



History Colorado
Board of Directors Meeting
March 18, 2020
Minutes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met via virtual conference on March 18, 2020. Present were directors: Cathey Finlon, Marco Abarca, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Robert Musgraves, Rick Pederson, Ellen Roberts, Stephen Sturm, Ann Alexander Walker and Tamra Ward. Also in attendance: Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Jason Hanson, Cathy Rosset, Jeannie Vanderburg, and Lynne Winchell. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Finlon called the meeting to order at 8:03am. Brown conducted a verbal roll call, and confirmed a quorum. Abarca moved to approve the January 22, 2020 minutes; Roberts 2nd; motion passed.

Financial situation - Turner noted that the state is being impacted by COVID-19 and there is a chance we will not receive any additional funding. Finlon commented that it is important that the board provide support to the executive team to prepare for the future. We will have weekly calls to help the team make difficult decisions.

Turner proceeded to give an overview of the work staff has been doing. History in numbers highlights the last 4 years of engagement, we were increasing this year which confirms that we are doing the right things. However, many of our plans have been put on pause and/or delayed due to the virus.

Legislative possibilities - We had the JBC support for the full COP \$3M funding request but received an email from Amanda Bickell, JBC Analyst, noting the March forecast is \$800M loss in state revenue, and it is highly unlikely we will receive additional funding. Community Museums earned revenue, but don’t have spending authority. They need enterprise status to allow them to spend it and now is the time to drive this. DiPrince shared that we are looking into ways History Colorado could be a resource for other services to the community.

Financials - Winchell reported that the team is exploring P&L options for the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year and planning for next year. The P&L now reflects true cash to align with the state cash based system. Ward likes the new report and notes. The executive team continues to work on the impacts of declined engagement due to the virus. KM had event

cancellations and they are compiling a report to document the canceled events. In addition, the team is looking at previously board approved expenditures such as a sound system and trying to determine if any expenditures can be reclassified to cover any potential funding gaps. In addition, we are also looking into potential FY21 gaps and identifying tools for rebalancing.

Governance Task Force - Finlon commented that continuity is important and it is not easy to bring in a group of new people with such complex situations. Ward echoed Finlon's words. In normal circumstances, we would be recommending replacement names to the Governor's office, Boards and Commissions. The task force identified potential names and have focused on four seats. In addition, the task force is maintaining a list of names for an advisory committee. Ward, Finlon, Lynne and Roberts are reaching out to those individuals to gauge their interest in serving and will keep the board posted. Ward asked that names for consideration be sent to her so she can keep a list of potential candidates.

Deaccessions - Turned noted that the list of 168 items is mostly furniture. Staff has already conducted a thorough review of items and determined okay to be deaccessioned. Boettcher Foundation and Governor's residence will become stewards of the furniture. Newspapers would be auctioned and any funds received would be applied towards future work. Ward motioned to approve; Sturm 2nd; motion passed.

Philanthropy Dashboard - Turner reported that we continue to have a good year to date. We have received generous estate gifts which puts us at 197% of the 4 year goal. He noticed that we received major gifts for *This is What Democracy Looks Like*; and extended a special thanks to Finlon. We are short \$225K for the exhibition but we will continue to pursue funding. Membership continues to be a challenge, but we have activities to help drive membership. We are going to start 4th grade family memberships in the fall to increase our membership to bring folks in that wouldn't ordinarily have come into the museum. We are hopeful about that plan.

New business Sturm thinks History Colorado needs to be seen as a leader. We have an opportunity to jump on this to be a leader and build community. Turner agreed and shared that he's inspired by the board's counsel and his team is doing a lot of planning. We are going to start rolling out next week and will update the board on the call next week. He thanked them for their support.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30am