***NMWA Advisory Board Meeting***

***Kasser Board Room***

##### April 29, 2016

## *Attendees*

Sunny Scully Alsup, Jo Ann Barefoot, Gail Bassin, Susan Berk, Brenda Bertholf, Lucy Buchanan, Paul Clark, Liz Cullen, Ken Dutter, Roberta Feldman, Elva Ferrari-Graham, Rosemarie Forsythe, Barbara Goldfarb, Sue Henry, Winton Holladay, Jan Jessup, Cindy Jones, Doris Kloster, Carol Lascaris, Maria Teresa Martínez, Ray Marvin, Debby McGinn, Debbie Myers, Drina Rendic, Barbara Richter, Liz Robinson, Ann Simon, Geri Skirkanich, Dot Snyder, Denise Littlefield Sobel, Amanda Spivey, Kathy Springhorn, Nancy Stevenson, Susan Swartz, Lisa Cannon Taylor, MaryRoss Taylor, Sarah Treco, Harriet Warm, Island Weiss, Alice West, Rhett Workman

***NMWA Staff***

Susan Fisher Sterling, Ilene Gutman, Ginny DeLacey, Kimm Watson

## *Welcome and Approval of the November 2015 Minutes – Sarah Treco*

Sarah welcomed everyone to the spring meeting of the NMWA Advisory Board (NAB) and opened with the tradition of reading the NAB Mission Statement as a way of revisiting and reaffirming its role. A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2015 meeting was made and seconded. The motion was voted, passed, and the minutes were approved.

The following new NAB members were welcomed and introduced:

* **Liz Cullen** of Washington, DC
* **Roberta Feldman** of Chicago, IL
* **Arlene Fine Klepper** of Washington, DC
* **Ann Simon** of San Francisco, CA
* **Denise Littlefield Sobel** of New York, NY

## *Board Vice Chair’s Remarks – Winton Holladay*

It’s always a pleasure to be in your company and to welcome the new members. Susan and I thank you for your support across all sections of the museum’s operations, and I’d like to mention the following specific individual gifts since our last meeting:

NOTENSE LA CANTIDAD DE DONACIONES INDIVIDUALES RECIBIDAS DESDE LA ULTIMA REUNIÓN DEL NAB

* **Deb Carstens, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and Susan Swartz** for their sponsorship of Women, Arts, and Social Change
* **Belinda de Gaudemar**’s support of *Super Natural* in the summer of 2015
* **Kay Ortega**’s support of *Pathmakers* in the fall of 2015
* **MaryRoss Taylor** for the establishment of an exhibition fund in her name
* For National and International Committee Support, a three-year donation from **Paul Clark** and his partners at Seward & Kissel and a three-year donation from **Geri Skirkanich** for the same
* **Nancy Livingston and Fred M. Levin** for support of the Shenson Chamber Music Concerts
* For the Library and Research Center’s Digital Asset Management System, a three-year donation from **Betty Dettre**
* **Stephanie Sale** for support of the Curator’s Discretionary Fund
* **Gerry Ehrlich, Sue Henry, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and Susan Swartz** for their gala sponsorship and support
* **Gladys Lisanby** for her support of the silver service conservation
* **Madeleine Rast** for 30th anniversary planning support
* **Kathy Springhorn** for support of taping of the founder’s tour

**NOTESE LAS DONACIONES AL MUSEO DESDE LOS CAPITULOS**

In recognition of committee support, I’d like to thank the following:

* **Georgia State Committee support** of *She Who Tells a Story*, the purchase of five benches designed by Florence Knoll that are in the Great Hall, and a gift of the Jiha Moon sculpture
* **Les Amis du NMWA** donation of the Françoise Pétrovitch drawing
* **New Mexico State Committee** support of *Pathmakers* in the fall of 2015
* **Texas State Committee** for gala auction support and endowment giving

Winton and Sarah then introduced Cindy Jones in her new leadership role as President of the Board of Trustees.

