

LNS Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2020

Via Zoom

Attendees:

- **Present:** Mara Rus, Kate Brooks, Anique Lebel, Rebecca Blanchfield, Katherine Ruhl, Jessica Kaplan, Victoria Slingerland, Matt Hendrick, Clint Cherco, Mitch Brooks, Emily Lines, Gina Cherco, Kristie Fox, Jessica Callow, Lauren O’Neil, Kerri Schubert
- **Absent:** All Board Members Present
- **Also Present:** Nancy Fincke, Emily Silet, Leonora Balaj

Guest Speaker - deCordova’s Head of Learning and Engagements Emily Silet

- Emily Silet is a former member of the LNS Community and the current Head of Learning Environments for deCordova.
- Emily introduced new museum exhibition “Visionary New England”
 - exhibition features original commissions and existing artwork by twelve contemporary artists who are engaged with the themes of
 - Is Spiritulism True, Teaching Utopia, and Animalist Landscape
 - Artists include: Gayleen Aiken, Caleb Charland, Anna Craycroft, Angela Dufresne, Sam Durant, Erin Johnson, Josephine Halvorson, Paul Laffoley, Michael Madore, Candice Lin, Tourmaline, and Kim Weston.
 - Bridging past and present, their work will be shown alongside earlier art and artifacts that speak to these enduring qualities of the region and their relevance today
- Process Gallery
 - Inspired by the “Hidden Life of Trees”
 - QR codes prompt visitors
- Lab
 - Hands free and hands on – no touching necessary
 - Vision and optics
 - How our eyes work and how they compare to the eyes in the animal kingdom
- Emily encourages LNS families to visit with our kids
 - How to Visit
 - Everyone, even members, must book online in advance
 - Capacity is limited and well below state guidelines
- Other Family Friendly deCordova Activities and Updates
 - Emily is working on turning the grove into an outdoor learning environment

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- If families have any suggestions for this, please contact her because no formal plans have been made yet so now is the time for suggestions
- Every Friday, the head of youth and family programs reads a book and prompts ideas for a craft
 - Can be accessed via the facebook page
- Scavenger hunt
 - Emily designed a scavenger hunt with prompts and ideas to capture with your camera
 - Downloadable for free from the deCordova website

President's Report – Mara Rus

- Covid Committee Update
 - Thank you to the Covid committee for their hard work
 - Covid committee meets weekly via zoom. Meetings are open to all members of the community
 - Covid committee has successfully implemented two initiatives
 - asymptomatic testing program
 - purchase of air purification systems that are installed and running in each studio
- Community Building
 - Successful pumpkin socials
 - Thank you to Kerri Schubert
 - Studio coffee meet ups
 - Thank you to Emily, Gina, Kristie, and Jess
 - Special thanks to Anique for all her help with these events
- Fundraising
 - Photography fundraiser in lieu of the annual appeal for the current community
 - Thank you to Kate Brooks for organizing
 - Annual appeal will go out to alumni
- Teacher Appreciation
 - To show appreciation for the teachers during this unusual year, we purchased each teacher a personalized Yeti mug
 - Room parents collected notes and pictures from the kids to accompany these mugs letting teachers know what kids appreciate most about being at school
- Enrollment Open House
 - Successful enrollment open house on Nov 7
 - Thank you to Vickie, Nancy, Lisa, and the Enrollment Committee

Secretary - Katherine Ruhl

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- Approve September 2020 minutes. Vickie Slingerland approved, Rebecca Blanchfield seconds

Director's Report – Nancy Fincke

- Updates
 - Progress reports are coming up. Teachers will use Storypark to show skill sets and progress
 - Studios have been outfitted with air ventilation units
 - Enrollment is underway for 2021-2022
 - Please make sure your children have the proper clothing for winter
 - See “about” section on Storypark for a list of recommended outdoor gear
 - Covid committee will be sending a survey to the community after Thanksgiving to assist in planning for 2021

Call for Updates

- **Enrollment – Vickie Slingerland**
 - Enrollment has started for 2021-2022
 - Successful open house
 - Tours fully booked until January
 - Please fill out the returning family application ASAP
 - Currently 16 returning students and 17 siblings
 - Estimating only 10 open spots if class size stays the same next year
- **Welcoming & Social – Kerri Schubert**
 - Pumpkin events were successful
 - Upcoming events include family hikes and walks in the woods before the holiday break
 - Virtual events are in the works
 - Suggestions include trivia night, deCordova curators discussing artworks
- **Gala Chair – Matt Hendrick**
 - Gala planning is underway for Spring 2021
 - Preliminary plan is a virtual wine, cheese, and chocolate class with Mill City Cheese Mongers and auction