



**Art Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2018**

**Present:** Susan Blumberg-Kason, Chair; Kristin McDaniel, Trustee; Vicky Bush-Joseph; Johanna Delaney; Margaret Carsello-Chiapetta; Kathleen Wilson; Karen Kleckner Keefe, Executive Director

**Absent:** Cheryl Postrozny Eden

**Also Present:** Christine Esposito, Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford

Call to order at 7:05 p.m.

Christine Esposito, curator of the spring installation, introduced artist Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford. gave the committee some background on his practice and reviewed his project proposal.

The committee discussed the pending contract with the artist and confirmed that insurance on the artist's studio space would meet the Library's needs.

Hulsebos-Spofford explained his ideas for "Time Capsule for the Trees," describing the piece as single-occupancy shelving system displaying tree-related items that would be co-curated with the community. He and Christine Esposito have been sourcing scrap and reclaimed cherry wood for the piece, that will reference the Library's grandfather clock and the stain on Circuit.

The committee discussed placement of the piece. Executive Director Keefe recommend the southeast corner of the main floor, where the young adult audiobooks are currently shelved. Those shelves are being relocated to the Teen Lounge this fall.

The committee and artist discussed the pros and cons of casters on the bottom of the piece. While they appreciated the flexibility that casters would give the piece, there were concerns about stability and access to the piece for individuals with mobility issues.

Hulsebos-Spofford is interested in doing a workshop with the community—perhaps involving casting of items that could be included in the installation.

The committee discussed collecting display items from the community in advance. Submissions should be considered a donation to the piece. Hulsebos-Spofford would identify key pieces for the installation and would hope to co-curate with the community as the piece was installed.

Christine Esposito discussed potential programs, such as a kick-off with Morton Arboretum and a talk by author Liam Heneghan on J.R.R. Tolkien's special views toward and creativity around trees.

Esposito also asked committee members to share sponsorship opportunities with local businesses with which they had a relationship. She informed them that she had already secured \$1,000 from Hinsdale Nurseries.

At 7:52, Hulsebos-Spofford and Esposito thanked the committee for their time and left.

On a motion by Johanna Delaney and seconded by Kathleen Wilson, the minutes of the May 23 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Johanna Delaney and seconded by Kathleen Wilson, the Art Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to recommend that the Library Board of Trustees approve the contract with Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford, pending the changes discussed at the meeting and inclusion of a payment schedule.

Susan Blumberg-Kason presented the Policy Committee's recommended changes to the Art Policy.

Several members of the Art Committee were concerned about removing unrestricted gifts as a revenue source for the Art Fund. Concerns included:

- 1) Book sales have dropped from \$12K to \$7K over the last 10 years, so losing the gift money would further harm the Committee's ability to purchase art and support exhibits
- 2) Fundraising is a big time commitment that would take away from other initiatives
- 3) The Library can do a better job informing potential donors that their unrestricted gifts will go to the Art Fund, unless otherwise directed.

One committee member also asked that under General Guidelines, "C" be rewritten to read: "The placement of acquired artwork within the Library will be decided by a majority vote that includes the vote of at least two Trustee members and the Executive Director."

The Art Committee discussed Margaret Carsello-Chiappetta's upcoming exhibit and the related On Topic discussion on October 22.

Vicky Bush-Joseph recommended making copies of the books to be discussed available on the Book Group Holds shelving. She also recommended an e-Blast that committee members could share with their friends.

The committee discussed a visit to the Zhou Brothers Art Center to view a potential acquisition for the Library's permanent collection.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Approved: November 7, 2018