

**Meeting** began at 4:00 pm and ended at 6:30 pm.

**Present:** Sue Patz, John Smith, Deb Bedwell, Larry Sandler, Alan Cooper, Mary Ann Mears, Pat Halle, John Gazurian, Carla Dunlap, Ronni Aronin, Mary Jo Kirschman, Cynthia Kammann, Leathia West, Marlene Sokoloski-Sandler, Volker Schoenfleiss. **Staff:** Nicole Fall, Candace Mitchell  
**Absent:** George Ciscle, Annet Couwenberg, Marcy Emmer, John Gazurian

### **Introductions**

Ana Maria Economu has become Clayworks Community Arts Coordinator. She has been a part of Clayworks for 5 years. Ana Maria organized Empty Bowls last January. Participants filled classrooms for three consecutive weekends. All proceeds were donated to Puerto Rico relief.

Mary Cloonan, Clayworks 15+ year Exhibitions Director spoke of the new show opening on Saturday, 9/1, featuring new resident artists talks prior to the opening reception. Mary asks the Board to attend both and explains that exhibition receptions are the time to create networking events, bring colleagues, friends and new people to our gallery.

Resident Artist Presentation: Jason Piccoli is a new resident artist from Lincoln Nebraska where his residency included teaching students of all ages. He is an Edinboro College graduate, originally from Colorado. His presentation depicted the evolution of his work from his undergraduate years through graduate school to the present. Jason may spend over 20 hours on individual pieces of artwork that are technically challenging and showcase his love of painting on the surface.

**Minutes from July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Moved and Approved by all in attendance.

### **President's Report by Sue Patz**

Refinancing documents were finalized with Columbia Bank. We have an excellent loan package with them, The Board looks forward to this new and positive relationship. Unlike the previous loan that was guaranteed by both buildings and all assets, the loan collateral does not include the Gallery building or parking lot- allowing Clayworks to determine their best use for the organization in the years ahead.

### **Financial Report**

The financial report was presented by Candace Mitchell. Clayworks is moving all funds to Columbia Bank over the next few weeks.

Each Board member is encouraged to make their 2018 contributions by October 1 so that we have 100% Board participation in 2018. This is a prerequisite of the Bloomberg Funding and reflects Board desired goal as well.

The Executive Committee decided to offer CITC credits on the \$50,000 initially to past donors who give by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is our way of thanking them. Board moves that **Mary Jo Kirschman is authorized to act on behalf of Clayworks regarding the 2018 CITC process. Motion seconded and approved by full Board.**

### **Marketing and Communications- Carla Dunlap**

A full report on a range of activities resulting from our marketing contract with Nicole Atkinson, Push to Start was distributed and discussed. Nicole Fall was on Fox 45 on Thursday 9/13; Sue will be on WJZ on October 1.

Global Day of Clay- Marsha Smelkinson is managing it. There will be 9 am-2pm workshops for school kids; ON THE MAP Ceremony 4-5 pm outside with dedication of Clayworks Way, and 5-7pm reception inside gallery. Global Day of Clay will also celebrate the one year anniversary of Clayworks' Reopening.

Clayworks' logo and website is being refreshed. We are now talking with Visit Baltimore.

Reminder to all: be sure to have the proper permission forms for all photographs so they can be published.

A Board member raised the concern that a Google search still comes up with the sad news Clayworks closing story. To counter this, press releases about current successes need to continue. Examples include the Morgan connection, The National Federation for the Blind, and the House of Ruth collaborations.

### **Program Committee- Deb Bedwell**

Many attachments, reports and summaries reviewed by the Board, included information about the Workforce Development Class and all new activities that are connected with the Abilities Fellowship.

Contracts to be developed for non-juried studio space rental on the mezzanine. John G. volunteered to manage this program for the start. Blaise, Patrick C. and Trysha will work on the associate artist program. Hannah Pierce- Abilities Fellow and Resident Artist, is launching new teaching opportunities, expanding Clayworks' reach into the disability community.

### **Interim Executive Director's Report- Nicole Fall**

Nicole reported on the awarding of Baltimore Children and Youth Fund grant to Clayworks. Program sites are planned at House of Ruth, Walter P. Carter Recreation Center, a workforce development class with BCPS Transition Services and community-based mosaics art project. The BCYF grant allows for funding of personnel and creation of 3-D printing area. House of Ruth also received a BCYF grant that Clayworks will also participate in.

### **Development- Alan Cooper**

An appeal is planned for the fall. The letter and insert is complete and contains some of this latest good news. Board agrees that we should do the appeal now ASAP.

### **Nominating committee- Larry Sandler**

Need to recruit new members to the Board.

### **Thanking for Board service:**

Thanking our secretary Mary Jo Kirschman who is leaving the Board. We thank her, and she thanks everyone for all she has learned.

### **Other Business:**

1. Follow up event to the charrette, Try it pARTy, was a great success. Many new faces. Some who were new to Clayworks came from social media posts including Eventbrite.

2. Strategic Session on September 27 9:30-3:30 pm at Clayworks.

George and Sue met with consultants Leslie Shepard and Ellen Rudolph to organize this day. New ED Cyndi Wish will come. Scope of work- agree upon priorities and process for Clayworks, strategies to move Clayworks forward. How can Board and staff move forward effectively? Utilization of what we've learned?

Strategic session is meant for those who are key. Consultants advise keeping this session small v. engaging a broader community. Board, Staff, Artists and include representatives from Advisory Group. Next planning meeting with consultants is on 9/20. Others who are interested in participating in planning meeting are welcome.

**Next Board meeting November 13<sup>th</sup> 4-6:30 pm.**