

**Friends of the International Quilt Museum
Annual Meeting May 5, 2023**

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the International Quilt Museum began with a welcome from Board President June Pederson and introductions of those present.

Carolyn Ducey, the Ardis and Robert James Curator of Collections, spoke to those present about the Museum's acquisitions. The museum has more than 8,000 quilts in multiple categories. The categories include U.S. Traditional quilts, European Traditional, International quilts and objects and Studio quilts from each of those large areas. In addition, there are more than 3,000 related items such as tops, non-quilt bedcovers, blocks, kits, fabric, tools, and other items.

Sixty-five countries are represented and the Museum, under Carolyn's direction, is engaging in a review of that representation seeking balance. Asian quilts and textiles are well represented. African, Central and South America, Eastern and Central Europe and the Middle East are areas for additional growth. Studio quilts, also known as art quilts, are being acquired through national and international shows where quilts are juried into the show and given "best of show" designations.

Carolyn displayed a recent acquisition from QuiltCon, an annual show produced by the Modern Quilt Guild. It is a purple whole-cloth quilt with a large, inset circle of lighter purple. Quilted in a match-stick style using different colors in each quadrant, created an appearance that the quadrants were different colored pieces of cloth. The quilt was made by Audrey Esarey.

Leslie Levy, Executive Director, provided a report on the IQM. Attendance numbers are up. Some personnel vacancies have been filled. Community collaborations include the completed and ready to display 15' by 20' weatherproof canvas of the museum's Abe Lincoln collage quilt. Plans are underway to hang it in a highly visible downtown location. She shared plans for the final Mary Ghormley lecture on August 12 at 3:30 with speaker Tara Miller.

June Pederson provided an overview of the Friends year (attached) and encouraged all attendees to remain for the First Friday events that evening.

Susan Bentley, Secretary

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Art Market:

Under the direction of 2022 Art Market Chairs Donna di Natale and Connie Soucie, Artist Chair Vicky Skuodas and Friends Table Chair Janet Phillips, the event allowed Friends to write a check to the IQM for \$14,161. The Friends Table produced \$6,341 of that total.

Significant changes made in 2022 included a dedicated area in the Beavers Gallery for the Friends table. This provided more space for the significant amount of materials donated for the event. Janet's work began in July. She sorted, measured, washed, ironed, packaged, and priced items for many months, making the week of Art Market run smoothly.

Sheila Green managed our social media program and stepped in to manage volunteers. Our social media Facebook and Instagram presence began with promotion of the event including photos from many of the artists encouraging attendance. During the event there were video interviews with artists as well as still photo posts of activities occurring in real time.

The relocation of the Friends area allowed an expanded table layout for artists. There were 22 total artists which included the three wood carvers who shared their space. We had five new artists this year. A survey was sent to all artists after Art Market inviting feedback which will be helpful this November. There were recommendations to not hold the market during the weekend with a home football game. There are some things over which we have no control. The 2024 Art Market dates are November 17 and 18.

National Quilting Day, chaired by Sheila and her committee, was a huge success with nearly 700 people coming in the door. Friends staffed a table with museum membership materials. Give to Lincoln Day is upon us with the website open for donations May 1 through midnight on May 24. On May 24 we will have a table at Tower Square, 12th & P, promoting the Museum, membership, and the Abe Lincoln Mural.

Friends' information on IQM Website: Connie Soucie invested significant time updating the materials found in the Friends section of the IQM website. You will find annual meeting minutes, information about the Board and promotion of Art Market on this site.

Strategic Plan: Our Strategic Plan is a work in progress. A committee has reviewed the current document, made suggestions for edits, and has sent that to the Board. With fundraising and membership being a primary task for the Friends board, we are also working to align it with the IQM's long range plan and expect to be able to present it to the IQM Advisory Board in July. Google Drive: Connie has also developed a framework for a Friends Google Drive. This is a free option offered by Google that allows organizations like ours to store data that can be shared between members. This will be especially helpful with our Art Market documents, providing information regarding the history, planning and outcomes as we move forward with future fundraising.

Board member recruitment: Friends bylaws allow the board to have as many as 21 members. We now have 13. Adding members is a high priority for us. We would invite those of you here today to recommend nominees or consider serving yourself.

Prepared by
June Pederson, Board President