MUY IMPRESIONADAS CON LA ENERGIA Y EFICACIA DE LA NUEVA PRESIDENTA DE BOARD

## *Board President’s Remarks – Cindy Jones*

As Board members, we are always amazed and impressed by your contributions. I’m honored to have been elected to this position and have enormous respect for Mrs. Holladay and her vision of the museum.

We are strong financially, thanks to Carol Lascaris and her work on the endowment and to the superb staff led by Susan Sterling.

As to my background, I’m an engineer by education and training. I stepped out of the work force to have a family, and I’m on many boards here in Washington and elsewhere. I’ve chaired or

co-chaired about 50 galas or fundraisers over time, and I chaired the 20th anniversary gala here at the museum.

Moving forward, galas need to be shaken up and rethought, and we need to bring in a younger demographic. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or suggestions at cindyjones324@gmail.com or (301) 908-2647 (mobile).

***Endowment Co-Chair’s Remarks – Carol Lascaris***

The endowment fund is strong at over $50 million. The museum reached its first goal of $25 million by the 20th anniversary, and a second $25 million by the 25th anniversary in 2012. Five percent of endowment earnings support exhibitions and programming. Many of the NAB members have contributed generously, which is greatly appreciated.

SOLO EL 22% DEL PRESUPUESTO DEL MUSEO SALE DEL ENDOWMENT

The frequent trips we’ve sponsored have helped raise funds for the endowment and have been great ways to meet new people. The next cruise scheduled will take place the last week in September and will be aboard the Regent Seven Seas, voted the top small ship by Condé Nast. It will commence in Athens with a reception at the Lascaris home, and then sail to Santorini and up the Adriatic Sea to Venice.

Barbara Richter shared details of the Endowment Circle trip to Cleveland May 19–22. Everything has been planned by Barbara and Harriet Warm of the Ohio Committee, and they look forward to welcoming participants to a wonderful agenda of museums and private collections, great food, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

## *Director’s Report – Susan Fisher Sterling*

Thanks to all who participated in the Focus Group session yesterday. Did you have a voice?—YES. Were two hours enough time?—YES. Are you amenable to working on the values of fresh and open the next time?—YES.

We’ll figure out what to do and continue the conversation in the fall. A motion to continue with the brand alignment exercise was made and seconded. The motion was voted and approved. Thank you to Mildred Weissman, whose contribution has assisted us in this effort.

NMWA’s outreach has taken this museum from local to national to international levels. The committees were the brainchild of our founder, Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, and the first committees were Arkansas and Texas, both of which are still going strong.

Thanks to so many of you devoted souls—44 people in all on the NAB—and thanks to the indefatigable Ilene Gutman with assistance from Ellen Pollak and now additionally, Ginny DeLacey. Committee membership over the last 18 years has grown from 100 people nationwide participating in committee activities to over 3,000 people involved on an international level.

U.S. committees and advisory groups include Arkansas, Southern California and Northern California, Georgia, Greater Kansas City Area, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, Greater New York Region, Ohio, and Texas. TOTAL 11.

International Committees include Chile, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the UK. TOTAL 7

MAS DONACIONES DE PARTE DE LOS CAPITULOS

Because so many of you are involved, I wanted to offer thanks on behalf of the board and staff by recognizing:

