

Art of Autism
November 25, 2017
10:30 AM

Minutes of Meeting

1. **Roll Call.** Present. Debra Muzikar, Carly Fulgham, Tom Iland, and Keri Bowers. Kimberly Tucker joined the call. Donald Cohen and Ron Sandison absent.

2. **Approval of prior minutes.** Approved

3. **Old Business Discussed.**
 - A. **Sacramento Museum Exhibit / Covina Museum Exhibits.** Brief discussion of final outcomes.

 - B. **Accounting Issues.** Tom made successful bank transfer of all incoming funds from various sources to US Bank. Pay Pal transaction are now connected to US bank; manual transfer is necessary in future. All bookkeeping is now up to date. Donald donated book sale profits (\$15.24) on AoA books to the organization. *** See below New Business, FB birthday giving.* Many Facebook-Friends' birthday-giving fundraisers have raised money for AoA. Birthday fundraiser's efforts look positive for future fundraising possibilities.

Tom shared that Facebook Birthday Giving yielded \$3,139.69. Exeter money for 2018 program will be coming in at \$12,500, to be paid to artists in installments. \$10,000 of the total will be paid out to artists, with \$2,500 to AoA. The payments to the artists will be paid in installments beginning first quarter 2018.

- C. **University of Exeter Grant.** They've chosen 3 individuals for 2018 program, James Frye, J.A. Tan Vancouver, Angela Weddle, Texas, they are considering several more individuals for the program. Start date in January; all artists will be chosen by then. They want to come to North America in (possibly) March. Details to follow. AoA will continue to support coordination of artists' Exeter trainings in 2018. We understand they will go to Vancouver, Los Angeles Space and New York as determined by artist's hometown (tbd).
- D. **2nd Annual Poems for Peace,** September's blog posts including dozens of poems and visual art were shared throughout the month. Next year, some suggestion was made to frame the invitation to include more guidelines on the need for balanced submissions (positive with the negative). Many submissions in both 2016 and 2017 were very dark (not in alignment with the topic of peace). More clarity needs to be in future calls for submissions.
- E. **Love & Autism Conference.** The conference experience for AoA's specific attendees was a mixed experience. Overall, the agenda of the conference 2017 was generally met with controversy by many attendees. Specific discussion about experience of AoA board members who attended the conference was had, with discussion about next year's inclusion in the conference. Love & Autism 2018 Fall Conference to be put on AoA Fall's agenda for further board discussion about how 2018 can be a more positive experience.
- F. **Cal Lutheran.** AoA participated the Cal Lutheran University 2017 Arts and Learning Symposium: *Reaching and Teaching Students with Autism*. Carly Fulgham and Keri Bowers presented two breakout sessions entitled "The Art of Autism – Keys to Self-Determination". Participant feedback was positive. The event was a very good opportunity for AoA to support its mission to educate and share our efforts and community opportunities.

G. **ASA San Diego.** ASA gave free booths to artists and showcased films; Inclusion Films moved to San Diego and was a participant in this event. The student creations were very positive, and well-received.

H. **BofA Conference Call.** The Bank of America Conference call, facilitated by Carly Fulgham, was attended by Debra Muzikar and Keri Bowers. This was another important AoA opportunity to share AoA's work with others. Attended by a BofA network of about 60-70 people, this event was also facilitated by Art Lifting and Kindling Studios / Reid's Gift. Follow-up survey 100% of attendees ranked it as a 4 or 5. A possible tie-in or collaboration between AoA and BofA suggested by Carly might be BofA's "Better Money Habits" program.

Discuss at next board meeting: should we write a proposal for such a possible collaboration. How does this further our mission? Add to agenda for next board meeting. Possible Tom might work on this project with Carly on behalf of AoA?

4. **New Business**

A. **Holiday Stories.** Beginning December 1st and throughout the month, AoA will post art and blogs with holiday themes, including all religions / celebratory practices and interests

B. ***Goals & Objectives for 2018.** We need to set an AoA standard for goals and objectives in 2018. To each board member, how you would like to see the art of autism going forward? Debra suggests each person submit one goal or more. *Write up a board request for putting goals/objectives for AoA in writing to board members prior to next meeting.

