

VIVA Meeting Minutes 10-8-2025

**Present: Chris, Gail, Marla, Lisa, Tara, Pamela, Zuzana and Sy and Lindsay on zoom.
Also, 3 board candidates**

Treasurer Report-Barbara sent us the monthly report by email and there were no questions.

Sponsorship- Pamela suggested a Venmo account with a QR code for scholarship donations. The QR code and explanation will be placed at each studio tour stop. Barbara researched it, and now there is an account and code. The printed code will be printed and placed in the studio packets for tour stops that will be added to their supplies to be picked up at Bag Day.

Also, she suggested, last month, that we could have member artist-hosted workshops as fundraisers for the scholarship fund. Money would go to the artists as well as to the scholarship fund.

Last month, we talked about asking the studios, directly after tour, to make a scholarship donation of 1% of their sales if they agree. So if an artist brings in \$2000, (which is the median amount of sales reported to us), the donation would be \$20. With 40 studios, the amount could be \$800. If implemented by the board, we need to publish this asap to the studio tour stop leaders.

Our sponsorship program over the years is changing focus to our membership, especially after tour success. The previous plan has been to focus on island businesses to donate to our scholarship fund but many businesses have their own scholarships within the High School program or donate to other scholarships.

Scholarship-Tara is in contact with the high school about improving the scholarship notebooks for art students. There have been very few examples of student work in the past couple of years' notebooks.

Suggested by candidates- Pre-college summer workshops for portfolio development.

“Dip machines”, small donations of \$5, \$10 solicited at the tour studios from patrons who ‘dip’ their cards into a reader-for the scholarship fund.

Are we applying for grants for scholarship, operating expenses?

Membership Show-It is in September of 2026 and Gail, our liaison with VCA, is meeting with Lynann this week about plans. The theme is “The Best of VIVA” and advertising for the show will begin in early 2026 and the emphasis is for planned and quality work for the show. The show will not coincide with tour time, this year, and the hope is that we can garner the input of our professional artists as well as submissions of top-of-the-line work from all artists. It will be our 9th year of the membership show.

Studio Art Tour-The 40 stops, (limited to 40 for the first time from the repeated suggestions from tour participants), filled with 2 weeks to spare. That is a first! Usually, it fills on the last day of application. Lindsay has emphasized to artists to group-up at stops this last Spring and for this tour, (at the recent membership meeting in September). Studio groups not only share costs, but create robust stops for patron traffic.

Lindsay suggested and produced an Info Center and Gallery with a few artists and VIVA docents uptown for the Spring Tour. We deemed it a success and are doing it again. She has secured 4 artists, each paying \$200 for their space. She is working intensely with the artists to address verbiage and signage concerns. There are 2 artists renting the second space of the venue, again, as well. There will be the interactive map and 'rolling' video at the Center. On our tour map Lindsay has added a search feature for artist name and medium as well as the previous tour stop link to a studio's page.

We will vote on the tour budget by email before the next month's meeting.

Gail compiled a list of volunteers from the Membership Meeting in September. She will send out an email to all of them. Some of them indicated an area of interest.

DECISION: We voted on and decided that there will be Proxy Voting for when decisions need to be made and board members cannot be in attendance.

Our 3 candidates left the meeting and we discussed how we will integrate 3 new board members. They were voted 'on the board' unanimously. They are very skilled and 'seasoned' artists and group leaders and they will all come on the board immediately.

Chris Beck has changed her designation from Emeritus to working board member. It was approved.

The 3 new members are Brooke Gassiot, Tina Anderson, Nance Leonhardt.

Board members leaving at the end of the year are Pamela, Annette, Marla

Adjourned at 6:58.

Respectfully submitted, Marla Smith, Secretary