

VIVA Board Meeting Minutes 9-16-2025

Present: Chris, Annette, Barbara, Gail, Lisa, Marla, Tara, Gale, Pamela and Lindsay-(on zoom).

TREASURER REPORT

The monthly report was sent to board members by Barbara last week. There were no questions/comments at the meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Tara will meet with the high school teacher who mentors seniors about the scholarship notebooks, this November. We will suggest ideas of what we would like included in the notebook such as: examples of student's work in all mediums, plans for continuing their arts' education. Over the past years, there seems to be fewer examples of students' work and more 'social' photos included.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Pamela suggests that the scholarship committee and sponsorship committee be merged into one. Over the years, the sponsorship program has been reformulated to encourage members to donate to the scholarship fund through various means-online donations, after-tour donations,- rather than depending on our island businesses to sponsor VIVA scholarships. Many island businesses already have a scholarship program, or regularly donate to one through the robust high school scholarship program. Many days spent in canvassing island businesses this past year has informed her decision that this method does not produce results. The board agreed and the decision was made to combine the committees. Tara is the scholarship/high school liaison part, Gale volunteered and we will need a couple of board members to join.

Pamela suggested that we open a Venmo non-profit account, with a QR code, to display at studio tour spots. Barbara will investigate this.

Also suggested was a 1% donation request to tour participants--on their sales. At about \$150,000 estimate, (from recent tour surveys), for each tour's sales, that 1% would be \$1500. VIVA's mission is to provide scholarships to high school graduating seniors as well as the huge task of producing the tours which generate participants' income, so the ask from the board has integrity. In the future, this info about the 1% 'donation will be in the application documents and on the website. Donations, by Paypal, are already processed on the website.

Members concurred on bringing back the 'donation jar' for tour stops with a VIVA sign for them with their bag contents from Bag-Day. Studios will supply their own jar.

Also suggested was that postcards for donations be at the tour stops.

Mention of donations for VIVA scholarships need to be in every newsletter.

The motion for suggesting a 1% donation, initiating a Venmo account, and donation jars was approved unanimously.

Pamela suggested a Workshop Program by member artists in which they are paid for their time and money goes to the scholarship fund as well, and it is billed as a benefit for the VIVA scholarship program. She will go forward with this idea.

2024 Donors will be contacted by mail with the annual donations appeal letter. Marla will do this.

HOLIDAY TOUR

As we are limiting tour stops to 40 this tour, (there have been as many as 45 in the past), Lindsay has advertised that fact and for the need to 'buddy up' and she has been pro-active in promoting this idea. There are 2 weeks left before the October deadline for application and there are only 10 studio spots left. A 2-week warning is going out to members via email. There are 3 spots left at the info center.

The Info Center and Gallery rent stays the same as when we rented it for the first time for the spring tour. That comes to \$250 per day for 5 days. We voted to drop the price for participating artists-at the stop-from \$250 to \$200. The owners want to charge a 20% commission on artist revenue from sales. Last tour it was 15%.

It is important to have 'quality art' at this venue since it may be first stop for new patrons and a reflection on the quality of art from Vashon studios. We will evaluate this and perhaps have these booths juried, in the future.

ANNUAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7TH

There were 52 members in attendance at the High School lunch room and atrium. Although we contacted studio-leads right before the meeting, they were poorly represented, (6-excluding board members). The meeting was 2-4:30 with a potluck after the hour long meeting. Lindsay placed a big A-frame sign about the meeting at the corner for the week of so before the meeting and several people have commented that it helped them remember. The board was introduced and voted on by the members for another year. We had ½ sheet forms available at the check-in desk for volunteering for the board and/or committees and they were passed out after the meeting presentations, (important part). There are 3 volunteers for the board and another person interested. There were 2 volunteers for the newsletter position. Many members, (25), volunteered to do committee work-we need to be proactive in contacting these members. It has been a criticism that we ask for volunteers and they never hear back from us.

We need to send out info to acknowledge receipt of their willingness to help and let them know about the committees.

****who is doing this?

Also, there need to be an 'official' communication from our 'president@vivarartists.com' address to volunteers for the board and to set-up interviews asap. Pamela and Marla will interview 2 of the volunteer members, Chris and Gale will interview 1 and Lisa will interview 1.

Committees:

Scholarship/Fundraising, (formerly Sponsorship)

Newsletter-editor needed

Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

Tour Committee-we need about 13 members and there are 2 board members as co-chairs.

Social Media-under the auspices of Lindsay, our social media and website consultant

The spring post-tour survey will be sent out to all members- in its entirety. That way all members can read it if they are interested.

MEMBERS SHOW

It will be in September for 2026. At the Annual Meeting, Gail, (our VCA liaison), presented the theme of the show-"The Best of VIVA", an introduction of a "People's Choice Award" for the show and raffle of art for those who vote in the contest. She had met with Lynann about next year's show. Last year there were 84 participants and in the past we have up to 120. The VCA Atrium is available with the big wall, yet Lynann would like to discuss dimension parameters for 2-D art. Previous tours we have suggested that those who submit very large pieces also submit a smaller piece in case there are too many big pieces. Gail will talk further with Lynann.

We will announce the show and theme in newsletters all next year.

Respectfully submitted, Marla Smith, Secretary