* Lisa Cannon Taylor and Ken Dutter of the Georgia Committee for support of *She Who Tells a Story*, the purchase of five Florence Knoll benches in the Great Hall, and gift of the Jiha Moon sculpture. Moon was the selected Georgia artist for last year’s Women to Watch exhibition, and this gift was added to the painting they purchased for us several years ago.
* Brenda Bertolf and Doris Kloster for the Paris committee’s donation of the Françoise Pétrovitch drawing.
* New Mexico State Committee support of *Pathmakers* in the fall of 2015.
* Alice West and Dot Snyder of the Texas State Committee for gala auction support and endowment giving.
* Susan Swartz, who hosted a wonderful reception to kick-start the new San Francisco-based Northern California group with Lorna Meyer Calas and help from Lucy Buchanan. New NAB members Denise Littlefield Sobel and Ann Simon, and long-time members Amanda Spivey and Nancy Livingston, are also a part of that group in formation.
* Looking forward to next week, additional thanks to Denise Littlefield Sobel for hosting the Director’s Circle and Greater NY committee chairs for a luncheon reception at her home in New York in conjunction with our tour of the Vigée Le Brun exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
* Barbara Richter and Harriet Warm for hosting NMWA’s endowment circle in Cleveland for three days of public and private collection visits, concerts, and events on May 19–22.

Moving forward, we have big plans to add six more committees and groups in 2017–18 for our 30th anniversary year. All new committees are thanks to NAB members, current committee members, and NMWA Board members.

* Berlin: Ann Simon
* Miami: Joanie Stringer and Gerry Ehrlich
* Canada: Katy Debost from our Paris group
* Chicago: new NAB member Roberta Feldman
* Beijing: Su Yang of the Massachusetts Committee
* Peru: Verónica de Ferrero COMPROMETIMOS AYUDA CON ESTO,

And there will be news of other groups coming on line as well at our meeting in November.

NMWA’s expansion of the committee network is aided by Paul Clark, with two partners from Seward & Kissel, and Geri Skirkanich with three-year pledges to maintain and GROW our unique national and international outreach initiative.

As you can see, the committees and the NAB—all of whom advocate for women artists in their regions—are one of our greatest strengths. I like to think of it in this way: NMWA here in DC is the heart, but you are the lifeblood taking our message to all parts of the world—as close as Northern Virginia and as far away as Chile.

Thank you to all of you and to the staff for making this one of the most successful programs at the museum.

In closing my remarks today, I’d like to strike one more high note by recognizing Sarah Treco and the Massachusetts Committee for the great introductions they have made for us to folks at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

MFA Beal Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Jen Mergel has been a part of the planning for two Women to Watch exhibitions, and MFA Assistant Curator of Photographs Kristen Gresh has attended many committee events. Thanks to Sarah and her committee, both curators are now devotees of NMWA and that really helped us become part of the tour for our current exhibition, *She Who Tells a Story*, which you will see shortly. This kind of museum-to-museum partnership, created through our committees and Women to Watch, is invaluable. I hope when you visit the exhibition today, you will agree! Thank you.

## *New Business – Sarah Treco*

I’d like to share a brief report on the Focus Group meeting on Thursday, for those of you who were unable to attend. We had the opportunity and privilege of participating in the strategic brand alignment workshop with Tronvig Group, which has been working with NMWA to focus in on NMWA’s key values, and how all of us, in our roles as NAB ambassadors for the museum, can support those values and objectives with our actions and behavior. Yes, how we can best align ourselves with NMWA’s mission. What are the three words that have been identified to define the museum’s vision? Champion—to be a passionate and visionary leader and advocate, to champion women through the arts as the museum has done since its founding. Open—to be inclusive and empathetic, and Fresh—to be curious and engaging. This workshop was a fascinating exercise. Please ask more about this work if you are interested and were unable to attend. NMWA has begun, and will continue, to build on these insights as the museum approaches its 30th anniversary, and so should we.

The Women’s Committee held their Silver Tea on March 16 at the residence of the Ambassador of Japan.

We will have a tour of NMWA’s stunning show, *She Who Tells a Story,* with Chief Curator Katie Wat following this meeting. I am so looking forward to this. Please join me for the tour on the 2nd floor.

The fall NAB meeting dates are scheduled for November 3–4.

***Old Business – Sarah Treco***

No old business was presented.

***Motion to Adjourn – Sarah Treco***

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and voted at 11:05 a.m.