

OAKLAND COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY
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Dr. Swarn Rajpal, *Chair*

Barbara Whittaker
Vice Chair

James Cristbrook

Jen Miller
Secretary

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Chair Rajpal called the meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Committee Room A at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12E, Pontiac, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Barbara Whittaker, Jen Miller, James Cristbrook (4)

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: (0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Miller moved approval of the minutes of January 29, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Whittaker moved approval of the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Miller moved approval of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority Administrative Calendar for CY 2025. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT – CHAIR RAJPAL

Chair Rajpal reported that he attended a Society of Associates event at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) that included an exclusive tour of the basement archives.

DIA BOARD REPORT – BO CHENG & DAVE FLYNN

Dave Flynn reported highlights from the DIA Board of Directors meeting that was held on February 19, 2025. At the meeting, new board members were announced, along with an update that the current fiscal year is ahead of budget, and the endowment was currently at \$444 million. The African Galleries of the permanent collection are currently under construction.

Miller moved approval of the report given by Dave Flynn. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) – REVIEW OF 2024 YEAR END REPORT – JULIE MCFARLAND

Julie McFarland, Executive Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement; Judith Dolkart, Executive Director of Art Education & Programs; and Ian Rapnicki, Public Affairs Officer; presented the DIA Review of the 2024 Year End Report. The presentation was organized into four program sections: Free Admission, School Programs, Senior Programs, and Community Partnership Programs.

The DIA is actively promoting the Free Admission benefit for Oakland County Residents with marketing materials. The *12 Artworks to Inspire* booklet includes highlights of the museum, list of millage benefits, and a coupon for a free button. Additionally, the DIA has redesigned their *Quarterly Calendar* mailer to include millage benefits.

Over 450 Oakland County teachers and educators participated in Teacher Professional Development experiences during 2024. The In-School Pilot program worked with grades 3 through 5 in the Madison Heights School District and is now in an evaluation phase. The DIA is working with Oakland Schools Intermediate School District to continue engaging schools within Oakland County. They are currently working with Pontiac Schools and will soon be working with South Lyon and potentially Waterford Schools. An application process is still being developed and refined, along with establishing criteria for the program.

In 2024, 114 groups of Oakland County Seniors visited the museum with transportation provided by the DIA (up from 73 groups in 2023). The *Melodies at the Museum* program has been well-received, driving the increase in visits.

The *InsideOut* program brings reproductions of the permanent collection out into the community. In 2024, *InsideOut* visited 7 Oakland County Communities, the Clinton River Trail, Oakland County Parks, and participating Oakland County Senior Centers. The 2025 Oakland County InsideOut Partners include: Davisburg/Springfield Township, Waterford, Wolverine Lake, Madison Heights, Lake Orion, Beverly Hills, Oakland County Parks, Oakland Community College, and participating Oakland County Senior Centers.

Through the *Partners in Public Art Mural Program*, murals were completed at the Farmington Farmers Market and the Hazel Park District Library in 2024. The 2025 Oakland County Partners are Lathrup Village, Pontiac, and Southfield.

In 2024, the DIA had three exhibitions on view that were included in the Free Admission millage benefit. The DIA currently has two exhibitions on view: *Tiff Massey* is available now through May 11, 2025, and *Painted with Silk* is available now through June 15, 2025. These exhibitions are also free with general admission.

Whittaker moved to receive and file the 2024 Year End Report. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) – PLANTE MORAN 2024 AGREED UPON PROCEDURES – JULIE MCFARLAND

Julie McFarland presented the Plante Moran 2024 Agreed Upon Procedures.

Cristbrook moved to receive and file the Plante Moran 2024 Agreed Upon Procedures. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

ART AUTHORITY – RESOLUTION OF LEVY AND COLLECTION OF 2025 MILLAGE – CHAIR RAJPAL

Cristbrook moved to approve the Resolution for the Levy and Collection of the 2025 Millage and the accompanying 2025 Tax Rate Request (Form L-4029). Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – AMY CARTER

Amy Carter, Accountant, Oakland County Treasurer's Office, and Robert Wittenberg, Oakland County Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Cristbrook moved to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Megan C. Sellers, Deputy Oakland County Executive, informed the Authority that Oakland County is actively working alongside the DIA to inform residents of the millage benefits that are available to them and promoting these opportunities on the Oakland County social channels.

ADJOURNMENT

Whittaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rajpal.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Susie Corker Cobb, Committee Coordinator

Jen Miller, Secretary

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.