

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Welcome all to our last Friends lecture of the 2013-2014 series. My name is Pam Friedland, President of the Friends of the Institute.

Reminder to all to silence your cell phones please.

Each year in May we ask all of our former Friends presidents to join us to celebrate our history. Please stand as I call your name and everyone hold your applause until after I announce everyone's name.

Jean Krogness, Phyllis Colwell, Lucille Amis, Sheila Morgan, Carol Burton Gray, Barbara Goldner, Linda Goldenberg, Suzanne Payne, Katie Searl, and Carolyn Dahl.

This incredibly accomplished group of Friends represents 20 years of outstanding Friends leadership.

Before I begin the Annual Meeting, I would like to tell everyone that our time with our speaker today will NOT be cut short, even with the meeting. You will all have the wonderful pleasure to hear the full presentation from Dr. Kathleen Brandt. For those of you staying for the luncheon, we will plan for the luncheon to begin at 12:40, just 10 minutes later than usual.

The 92nd annual Meeting of Friends of the Institute is now in session.

Before we can conduct a very brief annual meeting, we need to determine if we have a quorum. Jean Marie Burtess is our parliamentarian this morning. Will all the members of Friends please raise their hands? Jean Marie will confirm that we have a quorum. Jean Marie, is there a quorum (about 40-45 members)? It appears we have a quorum.

May I have a motion from the floor to suspend the reading of last year's minutes? Second? All those in favor, indicate by saying "aye". Opposed? Please say "nay." The motion passes. For anyone interested, a record of last year's minutes can be obtained by calling the Friends office.

Before we begin the business portion of our meeting, I will give you a brief summary of the Friends year.

Very shortly after starting my first year as president, Friends made the very important decision to pledge \$500,000 towards the MIA's 100th Year Birthday Celebration. We are very proud to know we were the first to offer a pledge and also the first to sponsor this important celebration at the top sponsorship level. This speaks to our strong partnership we cherish with the MIA.

Friends continued the tradition of free monthly lectures consisting of nine very successful lectures, with many of the lectures attracting crowds large enough for substantial overflow. The past two months, it was decided require free tickets to each lecture, allowing our visitors a more pleasant lecture experience and the ability to enjoy our pre-lecture coffee and conversation time. I would like to once again recognize the incredibly generous gift from the estate of Mary Fiterman. Without these funds, we would not be able to continue to bring experts in their fields to the MIA for all of us to enjoy.

I am sure none of you will be disappointed in our lineup starting in September. Stay tuned for exciting news on that front!

Last October we celebrated our 10th year of Art Perchance. Over 80 artists contributed outstanding works of art for the event. The evening had an incredible vibe to it, enjoyed by people from all over the community. Friends has made the decision to give Art Perchance a few years off, finding itself excited to take advantage of some opportunities MIA has brewing. Again, more information and details to follow for this late fall event.

The 31st Art in Boom was just last week. It was incredibly successful, drawing over 37,000 people (breaking the old record by over 10,000!!) through the doors of the museum during the 4 day, flower-filled, and wonderfully scented fundraiser and thank you gift to the community. There were about 156 pedestal florists participating as well as 18 commercial floral displays. Financial numbers are not yet available but projections look very healthy.

This year, Friends provided busing to the MIA for nearly 4,000 children who all received docent or art adventure led tours. The Transportation Fund provides buses to schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul, the Anoka Hennepin school districts, as well as two buses to outstate schools. Schools were chosen depending on their percentage of free and reduced lunches.

The Friends Childrens Fund sponsored the pilot year of the Learning and Innovation Department's Creativity Academy. This is a multi-visit school program for underserved fourth grade students designed to foster creativity and critical thinking. Inspired by artworks in the MIA collection, students engage in discussion, art-making, and creative writing in their classrooms and at the museum. The program culminated with an exhibition of the students' artworks here at the MIA. These students have no visual arts instruction in their classrooms. Friends has agreed to sponsor year two of this program, with the addition of a new school involved also in the program.

The Friends Endowment Fund for Education contributed over \$80,000 to the museum's Department of Learning and Innovation. This helps provide programming for both children and adults.

Friends membership currently stands at over 900 members. Our printed newsletter maintains its presence as an important means of communication

with our members. Many members now receive the publication via email, saving money for Friends. A monthly eBlast is sent to the members also a few weeks after the newsletter appears. This serves to release timely information quickly and effectively.

Those of you who are Friends members enjoyed some special opportunities this year including Friends only events such as:

Dr. Andreas Mark's tour of Audacious Eye and the new Clark Collection

Dr. Jan-Lodeijk Grootaer's tour of the new African Galleries

Erika Holmquist-Wall's tour of the Matisse exhibit

Curator led tour of The Russian Museum of Art

The Friends Only Book Club was incredibly successful this past year, meeting each month for a docent led tour as well as a lively discussion. Attendance was incredible.

The Art and Architecture tour for Friends is Tuesday, June 24th. We are planning a trip to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona as well as viewing some architectural highlights nearby. The trip is currently sold out, as it quickly does each year.

For those who are not members of Friends, I hope that these impressive numbers and exciting events for members only are adequate reasons for you to join Friends. Dues are \$45 per year. Please do know we have affiliate groups in St. Cloud and Rochester. As a matter of fact, the Rochester group proudly sponsors our pre-lecture coffee and treats each month. Thank you Rochester!

At this time, I would like to welcome Friends Treasurer Connie Sommers, who will present the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2014.

Connie....

I will now ask former Friends President Carolyn Dahl, current chair of the nominating committee, to present the slate of officers for the upcoming 2014-2015 year.

Carolyn...

Are there any nominations from the floor? (Ask two more times) May I have a motion to approve the slate as presented by Carolyn? Second? All in favor say "aye" and all those opposed say "nay." The motion passes.

Thank you Carolyn. You and your committee have assembled a terrific slate of officers that will indeed ensure our continued success. Congratulations to the 2014-2015 slate of officers.

Each year Friends is privileged to work with a very helpful and dedicated MIA staff and administration. The supportive and expert leadership of Director and President of the MIA, Kaywin Feldman, as well as the guidance of Julianne Amendola, liaison to Friends, and of course the support of Hubert Joly and his group of trustees is greatly appreciated. The mutual respect and partnership we enjoy with all of these people so much contributes to a successful year for Friends.

It has been a pleasure for me during my first year of Friends President to work with such a dedicated group including my board of directors and so many volunteers. My simple thank you here shall not suffice for my gratitude to so many of you.

We are now finally at the end of the 2013-2014 Annual Meeting of the Friends. I would like to entertain a motion from the floor to adjourn the annual meeting. Second please? It has been so moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All those in favor, indicate by saying "aye" and opposed say "nay" please. The motion passes and the Annual Meeting is adjourned.

I am excited for today's lecture with Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt. Please remember to silent your cell phones.

I would now like to introduce Dr. Eike Schmidt, James Ford Bell Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture.

Thank you all. Eike...