**Notes:** April 2022 Distance Learning AARP state wide presentation, May 2022 Outreach STEAM Danville School event

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| April 2022 | 26 | 456 | 21 | 381 | 1 | 116 |
| May 2022 | 1 | 175 | 23 | 347 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2022 | 14 | 336 | 16 | 288 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **41** | **967** | **60** | **1016** | **1** | **116** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| April 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 50 | 29 | 761 |
| May 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 356 |
| June 2021 | 7 | 88 | 9 | 64 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **7** | **88** | **12** | **117** | **43** | **1117** |