

## **CAMDO**

17 June 2009

### *Annual Meeting*

Vincent Varga (Mendel Art Gallery), Kent Archer (Kenderdine Art Gallery), Anthony Kiendl (Plug In ICA), Carolyn Bell Farrell (MacLaren Art Centre), Brian Meehan (Museum London), Robert Labossiere (CAMDO), Carol Podedworny (McMaster Museum), Peter Dykhuis (Dalhousie Art Gallery), Diana Nemiroff (Carleton University Art Gallery), Mirki Zardini (Canadian Centre for Architecture), Robert Achtemichuk (Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery), Ray Cronin (Art Gallery of Nova Scotia), Dona Moore (Kelowna Art Gallery), Janet Brooke (Agnes Etherington Art Centre), Peter Thompson (Two Rivers Gallery), Ann MacDonald (Doris McCarthy Gallery), Philip Monk (Art Gallery of York University), Josephine Mills (University of Lethbridge Art Gallery), Niamh O'Laoghaire (University of Toronto Art Centre), Stephen Borys (The Winnipeg Art Gallery).

~Supplied with Agenda, last meeting's minutes, 2008 financial statement.

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Darren Martins

Moved: Brian Meehan

Seconded: Ann MacDonald

Seconded: Josephine Mills

Passed

Passed

### **Report Review**

~Board renewal, need for new board member. One spot still open

~Hiring of Executive Director: struck committee for national search (Rob was hired)

~Exhibition fees with CARFAC

Nov. 2007: agreement signed.

At last AGM, agreed not to sign CARFAC fee agreement.

Move away from institutional issue involvement

CARFAC letter: disappointed with not signing fees agreement

### **Treasurer report: Peter Thompson**

~2009 Budget rather than 2008 statements, yet available.

~\$25,000 surplus of budget + expenses

~No book keepers reports for last 6 months, due in July

~No significant variances in budget except:

Professional fees - \$2,000, but will cost much more, Employment of Permanent staff - \$10,000 more than budget, including professional fee overage.

~There will be a balanced budget when changes in fee allocations and costs are fixed, probably will use most of this year's surplus.

Question: Diana - Savings used for overages, depletes stores, how to not loose all savings, proper budgeting, etc. Reserve built in for next year's budget if needed.

Contribution for conference expenses question (registration fees).

~Rob gave comment on previous registration fees, expenses and overall budget.

### **CAMDO accomplishments for previous year:**

Last three years transformed from all volunteers to professional organization.

~Passed bylaws, strategic plan, etc.

2008-2009

~focused on strategic development, mostly advocacy and communications.

Communications strategic plan in effect, grant received.

2009

- ~BMD Communications plan to be finished by the end of the Summer.
- ~Promote sharing knowledge and keep informed, through email: New hires, job openings, director activities and CAMDO business.
- ~Website: compact site designed for CAMDO and VAA, needs to be updated, expanded. A new content management system is needed; private and public side of new site.
- ~Issues with exhibition fees and copyright
- ~Application of fees to permanent collections, CAMDO disagreed with CARFAC, perhaps due to consultation. Improve the process, both in development and participation. Model: Public Lending Right: out of the treasury department, to pay artists exhibition fee, not out of museum/gallery budget. Worth pursuing, although doubts at its projected success in the visual arts is debatable. What is the economy of the visual arts? CARFAC discussion within context of VAA about exhibition fees, etc. Artists cannot live on exhibition fees.
- ~Holocaust Era cultural property - Collections issues committee

### **Visual Arts Alliance:**

Committee/combo of 11 organizations, meets every 2 months. Emails once a week. Concentration, preoccupied with research. Research agenda document created, documented priorities, alliance agreed to certain points to carry forward. Meetings and national campaigning ignored from original agenda. Sub committee struck for national campaigning issues. No ETS discussion needed.

### **Professional Development**

~Networking over lunch. AAMD first keynote did survey of AAMD members, average age of directors, training needs, recruitment processes, who is in the candidate pool. She proved generation gap, between ages of 30-45. Resources available to improve/expand skill set for current, upcoming directors. Mid-career directors, new directors, curators to be directors, research into new training.

*CAMDO research agenda*

~Collections Management – survey done last year, will present figures.

~Need survey of CAMDO membership before next two points on the agenda continue forward.

Membership profile survey, Stephen Borys to spearhead project.

~CAMDO and CMA endorsed study on Canadian Arts sector economic analysis. It is a multiple year, million dollar project, not strictly on visual arts. Proposal short listed on list of 10 candidates for grant monies.

Anthony: Most people bored with ETS and it is a huge problem, are others feeling the same way? Should we be more active to find a solution? Ray made comments on Maritimes situation.

~CAMDO members buy trucks to set up ETS, needs economic study and great deal of money, organization, etc.

Robert: Trained local trucking companies to do institution's shipping. Anthony: suggested posting shipping times on the website to consolidate shipping for multiple galleries together. Central pool for ideas on solving shipping issues due to lack of choices, damages, prices, etc.

