

FALLS CHURCH ARTS
All Member Meeting
Sunday, February 24, 2008, 1:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Marty Meserve at 1:50 PM. Thirty-three people were present, including the ten current Board members.

Welcome and Introduction: Marty Meserve, President, introduced the ten current Board members: Gina Caceci (former Executive Director), Joe Wetzel, Jane Scully, Eileen Levy, Susan G. Boggs (Secretary), Cathy Kaye (current Treasurer), Michele Black, Marty Behr (Archivist and past Treasurer), and Shaun Van Steyn.

Secretary's Report: Susan G. Boggs read a summary of the minutes from the 2007 All Member Meeting. The full text of that meeting and today's will appear on the web site.

Marty Meserve expressed thanks to Tom Gittins for providing the venue for the FIRSTFriday events and all his support of FCA.

Treasurer's Report: Marty Behr, Treasurer in 2007, presented a summarized balance sheet of the 2007 budget, and Cathy Kaye, current Treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2008 (see attached). Cathy said 65% of FCA's funds will be going toward the rental of the space at 111 Park Avenue. 11% will be going toward administration; 7% for events and shows, and 5% for awards and grants.

Cathy said we are working very closely with the IRS in meeting the requirements of our 501(c)(3) designation. The IRS is very demanding regarding our budget and spending, naming specific ways to qualify, especially regarding education and grants. FCA is in the process of applying for our permanent 501(c)(3) status, after completing the trial period. Maintaining an archive helps in the documentation of our compliance. We need to emphasize that we are a non-profit organization supporting educational programs.

Marty Meserve said that the City of Falls Church is again willing to work with us to apply for a local government matching grant which would be comprised of \$5,000 awards from the City and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Election of the Board Members: Michele Black chaired the election to the Board. Six returning members and four new members were nominated. Returning members are Michele Black, Gina Caceci, Cathy Kaye, Eileen Levy, Jane Scully, and Shaun Van Steyn. The new members are Elizabeth Day, James Lynch, Barbara Cram and Dede Haas. Brief bios were given.

MOTION: to accept the slate by acclamation.

Moved by Dee Ellison

Seconded by Marty Behr

The motion, and the slate of Board members, was approved unanimously.

Review of 2007 at FCA: Gina presented the highlights of 2007 at FCA:

- 1) There were 7 exhibits at 111 Park Avenue during 2007, and we continue to use the space in 2008: January was Poetry Month, and the *da Vinci* program was launched in February.
- 2) Seven artists had exhibits in conjunction with the summer concerts in the park.
- 3) FCA members were invited to submit work for the juried show at Goodwin House.
- 4) Gallery without Walls continues, currently at 5 locations: Capital Area Pediatricians, Burke & Herbert Bank, UVA Graduate Center Director's office, the VA Tech/UVA library at the Graduate Center, and our newest location, City Hall.
- 5) The web site has been updated and upgraded, thanks in large part to Michele Black.
- 6) The Falls Church Film Festival.
- 7) The Home for the Arts fundraiser.
- 8) The Art Space at Pearson Square continues in its planning state.
- 9) Outreach to other arts groups.
- 10) Kokolopori, an art group project with our sister city, where we provided judges for their art show.

Da Vinci Passport Series: Marty Meserve and Laura Hull began their presentation with an update on the Art Space at Pearson Square, which has been in progress for 3 years, and has been sold to its third owner. It will be the home for FCA in partnership with Creative Cauldron. CC and FCA have decided to begin their collaboration at this time, before the move to Pearson Square, and thought it wise to develop a program for the whole year. Hence the *da Vinci* Passport Series, whose inspiration comes from Michael Gelb's book, *How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci*. Laura emphasized interconnectivity, collaboration, and artists working together.

The next programs will be on April 19, a concert of Renaissance music presented by 'Heart's Ease', performed on period instruments, and "In the Moment," a holistic approach to improvisation, presented by Oran Sandel on March 9. Marty Meserve spoke about the next exhibition *Sensazione: Awaken the Senses*, which will be the 5th Annual All Member Show, opening on March 28 at Don Beyer Volvo and running through April at 111 Park Avenue. Artists may submit 2 pieces; entry forms are due by March 16. Postcards will be available to send, and may also be on the web site.

Planning for 2008: Gina led a discussion asking members' ideas for future programs in the visual arts, performing arts, workshops and lectures, and literature. A number of interesting ideas were put forth:

- 1) June will be "Tinner Hill Month" and it was suggested that FCA be involved in the Blues Festival on June 14 at Cherry Hill Park. Perhaps John Jackson's film can be screened at 111 Park Avenue.

- 2) FCA could sponsor a digital photography workshop.
- 3) We could have outreach to other venues, e.g., Greenspring.
- 4) We could do more with the schools, e.g., an IB Art exhibit.
- 5) Artists could do renderings of “the future of Falls Church” – imagining what Falls Church would look like.
- 6) FCA could host “drop-in” drawing sessions, paying a model with money collected from participants.
- 7) Have a corner soap box at FIRSTFridays, where anyone could expound.
- 8) Have a workshop on container gardening.
- 9) a) Host a “paint-out,” where artists and/or photographers would set up outside and paint/photograph view of Falls Church, which would be a great way to attract attention to FCA
b) Let students perform street corner art, or sidewalk chalk art
c) give students a forum to perform classical music.
- 10) If FCA expanded toward Merrifield we could tap into the dance studios there, inviting dance teachers to volunteer to teach a dance step at FIRSTFridays.
- 11) Have a decoration sale fundraiser, e.g., decorated wreaths
- 12) Create Christmas (Holiday) cards presenting art work from FCA artists: “Christmas Arts from Falls Church.”
- 13) Paint murals on buildings, permanent or temporary.

Call for volunteers: It was agreed that to implement any of the wonderful suggestions above FCA needs many volunteer coordinators. It was suggested that we get contacts for the other arts organizations to expand our e-mail list.

We are moving towards an e-newsletter, but we need a newsletter editor. Dee Ellison volunteered to help on this project. Gretchen Thompson volunteered to be the contact person for anyone without a computer, in phoning and snail-mailing. Michele Black asked for a data-base/website assistant, particularly for when she is out of town. We also need monthly activity coordinators for the gallery events, and art sitters for Sunday, March 30, when the All Member Show moves to 111 Park Avenue. Eileen Levy will begin teaching adult art classes, and would like to show her students’ work for part of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan G. Boggs, Secretary