



Board of Directors' Meeting  
Thursday, December 8, 2022

**Present In-Person:** Jeff Allison, Hester Greene, Dan Hust, Ken Sable, Ariel Shanberg, Heinrich Strauch

**Present On Zoom:** Leif Johansen

Dan Hust, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:38PM. Due to a lack of a quorum voting was permitted at this meeting.

**Opening Remarks by Board President:**

- Board Vice-President Mary Sue Sweeney Price's sister has passed away after an illness. Please send Mary Sue your condolences. Dan Hust will respond on behalf of the board.
- Steve Leamer tendered his resignation from the board effective immediately due to increased personal and professional responsibilities.
- Chris Crowthers tendered his resignation from the board effective December 31, 2022, due taking on a new position in NYC.
- Meaghan Galligan is expected to tender her resignation from the board when she assumes her post of Judge in the NY 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District to avoid conflict of interest issues.
- Board members are asked to put forward recommendations for new board members to the Board Development committee. Such recommendations can be made directly to Dan Hust. Board development will be considered a top board priority.

**Review of Minutes from November 12, 2022 Meeting:**

- A correction to the spelling of Meaghan Galligan's name was made.
- Meeting minutes will be approved at the next full board meeting (Strategic Retreat on January 7, 2022).

**Executive Director's Report**—full report distributed to the board prior to the meeting:

Here are the items Ariel highlighted—see the full report for details:

- NYSCA Support for Organizations, aka General Operating Grant, was announced at \$45,000 of which:
  - \$15,000 is for July-Dec 2022 to convert DVAA onto a NYSCA calendar year cycle which was mandated by NYSCA.
  - \$30,000 for Jan-Dec 2023

- FY 23 budget estimated this grant would be \$49,500 vs the \$30,000 annual amount awarded based on our understanding from NYSCA and the prior year award amounts given to other organizations. This change will have minimal impact on this year's budget as a cash basis corporation; however, next year will only include \$30,000 in the budget.
- This grant was a single year grant—NYSCA didn't offer a multi-year grant. We will have to apply again next year.
- DVAA received an excellent evaluation of a 3.8 (out of a possible 5) on our application from the NYSCA panel. Only two of 1800 applicants received greater than a 4 score.
- NYSCA granted DVAA \$15,000 to become the fiscal sponsor for Deep Water Literary Festival.
- DVAA received a \$5,209.63 gift from the Hank Schneider Estate.
- Big Eddy debrief with Kate Bergstrom, BEFF Director, begins on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.
- We have extended the application deadline for the Arts for Sullivan (NYSCA) grants due to the lateness of receiving word of the grant amount awarded.
- Art is Sixes is doing quite well for total sales—equal to last year. Due to prices of the art in this year's exhibition we can anticipate a somewhat lower gross sales level.
- Shop sales have picked up.
- DVAA is collaborating to do cross promotion with Indie Mart which will be the weekend of Dec 17-18 at The Barn. Indie Mart participants are creating a basket of items to be raffled off at our Cozy Christmas celebration that same weekend.
- Now that the porch has been repaired, we will complete the banner and window signage to advertise our brand and opportunities for Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Community Arts and Shop.

**Treasurer's Report**—see meeting minutes distributed before the meeting for details:

- We need to create an Endowment Account policy regarding when and how this account can be used.
- End of the year appeal is being drafted and should go out next week. Hester and Jeff volunteered to assist.
- We plan on applying for \$50,000 no-match required NYSCA grant to improve the audio/visual technology for the Tusten Theater. Ariel has gotten the Big Eddy Technical Director to assist in updating our cost estimates for the grant application.
- We reviewed our budget vs accounting for our Special Events—account 5800. In budgeting we had put the Catskills Challenge Race into various other accounts based on type of income anticipated. However, since the race was cancelled this misrepresented the impact on the budget. As a result, the high-level profit and loss has been restated and will be distributed separately to all board members.
- DVAA continues in a strong financial position from a cash flow perspective.
- We are looking at analyzing platforms to move the shop to better manage inventory, sales and cut down on bookkeeping time required.

### Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee**—minutes from Nov 12 meeting on by-laws rewrite were distributed prior to the meeting. Leif will be giving the board in January a comparison of the old by-laws to the changes the EC is recommending. We hope to have new by-laws approved for the beginning of next fiscal year.
- **Board Development:** Priority is on identifying new board members to fill the terms of departing board members. In addition to the announced departures, Jeff Allison will be leaving the board in June.
- **Program Committee:** Meeting scheduled for Dec 10<sup>th</sup> to review Visual Arts.
- **Facilities Committee/Capital Campaign:**
  - Joe Levine and Karl Wasner have agreed to continue advising on the building. As soon as we can get the Facilities Committee to meet with Joe and Karl we will review the capital planning and the RFP for an architect.
  - Brown and Jackson have agreed to do a walk-through of the Tusten Theater with the facilities committee when it is available to meet. *The board discussion recommended we develop a policy on awarding contracts for major projects that the board approves.*
  - We need to restart the front door replacement project.
  - In light of our approaching capital campaign, Ariel asked that we do a walk-through of the Mildred's Lane space.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Nothing new to report.

### Old Business:

- Hester has identified a consultant who could be retained to produce Arts Happenings. Ariel will reach out to make contact.
- Strategic Planning session is scheduled for January 7, 2023. Since we are approaching a capital campaign it will include visits to Catskill Art Space and WJFF both of which have just completed capital projects. If board members have any topics they would like to recommend, please give those topics to Dan.