VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee Minutes

November 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m. at Frontier Culture Museum

Board members present: Nathan Sanford (chair), Lauren Woodson

Board members absent: Dr. Makunda Abdul-Mbacke, Emma Ito

Staff present: Christy Deatherage

Agenda

* Welcome and introductions
* The committee was briefed on Education Updates-
  + Quarterly updates- (see table below)
    - At-the Museum highlights: Education activities provided for the annual Dino Festival, Completion of Summer Adventure Camps (4 separate week-long/full day camps. Homeschool Open House was held in August as a kick-off to the school year. Online registration as well as in-person registration opened that day, with the younger class (ages 6-8) filling for the entire year in under an hour. The committee discussed the increase in homeschool population- Christy will look into published percentages for our service area.
    - Outreach highlights – Educators presented programs at various branches this summer as part of the Library Summer Reading Program. New teacher Orientation programs were held in August to provide new teachers with background on the various outreach programs available to them. A Homeschool Trout Release was also held in August, releasing the museum’s resident Brook Trout into the local Smith River. The museum will receive a new stock of trout eggs to rear in the coming months.
* Upcoming:
  + Terri Tatum and Jordan Brim, educators, attended the VAST (VA Association of Science Teachers) Fall Conference in Roanoke. They are currently working on how to incorporate conference take-aways into museum programs.
  + An Evening with Santa event will be held on December 8th with the Education Department providing crafts/games for the public.
* Microscope Lab:
  + The IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) final report will be due in December. Even though the grant period is complete, the Microscope Lab will continue to be used by Education and Research and Collections staff throughout the year.
* The newly printed 2023-2024 Education Program Guide was distributed to committee members and will be provided at the full board meeting.
* Grant Updates for the 2023-2024 school year:
  + Received Edgar Thurman Charitable Foundation grant for programming- $3,500 total (continuation of partnership)
  + Received Boxley Grant for 2023-2024 Programming ($10,000 total - $7,000 towards scholarships) (continuation of partnership)
  + Received Monogram Foods/Monogram Loves Kids Foundation Grant for 2023-2024 Programming ($2,000 towards scholarships) (continuation)
  + Pursuing other grant opportunities with Deputy Director
* Exhibit Subcommittee –
  + Dino Festival: Triceratops successfully transported from Waynesboro and set up under the big tent outside, returned to Waynesboro Public Library
  + Updates/Repairs ongoing to permanent exhibits: interactive virtual pool in Wild Wetlands repaired, screens & video cards replaced in permanent exhibits, further updates to Carmel Church & HAL being planned
  + Updates to CHML: new monitors & whiteboard installed in STEM lab for public viewing
  + Stegosaurus moved from Temporary Exhibits to front lobby with new lighting installed
  + *Masters of the Night* exhibit Feb 2024-Jan 2025

No public comments will be taken at this meeting

**DEPP Quarterly Numbers**

Total Programs for Quarter: **64**

Total Number Served for Quarter: **1,324**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| July 2023 | 6 | 105 | 15 | 217 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug 2023 | 7 | 143 | 9 | 246 | 0 | 0 |
| Sept 2023 | 13 | 310 | 14 | 331 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **26** | **558** | **38** | **794** | **0** | **0** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| July 2022 | 12 | 177 | 16 | 159 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug 2022 | 4 | 56 | 2 | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Sept 2022 | 34 | 618 | 14 | 246 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **50** | **851** | **32** | **510** | **0** | **0** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outreach  (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern) | | At-the-Museum | | Distance Learning | |
| MONTH | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED | PROGRAMS | SERVED |
| July 2021 | 7 | 85 | 14 | 127 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug 2021 | 4 | 57 | 2 | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Sept 2021 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 102 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | **12** | **158** | **22** | **313** | **0** | **0** |