

Board Meeting Summary – September 1, 2009

The second board meeting of the MAS Board of Directors was held on September 1st at the Saskatoon Western Development Museum. The Board has decided to hold the majority of meetings in Saskatoon in order to minimize costs.

Key results of the September 1st meeting were:

- A Municipal Election Advocacy Guide will be sent to all institutional members by the end of September. It will include sample questions for both council and school board. It will also include information highlighting the impacts museums have on their communities – economically, socially and environmentally.
- The organizational audit and review, which was to have begun over the summer, has been delayed because the consultant, who is to be hired by SaskCulture, will not be available to start until late September or early October. Recognizing the importance of the review, the Board has decided to begin its own review immediately. It is anticipated that the organizational audit and the Board's review activities will compliment one another. The two components of the Board's review at this time are:
 - An ad hoc Policy Review Committee made up of Lucille Bullerwell, Ingrid Cazakoff, Crystal Craig and Wayne Fennig was created. The Committee will begin immediately by reviewing all of the governance policies currently in place and will provide the Board with recommendations for changes to the policies. Once the governance policies have been reviewed and revised, the Committee will review operational policies to ensure they comply with Board policies. The goal is to have a set of policy documents which provide clear, consistent guidance to the Board and Staff.
 - As well, the Board will proceed with the review of the existing strategic plan and the development of a new one as soon as possible. A facilitator will be hired to guide the process. There will be opportunities for member/stakeholder participation in the development of the new strategic plan built into the process.
- Seven members of the Board plus both Brenda Herman and Wendy Fitch, MAS' co-directors, will attend the SaskCulture Gathering and AGM "Leadership 101" in Regina October 23rd, 24th & 25th. It is hoped that a meeting with the organizational audit consultant can be arranged to coincide with this meeting.
- Work has begun on the application to SaskLotteries Trust for two year operational funding. The Board has been actively involved, providing input into the questions relating to governance evaluation and planning. Board members will represent MAS at the formal interview with members of the Cultural Advisory Committee

(the group which juries the grant applications on behalf of SaskCulture) which is an important part of the application adjudication process.

- Based on information posted on the SaskCulture website, the Museum Grant Program (MGP) application forms will be available September 15th. It was noted that the 2010 forms will be very similar to the 2009 ones. Remember that MAS is no longer involved in the administration of the MGP. MAS will, of course, participate in any review of the grant program if asked. For further information and to download the application forms please go to:
http://www.saskculture.sk.ca/funding/museum_grant_program.htm
- It was decided to change the name of MAS En Masse to MAS Board Staff Quarterly Update to better reflect the original intent of the 2008 resolution requesting a regular report to members. As well, the Quarterly Update will be much more concise. It will become more of a status report on Board and staff activities. Please note that in order to be both fiscally and ecologically responsible, the **MAS Board Staff Quarterly Update will only be mailed to members without email access. A copy will be emailed to everyone else. It will also be posted on the MAS website www.saskmuseums.org**
- Finally, the dates and location for the 2010 MAS Conference and AGM have been finalized. It will take place in Saskatoon May 26th, 27th, & 28th. Staff at the Gabriel Dumont Institute will be chairing the local arrangements committee. It was also decided that the 2011 Mini-Conference and AGM will take place in Regina, and that subsequent full conferences will be determined by an open bidding process. The bidding process will be in place in time to announce the location of the 2012 Conference and AGM at the Mini-Conference in 2011.

If you have any comments or questions, remember you can contact us by mail, telephone or email.

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