

Washington Art Association

4/19/26 Members Meeting Minutes

Date: 2026 Members Meeting

Location: Washington Art Association

Attendance: Members, Board of Directors, Staff

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order with a welcome to members and appreciation for attendance despite inclement weather. Leadership acknowledged recent transitions, including the resignation of former president, Rod Pleasants, and expressed optimism about the organization's direction.

2. Board of Directors Update

The new Board of Directors was announced. Continuing and newly elected members include:

- Rod Pleasants
- Judy Jackson
- Darryl Wright
- Carolyn Hartman
- Diane Stevens
- Meg Marden
- Nancy Lasar
- Souby Boski
- Bob Whalen
- Marcella Manubens
- Didier Malaquin
- Elizabeth Kaney
- Abby Darer

The Board expressed enthusiasm about the strength and diversity of the incoming group.

3. Organizational Growth & Programming

A report was presented highlighting strong organizational momentum:

- **Membership increased by approximately 48%**
- **Education programs increased by approximately 25%**, with plans for further expansion
- **Fundraising increased by approximately 12%**

Planned program growth includes:

- New class offerings (creative writing, mosaics, photography, textiles, digital art, jewelry, printmaking, sculpture)
- Expanded exhibitions, including larger-scale and more innovative shows
- Increased opportunities for member participation and showcasing member work

Recent exhibitions were noted as highly successful and well received.

4. Norman Sunshine Center Update

The Norman Sunshine Center remains a key strategic priority.

Opportunities

- Expansion of education programming and exhibitions
- After-school programs (already launched in partnership with Region 12 schools)
- Potential summer camps
- Community events and partnerships
- Increased accessibility to younger audiences and families

Financial & Operational Outlook

- Estimated annual operating cost: ~\$20,000
- Projected potential revenue: ~\$90,000 across programs, events, rentals, and classes

Facilities Update

Significant structural issues were discovered, including:

- Mold, rot, and foundational concerns
- Basement reconstruction (partial completion with new cement slab)

Costs to date:

- ~\$23,000 spent on initial remediation
- Estimated ~\$40,000–\$80,000 additional to complete basic renovations

Next Steps

- Develop a **comprehensive plan** including:
 - Renovation scope
 - Cost estimates
 - Revenue projections
 - Form a **committee of board members and volunteers** to lead planning
 - Solicit **member input and ideas** for use of the space
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5. Financial Report

The Treasurer presented Q1 financials:

- **Revenue:** \$88,000 (below \$110,000 budget)
- **Operating loss:** ~\$56,000 (expected for the quarter)
- **Primary revenue source:** Education (~60%)

Key points:

- Increased spending due to repairs, maintenance, and insurance
- Investment portfolio experienced a modest loss in Q1
- Continued reliance on endowment funds is **not sustainable**

Positive developments:

- Fundraising increased approximately 12%
 - Anticipated **donations and bequests** will support future financial stability
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6. Facilities & Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance challenges were discussed for both buildings.

The need for:

- A **long-term facilities strategy**
- Moving beyond reactive repairs
- Aligning capital investments with strategic goals

was emphasized.

7. Fundraising & Member Engagement

Discussion highlighted the need for:

- A more structured **fundraising strategy**
- Increased **member engagement and outreach**
- Recognition of volunteer contributions

Planned initiatives include:

- Revival of social and fundraising events (e.g., solstice celebration)
 - Exploration of a **capital campaign**
 - Improved communication and engagement with members
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8. Governance & Bylaws

- The **new bylaws were formally approved and adopted**
 - Discussion raised regarding board residency requirements; potential revisions may be considered at a future meeting
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9. Additional Announcements

- The organization expects a **significant bequest** from the estate of a longtime supporter
 - Appreciation was expressed for continued generosity from donors and members
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10. Leadership Transition

The current president announced plans to **step down**, with a new leadership appointment to be determined at an upcoming meeting.

11. Member Participation & Next Steps

Members were encouraged to:

- Submit ideas for the Sunshine Center
- Volunteer for planning committees

- Participate in fundraising and programming initiatives
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12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Washington Art Association