

## **CANADIAN ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATION**

### **2011 Spring Meeting Minutes**

**May 3, 2011**

#### **President's report – Brian Meehan**

2010 was a very productive year for CAMDO with the launch of an exploration into publications, engaging members through surveys and interviews. Another topic that requires the same kind of engagement is copyright, which is very challenging but which is of such interest to all members that the efforts to do so will be rewarding. Thank you to the staff for organizing this conference. With respect to the Board, you will note a few changes in the proposed slate

Motion to accept the slate of Board members for 2011-12

Moved: Stuart Reid

Second: Ann MacDonald

Carried

#### **Treasurer's report – Peter Thompson**

The CAMDO Financial statements will be available on the web. For 2010 net revenues were 151, 000, and net expenses 136, 400. The surplus will carry over into 2011 to help with the costs of the publications project. Heritage Canada has contributed 35, 000 and CAMDO has to match that. The Board has allocated 17,500 from the operating budget and it is expected that 17,500 will come from members as fees for services rendered by the project. That said, financial involvement in the Publication project will be completely up to the participating institutions.

Motion to accept budget

Moved: Nataley Nagy

Second: Valerie Cooper

Carried

#### **Executive Director's report – Robert Labossiere**

A new issue has come up that has to do with CAMDO history – there is a lot of material at the office but it is unsorted, much of it is correspondence dating back to 1968. Some thought should go into developing a project to write a history, budget it, deciding, for example, whether to include things like oral histories. The goal would be to compile a complete history of the organization and the issues it has faced in the past.

The Visual Arts Alliance approached Canada Council to fund a project to create a bibliography of available research on the visual arts. The researcher, Guy Bellavance, identified gaps that exist in the visual arts field of research. One such gap is the history of associations. The biggest gap is research on the market; there is virtually nothing about dealers, private sales; while auction records exist, they need to be examined and still would not give a complete picture. Also

missing from the existing research are studies on the academic side of the visual arts; we know too little about their programs and objectives. Within the academy, research means art history; few people are looking at the visual arts as a sector or at art practice as a professional discipline.

With respect to advocacy by the CAMDO office, there is a need to assess what advocacy means for CAMDO. It isn't letter writing so much as communicating with people – taking the time to establish relationships.

One significant achievement for CAMDO in 2010 was the initiation of Visual Arts Colloquium to be held in Kingston Ontario in the fall of 2011, securing funding for it and setting its agenda. It is hoped that this event will identify topics and a process to follow up with smaller meetings, by invitation only that will engage everyone driving the visual arts as a sector, including sponsors, donors, collectors, etc. The idea is for each part of the sector to start looking at how they do things in order to improve our engagement and results.

It has been noted that the CAMDO list-serve would re-enforce the sense of a community and stimulate communication if more information was coming from CAMDO. Community of interest is important. If the communications are more direct, members will use the list-serve more!

Work has been done developing an online forum organized by topic of interest, for example, where members could post info on touring exhibits. There is a question about the necessity of having a forum, email and a list-serve, whether all are needed. But these are tools with potential to support professional development. All that seems to be lacking is the training to use them.

### **New Business**

There was a recommendation from the floor to have the Board to take a look at the bylaws and see if anything needs to be revised.

### **Next Meeting**

A date for the next Annual General Meeting was not set.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn

Second: by Peter

No objections

### **Reports and support documents attached**

President's Report, Board list, 2010 Financial Statements and 2011 Budget, Executive Director's Report