



**Maryland Commission on Artistic  
Property**  
*Semi-Annual Meeting*

**Maryland Historical Society  
Baltimore, MD**

**November 9, 2011, 10:30 AM**

*Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]*

[The meeting was preceded by a tour of the new Civil War exhibition at the Maryland Historical Society.]

**Call to Order by the Chair**

Mr. Matthew P. Lalumia called the meeting to order at 11:25 A.M.

**Present were:**

Commission Members:

Matthew P. Lalumia, Esq., Chairman

Melanie Harwood, Chief Registrar, The Baltimore Museum of Art

Philip Cantelon, Chairman of the Board and CEO, History Associates, Inc.

Alexandra Deutsch, Chief Curator, Maryland Historical Society (representing Burt Kummerow)

Barbara Fegley, Associate Registrar, The Walters Art Museum (representing Gary Vikan)

Alan Fern, Director, The National Portrait Gallery, Retired

Rebecca Massie Lane, Director, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Julia Madden, Board member, Maryland Citizens for the Arts

Erik Neil, Director, Academy Art Museum

Jacqueline O'Regan, Curator of Cultural Properties, The Peabody Institute (representing Jeffrey Sharkey)

Joseph Ruzicka, Art Appraiser, Department of the Treasury

Archives' Staff:

Tim Baker, Deputy State Archivist

Elaine Rice Bachmann, Director of Artistic Property, Exhibits and Outreach

Sasha Lourie, Curator

Christopher Kintzel, Registrar

### **Opening Remarks**

- Mr. Lalumia thanked the Maryland Historical Society for hosting the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the tour of the Civil War exhibit given by Alexandra Deutsch.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- Mr. Cantelon made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of the Commission on May 11, 2011 which was seconded by Ms. Madden and approved by the Commission. The approved minutes were signed by the Chairman and the Registrar.

### **Highlights of Recent Commission Staff Activities**

- Mr. Lourie briefly highlighted the tour of the State House that he and Stephanie Bray gave to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and her staff. He also noted that he, Ms. Bachmann, and Mr. Kintzel met with Jim Abbott and Travers Nelson from Evergreen House and Johns Hopkins University to discuss the mist fire suppression system that was recently installed in two exhibition spaces in the State House.

### **Recent and Upcoming Loans**

- Mr. Lourie reported that the State House Caucus Room had not yet opened to the public, but noted that Commission staff has led several private tours into the room. He also thanked Alexandra Deutsch and Heather Haggstrom for their assistance with the loan of 10 items from the MdHS.
- Mr. Lourie mentioned that the loan of the three Peale portraits to the MdHS exhibition "Maryland's National Treasures" has been extended through May 2013.
- Mr. Lourie thanked Susan Perrin for her efforts relating to the extension of the loan of the Maryland Federalist for another year at the BWI-Marshall International Airport.
- Mr. Lourie noted the recent loan of Francis Guy's *The Battle of Fort McHenry* that was loaned from Stiles Colwill for display in the Governor's Office in the State House. The painting was presented to Governor O'Malley by Mr. Colwill, who was accompanied by Doreen Bolger, Baltimore Museum of Art, and Doug Mann from the Maryland Institute.
- Mr. Lourie provided an update on two upcoming loans of George Bellows' *The Picnic*. The painting will be featured in traveling exhibitions organized by the Brooklyn Museum and the National Gallery of Art. The painting will travel to all three venues of the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition, and will then travel to the latter two venues of the National Gallery's show.
- Mr. Lourie also mentioned the potential loan of the portrait of *Augustus W. Bradford* (MSA SC 1545-1107) and Civil War battle flags to the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts for an exhibition entitled "Valley of the Shadow."

### **Director's Report**

- Ms. Bachmann provided a brief summary on the progress of the restoration of the Old Senate Chamber [OSC]. She noted that \$6 million of the \$8.1 million in the

capital budget will be available over the next two years. Ms. Bachmann also stated that the Old Senate Chamber Restoration Working Group was reviewing estimated costs and the timeline for completion of the restoration.