C. **Annual Board Attendance Requirement.** It was suggested that a board meeting requirement of 4 meetings per year, with missing one; or an

agreed upon formula is put into our Bylaws. We have chosen a date in advance – at the time of current meeting.

- D. **Partnering with Toys Across America / Kulture City (Birmingham, AL).** An initiative given to AoA was/is the giving of art supplies via Toys Across America to kids through an AoA drawing. A call to families to submit *Why My Kid Wants New Art Supplies* has yielded over 125 submissions for this drawing. Debra spoke to Julie about partnering with Grant who is going for a NAS Car grant for Grant Manier. Publish the entries/submissions for this drawing to show our collaborators the submissions for this drawing?

- E. **Art of Autism Holiday Giving.** Keri suggested AoA give something back to the community for the holiday season. Discussion re: .50 in quarters for laundry for adults in need; specific giving to another non-profit? A motion was made to allocate \$50.00 for specific holiday giving, Tom seconded. Passed. Keri will look into and notify board for giving approval.

- F. **Celebrate Autism, Jenny Anderson and Linda Anderson.** Celebrate EDU is growing rapidly. They are interested in collaborating with AoA. Look into developing curriculum for autism entrepreneurialship. Debra contacted them about the possibility of sponsoring our website. They would like to put a link on our blogs, and share the blogs “Sponsored by Celebrate EDU” providing a discount for the end-user. Can Aoa raise money for both the blogger and AoA (i.e., sample idea: \$75.00 with \$25 to AoA and \$50 to the blogger on entrepreneurial blogs.) Add this to agenda for next board meeting with more particulars.

- G. **Autism Awareness Month, 2018.** What can AoA do in March/April, 2018? Possible autism panel? possible sponsorship, for entrepreneurial output? Autistic business owners, and workers, look at Uniquely Abled Academy – Glendale. It was suggested that Tom will write a blog about entrepreneurial opportunities in autism for publication prior to April. Keri to draft a

proposal for possible event for this theme and to raise money in Spring, 2018.

- H. **Kimberly Tucker.** New Board Member nominee joined the meeting. Kimberly has been involved from the inception of The Art of Autism (2011). We need to make the vote official by next board meeting.
- I. **Board Elections.** Our next board meeting should include nominations and elections (then or soon-after) for BOD. We must determine length of position; roles and responsibilities. We should become more familiar with our bylaws, roles, etc.

Suggested that all BOD members look at Bylaws to determine new timeframes re: elections and office duration. Debra will send out bylaws to all. Currently, Debra is President (2 years), Keri, Secretary, Tom Treasurer. Nominations via email for board consideration can speed things up.

- J. **Birthday Fundraisers.** Birthdays have been a very good source of revenue. We need a Fundraising Chair. Carly agreed to send a list of possible fundraising tools for this purpose. We talked about Giving Tuesday/ Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, who will match funds. Discussion re: putting up a banner for Giving Tuesday; use #GivingTuesday hashtag. Research if there are initiatives on other platforms besides Facebook.

Debra w/ send password to Carly for Google for Non-Profits, which allows AoA to have a free google share page. Redirect GoDaddy account to use Google for Email @theart of autism.

- K. **Help with Social Media, Publicity, Intern.** This continues to be a major need for AoA. We have put out many searches for a social media intern. Possible to budget for a small stipend? We must come up with a protocol for intern guidelines; submission guidelines, etc. Debra offered to put guidelines together. Carly offered to chair a “Guidelines Committee”, including how to make boards more autistic friendly.

L. **2018 Board Meetings-At-A-Glance.** It was agreed that all quarterly board meetings in 2018 will occur on the last Thursday of 3rd month at 2:00PM beginning 2-22-18 at 2:00pm; etc. Use the calendar on Facebook AoA page; list this on our page. AoA Board Members speaking gigs should also be listed there.

M. **AoA Administrative Goals and Objectives.** Carly will continue to help AoA in 2018 to set up better processes for AoA's administrative goals. Continue analysis on what is the best way to go about (for example) the structure the selling of AoA artists' art works.

N. **Carly is HAVING A NEW BABY! Congratulations. Her time permitting will allow her to continue to participate in AoA. We appreciate you, Carly.**

5. Announcements **None**

6. Adjournment