



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey Cannell
SUBJECT: Museum Advisory Council
DATE: February, 2012
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Approval

Does the Board of Regents approve of the Commissioner's appointments to the Museum Advisory Council?

Proposed Handling

This item is before the Cultural Education Committee for discussion and will go before the Board of Regents for approval.

Background:

At the January 2012 meeting the Board supported creation of an eleven member Museum Advisory Council to assist the Board and Department.

The Regents Advisory Council on Museums is appointed pursuant to 8 NYCRR 3.12(a)(4). Members serve by appointment of the Commissioner with approval by the Board of Regents.

Information:

Members of the Regents Advisory Council on Museums serve for a maximum of five years. The council offers advice and consultation on issues of policy and service delivery pursuant to the Board's statutory mandate to operate the State Museum and oversee museums across New York State. The Advisory Council is supported by staff from the Office of Cultural Education and the Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education acts as the convener and chair of the council, but without vote. Eleven individuals have been invited to serve, ten have accepted to date.

The mission of the Council is to:

- Monitor and Advise. The Regents Advisory Council on Museums will monitor and advise on education programs, funding opportunities and operations of the State Museum as well as policies, long-range plans, legislative proposals and regulations affecting museums and historical societies. The Advisory Council will also monitor and advise on Federal policies regarding museums and historical societies.
- Strengthen. The Regents Advisory Council will work to strengthen the programs and services of the Museum, and other programs and services of the State Education Department that affect museums and historical societies.
- Communicate. The Regents Advisory Council will ensure that effective communication takes place with the Regents and the Commissioner of Education regarding museums and historical societies. The Regents Advisory Council will also ensure that effective communication takes place between the Regents and the museum community. The Regents Advisory Council will seek to build an effective consensus on all policies and programs affecting all types of museums.
- Advocate. The Regents Advisory Council will act as an advocate for museums, museum staff, and museum trustees. The Council will coordinate advocacy for Regents Initiatives with SED/OCE programs.

The Commissioner has selected the following appointees that represent institutions from across the state of varying sizes and specialties:

- Louis Grachos, Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York
- Beth E. Levinthal , Executive Director, Hofstra University Museum
- Anthony J. Ortega, Executive Vice President, Museum of Science & Technology (MOST)
- Kim Kanatani, Director of Education, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation
- Thelma Golden, Director, Studio Museum in Harlem
- Kate Bennett, President, Rochester Museum and Science Center
- Cecilia Esposito, Director, Plattsburgh State College Art Museum
- Paul S. D'Ambrosio, President and CEO, New York State Historical Association
- Anne W. Ackerson, Director, Museum Association of New York
- Martin E. Sullivan, Director, National Portrait Gallery
- David Slippen, Senior Director of Government Relations, American Museum of Natural History

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the Commissioner's appointments.