

THE MUSE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2026 – 4:30 PM – Lake of the Woods Museum Board Room

PRESENT: Robert Bulman, Cheryl Mosindy, Kirsten Fair, Hannah Edie, Lisa Lyle, Charito Gallivan, Braden Murray (ex officio)

REGRETS: Karen Ingebrigtsen, Reid Thompson, Lindsay Koch

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 16:30.

The land acknowledgement was read by Robert Bulman.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING

Moved by Lisa Lyle, seconded by Hannah Edie that the agenda for the meeting of May 28, 2026 be approved as presented.

Carried.

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil.

4 KNOWLEDGE OF FRAUD AND LEGAL MATTERS

Nil.

5 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Cheryl Mosindy that the minutes of the May 14, 2026 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Sophie Lavoie texted at 16:53 to confirm that we were the only bidders on the *Three Bathers* painting by W.J. Phillips. It will be about \$20,000 all in (tax and buyers premium).

7 FINANCIAL

7.1 Operating Budget vs Actuals for Art Centre and Museum for April 2026
The Operating Budget vs Actuals reports for the Art Centre and Museum for April 2026 were received for information.

Museum highlights:

- Museum revenue is up 7% year over year, with strong gains in admissions (up 68%), community education (up 80%), and gift shop sales (up 38%), largely driven by The Age of Analog exhibition. Travelling exhibit rental has already exceeded the full-year budget with more to come.
- Repairs and maintenance is over budget due to the 2025 window project billed in 2026, and gift shop supplies are over budget for the second consecutive year and may need a budget line adjustment.
- Utilities are significantly down from the same period last year, likely due to a billing cycle shift rather than significant savings.

Art Centre highlights:

- The Art Centre has flipped from a \$15,016 deficit to a \$9,162 surplus, a \$24,178 improvement from this time last year, with gains in admissions (up 33%), gift shop sales (up 41%), and community education, which is the strongest self-generated revenue line with over 50% of the annual budget already collected.
- Equipment is running ahead of pace at 66% of the annual budget due to computer purchases at the beginning of the year.
- Donations are down significantly from this time last year.
- Utilities are down 39% from the same period last year, likely due to billing cycle and not significant savings.

Staff noted that a message will be sent to Finance regarding capital expenditures recorded in the Art Centre Equipment line.

7.2 April 2026 Expenses - Museum and Art Centre

Moved by Kirsten Fair, seconded by Lisa Lyle that the April 2026 expenses for the Lake of the Woods Museum in the amount of \$7,620.56 be approved.

Carried.

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Cheryl Mosindy that the April 2026 expenses for the Douglas Family Art Centre in the amount of \$14,705.27 be approved.

Carried.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Nil.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

There was a brief discussion on amendments to policies, based on recommendations received from Pat Bovey in connection with the Category "A" designation application. These suggestions came in too late to include with this meeting, and will be covered at the next meeting. The new suggested wordings are not game-changers, but they do warrant Board consideration. They will be included in the June Agenda.

10 DECISION ITEMS

Moved by Cheryl Mosindy, seconded by Lisa Lyle that Ed Mandamin be appointed to the Muse Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Carried.

11 DISCUSSION ITEMS
Nil.

12 INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Director's Report

Braden Murray presented the Director's Report for May. The Art Centre hosted Grand Council Treaty #3 and a Judge Swearing In, while the Museum hosted the ASK Meeting.

-The Muse was approved for the Museum Assistance Program in support of the repatriation policy listening project.

- The Art Centre banner is moving ahead – staff will get it made and test spare Tyndall stone for the best hanging method.

- Staff were active in partnerships, participating in Communities in Bloom, the City Communications Committee, the Sunset Country Museum Network Meeting in Fort Frances, and the 116 Independent Field Battery Senate.
- An art hanging rail was installed in the Art Centre common area, and the JACE system experienced an unplanned outage but a monitoring script is now in place and working. The Museum roof project kick-off meeting was held May 15.
- Programming was busy, with two multi-week Art Before Time sessions (13 students each), the Patterns and Parallels Kids Tour (attendance 40) and Artist Talk (attendance 57), Woodlands Husky the Muskie (attendance 12), and school visits from Beaver Brae, SJP, and William Morton Collegiate with a combined attendance of 254.

12.2 Strategic Plan Report Card

The Muse Action Plan 2025–2026 Report Card was received for information. Key updates include:

- The plushie project is actually moving ahead. They got the fins right, so we're cautiously optimistic.
- Staff are pricing banner stands and a reprint of We Were Taught Differently, and had early conversations with Manitou Mounds about a new food exhibition.
- Marcus Jeffrey is building volunteer project packets as part of the Collections Management Plan.
- Reconciliation banners in English and French have been ordered, and plans are underway to attend powwows this summer.
- The parlour has been disassembled and will be rebuilt as a feature gallery and programming space.
- The improved visitor survey is now in use.
- Pat Bovey's recommendations for the Category A application are minor and will be implemented.
- The Museum Roof and Solar Panel Project has begun and is scheduled to conclude in September.

12.3 Indigenous Advisory Committee Minutes

- circulated
- There was a question about a note about coal media posting. Staff created some advertisements for joining the committee and weren't happy with them, so it is back to the drawing board.

12.4 Museum Advisory Committee Minutes

- circulated

12.5 Art Centre Advisory Meeting Minutes

- Circulated

12.6 Capital Planning Update - Roof Project

The Museum roof and solar project cant chart schedule was circulated. The project is scheduled to run from May 4 to September 30, 2026.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

A letter to the Kenora Sustainability Committee was read, thanking the committee for their contribution to the roof project.

14 IN CAMERA SESSION

Nil.

15 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

16 NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 4:30 PM in the Museum Board Room on June 25, 2026.

17 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hannah Edie, seconded by Charito Gallivan that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:15.