### **Advocacy Committee Report- Peter Thompson**

*Peter Thompson, Carolyn Bell-Farrell, Shirely Madill*

~Proposed advocacy committee work should be enhanced through website activity

- ~Professional development and discussion between members can happen 12 months all year
- ~Establish an advocacy research database- existing research and new research by Directors to share with the community
- ~Communication plan- advocacy is how we communicate and its content – not yet a comprehensive/consolidated public identity – can't be realised without a developed communication plan (Mau design)
- ~Want year round activity
- ~Members who have previously been part of advocacy committee, but dropped out because there had been a large drop in activity – remedy in the future

## **Collections Committee Report - Josephine Mills**

### Holocaust Era Research

- Currently developing a strategy about an approach to research and how to deal with the objects in question;
- Currently, these objects are located in the institutions of 12 CAMDO members with 800 items over several collections;
- Plan to focus on a Best Practices guidelines for future situations;
- CAMDO is pursuing access to expertise on the subject - not wanting the work done for CAMDO, but hopefully through a paid intern from the NGC – CAMDO would pay for intern
- Determined that the funding should come from Canadian Heritage because it is strongly felt by committee that it is a political issue.

### Collections Survey (report completed)

- excellent data- good response rate (43 members from CAMDO belong to collecting institutions);
- Possible uses of the report: infrastructure care and access;
- Determine regional variations and sizes of collections in those different regions;
- Strong interest in working together- coordinating collection strategies, sharing collection storage and transport;
- The report reflects concerns of members as to storage determining collection purchases etc.;
- Demonstrates that the loss of ETS has had a negative effect;
- what we're doing correctly within collections- CAMDO members are making use of collections- sharing works, exhibiting their collections;
- Collection size- large breadth (ignore the CMC who has 4 million objects because it throws off the medium) 220-4 million objects – 11 members have less than 1000 objects – know to factor in this diversity;
- Whittling down the data to basic statistics: the number of objects that each CAMDO gallery holds;
- Focusing a template (collection database) that allows for accessibility: image and less than 100 word description;
- Some CAMDO institutions did not yet provide information on their – committee now asking for those institutions to respond;
- what do we do? We need an executive summary, website: shorter vs. longer documents- online document for CAMDO member access;
- Focus the executive summary on: clarification that institutions need more storage space, focus on aspects of "care," try to ensure stronger infrastructure- need to do more advocacy for the importance of collections- preserving memory etc.;

- Desiring a workable document for all CAMDO members for whatever meetings or debates that would require a researched and official document about the care and access of collections- targeted advocacy;
- one reason for a focused report: ETS got cancelled probably because Parliament members don't know about works needing transportation and its integral role to museums exhibitions across Canada.

Open Discussion:

Rob Labossiere-when is the report going to be finished and what will be sent out to members?

Josephine Mills: one person will write and then it will be sent to committee for approval – this Fall - Still need to write the exec summary- focused on the care and access angle – leave aside the tired arguments (infrastructure angle)

**Professional Development Committee Report - Stephen Borys**

- Discussion over Registration Fees: AAMD fees instigated this debate;
- General opinion was supportive of a fee for the annual meeting- the fee would go to the primary meeting – based on cost (professional speakers, catering, administration)
- Fall 2009 meeting – each year it happens in Ottawa;
- Discussion about a “museum day”/“hill-day” to approach Parliament Hill together with MPs, CMA members, NGC members/employees and US lobbyists (potentially);
- Negotiation over Spring 2010 Meeting, Saint John's NFLD – should we overlap with CMA?;
- Everyone agreed to CAMDO meeting at a separate time from CMA: May 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Friday-Monday frame) - To be able to focus on CAMDO status and concerns, issues;
- Adjacent to CMA allows for members to attend both events if they wish;
- Committee wants to keep two meetings, one in the early spring (April May opposed to June)
- Membership Profile Survey- going forward with the survey in order to understand and have stats on the membership – in line with Labossiere's desires for more information on the membership body;
- Mentorship programme supported;
- AAMD model- dinner with both AAMD and CAMDO members – want to develop these sorts of activities among members;
- Looking towards curatorial development programme and a new membership programme (fostering better relationships);
- New Issue: publishing – focused on distribution and marketing- still up for discussion
- Interested in developing more liaisons with emeritus

Open Discussion:

Diana Nemiroff- concern over the expense of travelling to NFLD- this will be a road block for some members (especially from the smaller institutions); also concerned about being too affiliated with CMA;

Stephen Borys- recognizes cost concerns- discussed other cities- but wanted to make the final decision on where to hold the meeting;

Rob Labossiere- admits to the decision being made due to CMA 2009 pressures to determine CAMDO's participation –CMA 2009 was upset that CAMDO was slow to provide planning

Anthony Kiendl - we hold meetings across the country in order to have a larger profile- it eventually evens out- west and east;

Peter Dykhuis - the cost even from Halifax is high;

Niamh O'Laoghaire - we still have the primary meeting in Ottawa (Fall);

Josephine Mills- likes that CAMDO moves to different regions, wants to see attendance remain high, but NFLD in the Spring will reduce the amount of members who are able to attend;

