

Art of the Lakes

January 15, 2025, 10:00 am CDT -- Creative Art Center

Our Mission is to develop, promote and encourage an interest in the arts.

Board members present: Kristi Kuder, Sue Kalseim, Sheryl Olson, Ann Smith, Judi Celaschi; absent Shari Prigge. Others present: Debbie Ness, Jane Kelly.

Agent review/additions: Judi requested a discussion regarding the naming of the Studio Tour.

Review January minutes: Vanessa moved to approve the minutes. Seconded, motion carried,

Financials: Jane Kelly presented the year-to-date financial report and the proposed 2025 budget. Sheryl moved to accept the proposed budget. Seconded, motion carried.

- Jane Kelly's work schedule will be Tuesday-Thursday. She will staff the CAC on Thursdays from 1-7 pm unless no one attends the Fiber Arts group at 5 pm. She can use her discretion to close early.

Old Business:

- Procedure for unclaimed art: Deb and Sheryl will document unclaimed art and contact the artists to pick the artwork up. The procedure for any remaining art will be discussed at the February meeting.
- Board vacancies: possible candidates were discussed.
- Career Force Assistant: Kristi is in contact, and a response from the coordinator is pending.
- Cabin Fever Reliever: a collaborative effort with LACC is being discussed for the February 22 fishing derby. A March 8th Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament is also planned.
- Battle Lake Kids Art Program Funding: \$4,000 was used for the fall 2024 Kid's 3-6 programs from the Roger Parks Foundation. An additional \$1,000 is available now, with \$4,000 remaining in the Fund which can be applied later this year. The summer program is in the planning stages and will be directed toward the public and home-schooled children. Brochures will be created to send out to resorts, schools and home-schools, along with emails to members and contacts.

New Business:

- Gallery shifts need to be filled for February- March.
- A procedure for Paid Time Off (PTO), earned sickness and safe time, a mandatory requirement of the State of MN will be drafted for Art of the Lakes employees. Vanessa and Ann will meet to develop an employee handbook with input from Jane and Deb.
- AOTL column for the Battle Lake Review was discussed.
- CAC Hours:
 - Wednesday: Open Ceramic Studio – 5-8 pm
 - Thursday: Fiber Arts groups – 1-3 pm and 5-7 pm
 - Sunday Social: 2-4 pm
- Studio Tour Name: Various venues are now involved in the Studio Tour event (e.g. CAC, Off the Wall, Landmark). Discussion was held on adding art, art crawl, or miles of art to the name. The Studio Tour committee will discuss this further.

Committee Updates:

- Gallery: Sue K
- CAC/Ceramics Studio: Dar Eckert will remove her equipment sometime in late May. Kristi is researching donations or purchasing a kiln and other equipment.
- Events:
 - Studio Tour 25th anniversary, July 18-20: Judi C advised that Registration will be opened on February 1. The kick-off call is scheduled for January 16 to review timelines and the project plan. Dean Curtis and Sarah Browne are on the committee and consented to assist with the event's marketing.
 - Art & Craft Affair 50th, Aug 9: Ann S/Deb N are co-chairs. Deb is considering using the Zaplication application which costs about \$1,000 for registrations.
 - Plein Air 2025, Aug 29-30: Deb N/Shanna C are co-chairs. A judge has been secured for the event. The Quick Paint may be held during the Gathering of Planes at Battle Lake Airport.
 - Phelps Mill, July 12-13: Kristi K/Deb N advised that AOTL consented to manage the kid's art booth; LACC will apply for a grant to cover the cost of supplies.
 - Purse Bingo 2025, May 9 at Thumper Pond: Sue K. presented the contract from Thumper Pond. The room deposit is \$200 more this year. Meal/food will be arranged later when registrations are open and closer to the event date.
- Fundraising and Grants: Kristi K / Ann Smith
 - An email will be sent to the AOTL contact list (currently about 1350) recruiting them to become AOTL members. Additionally, emails will be sent to all AOTL members and local businesses requesting donations to assist with funding in late January or early February.
 - Several grants are being considered and applied for (e.g. LRAC Project and Legacy Grants, MN Arts Board, Bush Foundation, Our Town@arts.org)
- Marketing: Kristi K advised that Tom Kuder continue doing communications. Additionally, she is in discussions with Sarah Browne about helping with marketing.
- Membership: Ann S reported that since January 2024, 56 new members have been added. Not all are displaying members.
- Education: Kristi K reported on the upcoming classes and events.
 - Jan 17 - Social Dance for Newbies 6:30-7:30 pm; "Strictly Ballroom" movie 7:30-9:30 pm
 - Jan 18 and 25 – Intro to Weaving on a Loom, 9 am- 12 pm
 - Jan 19 – Hardanger for Beginners/Refresher, 2-4 pm
 - Feb 7 - Social Dance for Newbies 6:30-7:30 pm; "Footloose" movie 7:30-9:30 pm
 - Feb 13 – HeARTS on Main, Galentine Potluck TBA 5-6:30 pm; "Little Women" free movie 7- 9:30 pm
 - Feb 14 – HeARTS on Main, The Art of Chocolate Truffles, 3-5 pm
 - Feb 14 – Valentine Eagle Lake Church Social Dance, 6-9 pm
 - Feb 15 – HeARTS on Main, Valentine Recovery Day: TBA
 - Feb 22 – Cabin Fever Reliever Events, TBA
 - Mar 8 – Cabin Fever Reliever: Jigsaw Torney TBA
- Performance: Kristi K, no update

Ann S made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2025.