- Mr. Baker commented that there has been no change in the Archives and APC budget. He is grateful that the Commission has been able to tap into other funding sources related to the various State House projects.
- Ms. Bachmann stated that \$140,000 was appropriated for new interpretive exhibitions, panels and signage in the State House. Many of the recommendations from the State House Visitor Experience Master Plan will be implanted in these exhibits.
- Mr. Lourie mentioned that he is developing an exhibition on the history of the *State House Dome*. *Aspects of the exhibition will feature the dome's paint history, its construction, and the controversy regarding the recent repainting project.*
- Ms. Bachmann discussed the War of 1812 exhibition planed for the Stairwell Room of the State House. This exhibit, "The enemy nearly all 'round us': Annapolis and the War of 1812," will feature original documents and artifacts related to how Annapolitans were affected by the war. The exhibit will explore the role state government played in planning for the defense of Baltimore, the experience of British sailors in and around Annapolis, and the story of local slaves who escaped to freedom on British ships.

#### **Curator's Report**

- Mr. Lourie updated the Commission members on the current status of the Old House of Delegates Chamber and the State House Caucus Room. Ms. Bachmann reported that both spaces were recently used by the legislature during this year's Special Session. Mr. Lourie suggested that both spaces might open to the public shortly after the start of the 2012 Legislative Session.
- Mr. Lourie reported on the recent purchase of two chairs from the House of Delegates Chamber, formerly owned by Speaker Perry Wilkinson. The chairs, a member's chair and one of the three chairs furnished for the speaker's rostrum, are original furnishings from the 1905 State House Annex. Both chairs had been given to Speaker Wilkinson upon his retirement from the House of Delegates. The Commission has no other original legislative furnishings from the 1905 Annex.
- Mr. Lourie informed the Commission members of a planned partnership between the Archives and the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, the agency that receives international gifts on behalf of the state and the governor. The Secretary of State's gift collection consists of hundreds of objects that span an array of media and size. The majority of the collection is presently exhibited at the Office of Secretary of State, and will remain on display once the collection is transferred to MSA. Mr. Baker stated that the collection will be accessioned as a Special Collection and will not be part of the state-owned art collection. Mr. Lourie noted Commission and Special Collection staff will conduct a curatorial review of each object before it is accessioned.
- A general discussion regarding this potential partnership ensued. Several members inquired about the budget associated with this project and the possibility of selling gifts given to the Secretary of State. Mr. Baker elaborated that the

statutes related to real and personal property enable the state archivist to determine the historic value of an object and if it should be cared for and preserved by the state.

- Mr. Lourie highlighted several recently completed or ongoing conservation projects. He discussed an upcoming conservation assessment planned for the paintings and frames displayed in the Treasurer's Office and the Court of Appeals Building. He noted that the MSA conservation staff are continuing to conserve the Samuel Kirk's original design drawings of the USS *Maryland* silver service that are owned by the Maryland Historical Society. Ms. Deutsch thanked the Archives for their ongoing assistance of the Kirk drawings.
- Mr. Lourie mentioned that he and Mr. Kintzel are continuing to work with the Department of General Services to address longstanding environmental concerns within the exhibition areas in the State House.
- Mr. Lourie advised the members of a potential renovation project on Lawyer's Mall that might necessitate the temporary removal of certain components of the Thurgood Marshall Memorial. He promised to update members as planning for the project continues.

#### **Registrar's Report**

- Mr. Kintzel reported that the new website for the state-owned art collection is now linked off of the Archives website.
- Mr. Kintzel highlighted several projects that were completed by this year's summer collections intern. These projects including processing the Vandiver silver service, improving the website, and curating a small exhibition of the Vandiver service in the House Office Building.
- Mr. Kintzel discussed ongoing work on a housekeeping manual that will help with the management of the items displayed in the Old House of Delegates Chamber and the State House Caucus Room.

#### **Old Business**

- Ms. Bachmann reported that the State House Visitor Center has been rebranded as the State House Office of Interpretation. This will allow MSA and Commission staff to maintain their role as the primary interpretative agency of the State House. This change is due in part to the loss of both members of the staff of the State House Visitor Center, and also because of the lack of funding to adequately manage visitor services in the State House.
- Mr. Baker apprised members of the status of the capital request to expand the Archives building. He noted that MSA has submitted a new request to construct a new archival storage facility, but the project to expand the existing Archives building has been abandoned. A future request may address the addition of a museum or exhibition wing to the existing building. Mr. Baker stated that the General Assembly has requested a cost benefit analysis determine if pursuing the construction of a new facility is more cost effective than leased storage.
- A general discussion ensued regarding MSA storage needs. Ms. Harwood asked about potential partnerships with other agencies and private institutions. Mr. Baker noted these are often well-received in concept but they are difficult to pull off.

**New Business**

- No new business was discussed at the meeting.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

Approved by the Commission on Artistic Property, May 16, 2012

  
Matthew P. Lalumia, Chairman

  
Christopher J. Kintzel, Registrar