Dykhuis - member of CAA (college art association)– CAA have abandoned going to “second tier” cities, maybe not as simple a decision for CAMDO;

Nemiroff- still pushing for a centralized location- more travelled, less expensive – people will make their decisions on the programme, personal concerns etc.;

O'Laoghaire - will we be able to get our voice heard at the fall meeting in conjunct with CMA and NGC;

Mills- being away for 4-5 days places stress on other work; have hill-day and we can get back to work;

Mirko Zardini - we have to be consistent- we complain about the government cutting travelling funds- but CAMDO is not demonstrating the importance of reaching all regions in Canada- not just focus centrally;

Nemiroff- asserts that Saint John's is too expensive; picturesque sure, BUT expensive- we don't have salaries of over \$500,000;

Labossiere: CMA 2010 has already booked the space for CAMDO;

Dykhuis- suggested Halifax for Spring 2010 meeting;

Open discussion: suggestions of Quebec City, Montreal, Vancouver;

Ray Cronin- if CAMDO meets in Halifax, they could correlate with Sobey's Awards at the AGNS, October 2010;

Labossiere: wants to move discussion; two day in the Fall (in conjunction with Hill-day), three days in the Spring;

-Place on Fall agenda- locations for future meetings and shifting the months in which the meetings would occur, cost concerns;

Borys- asserts that CAMDO is a professional organization who should be able to provide set dates, well in advance;

Janet Brooke - conjoining with CMA in NFLD is off the docket- CAMDO doesn't want to be a part of CMA.

### **Legal Affaires Committee Report – Brian Meehan**

-Letter from CARFAC wanting to sit down about exhibition rights for permanent collection display – concluded that CAMDO doesn't want to get into the issue- currently there is a debate between NGC and CARFAC and committee wants to wait until that is resolved- as an organization we should pursue the issue into the future, keep discussions open for many important reasons;

-Best Practices- in discussion with CARFAC Saskatchewan – developing templates for members' use;

-Honorary members: Pierre Théberge is nominated – CAMDO members should set up a vote – we should defer this for the next meeting (Fall);

-By-law amendment (5.1) under individual membership requirements – actually there are current members who don't fill the requirements (people who don't report directly to the

CAMDO Board) - want to move to remove that requirement of having to directly report to CAMDO Board;

-Committee is making an application for a publication study – looking to hire someone to look into the current dissatisfaction with dissemination and the changing nature of publications – some institutions are now moving towards completely electronic/digitized publication – CAMDO wants to map this change/shift;

-Issue of non-members attending the meetings: in the past CAMDO has been strict about who can attend the public talks vs. the business meetings (AGM, Committee meetings)-such as people in arts service organizations and directors in between positions- maybe include these people if they were recommended by a current member (not the general public), invitees would pay a fee (benefits: open up group discussions and generate revenue);

#### Open Discussion:

Mirki Zardini - the clause that takes out having to report directly to CAMDO board- it compromises our credibility

Brian Meehan- it will be tweaked

Diana Nemiroff- university directors, report indirectly through one other member, and they report to their universities instead;

Rob Labossiere: in relation to annual operating budget caps, when CAMDO institutions loose funding, they can be kicked out of CAMDO, but they usually are not; agrees with Zardini;

Janet Brooke: add the word “normally” or “typically” adhering to requirements...budget cap, reporting etc.;

Labossiere: we can make exceptions, but who governs that on a case by case- doesn't want to be arbitrary;

Niamh O'Laoghaire: make an exception for university galleries

Nemiroff: does not support non-member invites- what is the advantage for CAMDO? Are our meetings of public interest? Understood that the membership requirements are strict; concerned that the invites will be too adhoc; advantages of a closed meeting- we can trust one another and confide, maybe we don't want everything public; willing to loose some transparency;

Meehan: provides an example of an OAAG member who wanted to attend meetings- an opportunity to further OAAG knowledge of like-organizations; out-of-work directors can keep in touch, stay in the community;

Anthony Kiendl: separate the private and public elements, invite board members and inactive directors to public sessions, on a case-by-case basis;

Nemiroff: university system- members who are members of CAMDO could not attend University gallery meetings;

Labossiere: AAMD members have been included in meetings in the past

Nemiroff: desires strict rules- a written policy on who can/can not attend meetings; strategic document;

Labossiere: received requests for CAMDO meeting attendance by non-members and didn't know who to allow and who to not;

Zardini: consider the web as a professional publication space that can maintain what CAMDO membership means;

Meehan- currently preparing an application;

Brooke- expressed concern within the group about distribution and access to services- so she is happy that the rest are aware and that action is being pursued.

#### **New Members Approval:**

Niamh O'Laoghaire

Lists the new members and who nominated them from CAMDO

New member – Kevin Price, nominated by John Tucker

Approve nominations

Moved: Peter Thompson

Seconded: Janet Brooke

Passed

**New Business:**

Announce Brian Meehan as the incoming President of CAMDO

Labossiere- commemorates outgoing President Niamh O'Laoghaire

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved: Ann MacDonald

Seconded: Diana Nemiroff

Passed