

## SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held in the Planetarium, Centerport, New York, on April 17, 2001.

**The following were in attendance:**

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President  
Carl Luecke – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Marjorie Kosoy Fuhrmann – Secretary  
Donna deLuca Periconi – Trustee  
Robert LaBua – Trustee  
Timothy Votapka – Trustee  
Michael Broxmeyer – Trustee  
Bertram E. Seides – Trustee  
Edward J. Hahn – Trustee  
R. Douglas Shaw – Trustee  
Susan LeBow – Trustee  
William Macchione – Trustee  
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director  
Mark McHugh – Staff  
David Bush – Staff  
Leslie Tannen – Todd Shapiro Associates  
Florence Ogg – Staff  
Carol Sperandando – Staff  
Rita Beckman – Staff  
Stephanie Gress – Staff  
Barbara Oster – Staff  
Eric Patysiak – CSTL  
Ray Ann D. Havacy – CSTL  
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

**Absent:**

Gary C. Fischhoff – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Treasurer

**(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Good evening, everyone. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. Do we have a list of guests?

**MS. PASTORE:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you all for attending. Unfortunately, our committees backed up on us. We had to attend to business that came to our attention on the near term. So we will move forward. Are there any members of the public or other guests that wish to make any comments? We have some speakers tonight that I have scheduled, but is there anyone else? Thank you once again for joining us. Since Marge isn't here at the moment –

**MS. PERICONI:**

May I make a statement?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

By all means, yes.

**MS. PERICONI:**

I just want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board Members for the beautiful floral display that you sent my mother and the beautiful fruit basket. I want to thank the staff for the beautiful gourmet basket. I want everyone to know how much it meant to me, and I want to thank everyone for honoring my mother. Thank you.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I'm sure I express for all of us our deep regret in your loss. Marge, are you prepared to present the minutes?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I just have a quick question on the minutes, as soon as I find them. Last month we had originally started the meeting as a regular Board Meeting. However, our first item of business was that we changed it to an executive session. On the first page we have noted a number of absentees. How will these absentees be handled in that this was not a regular meeting? Are we still recording them as absent? I had a number of Trustees who have asked this question.

**MS. LEBOW:**

I got a call in my office telling me that the meeting was cancelled.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, allow me to explain. I don't know where that call came from, to be honest with you. It certainly didn't come from my office. Irrespective of that, attendants of that meeting will be considered – it will be considered as an executive committee meeting. Attendance at an executive committee meeting, although we typically report it, it's not counted as an attendance requirement. They're not required to

attend. So I apologize if you received a phone call, although I don't know the source. First of all, it was inclement weather. It was horrendous weather, and we created an executive committee meeting.

**MS. LEBOW:**

Does that require an amendment to the minutes, then, to reflect that?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

The minutes should be reflected as an executive committee.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Yes, they are. The very first order of business was that, "We are holding an executive meeting."

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

When I report attendance, I designate in the column, and certainly I can provide you with those attendance charts.

**MS. LEBOW:**

I trust you.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, but I do provide them. I designate a meeting like that as an executive committee meeting. When questioned by the Legislature, I certainly make a point that those are not required meetings.

**MS. LEBOW:**

I'm just curious where my phone call came from.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I'm curious, too.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We are, too. Did anyone else get a phone call?

**MS. LEBOW:**

My secretary took it. I can go back and look at the message. It's really very interesting because I said, "Oh, the weather is terrible, and anyway it's cancelled."

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Sorry. I can't explain it. Were there any other comments?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

There were no other comments on the minutes themselves, so I move that they be accepted as written.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Is there a second?

**MR. LUECKE:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 12/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Fischhoff)**

Public Relations' report, Todd Shapiro and Associates.

**MS. TANNEN:**

Good evening, everybody. I apologize I wasn't here last month. I understand we have a little bit of catch-up tonight. There were three tapes from last month that we didn't have an opportunity to get to. I'll get to them very briefly.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Okay, but I'm going to ask you, because we have so much business tonight, to make your best shot.

**MS. TANNEN:**

Very abbreviated, ten seconds, next one.

#### **VIDEO PRESENTATION – 7:58 – 8:06 P.M.:**

<b>2/19/01</b>	<b>News 12</b>	<b>George Washington's Visit</b>
<b>2/23/01</b>	<b>WLIW 21</b>	<b>Gallo Glass Concert</b>
<b>3/02/01</b>	<b>WMBC</b>	<b>Hall of Fishes Dedication</b>
<b>3/22/01</b>	<b>News 12</b>	<b>MIR Station</b>
<b>4/10/01</b>	<b>News 12</b>	<b>Alice in Wonderland</b>

**MS TANNEN:**

We also had pretty nice representation with television, internet, daily newspapers, weekly newspapers. The only thing missing this particular month was radio, but stay tuned for next month. Thank you very much.

**DR. GITTLEMAN:**

Thank you. Do we have any questions about that report? If not, education and exhibits, Marge.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

First, is Stephanie here?

**MS. GRESS:**

Yes.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

First of all, I would like to introduce Stephanie Gress. Stephanie has come on to the Vanderbilt as the Curator of both Life and Social Sciences. She has a B.A. and M.A. from SUNY Stony Brook, major in art history and minor in science, specifically

geology. Her prior experience in part was the Stony Brook Museum. I welcome you on behalf of the Board. She has been here about a month and a half, but since we didn't have a regular meeting last month, I'm introducing her this month. Thank you, Stephanie.

**MS. GRESS:**

I met a few of you at the Hall of Fishes' Dedication.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

It's great to see you. Stephanie has been very busy this month getting ready for reaccreditation, which is really the theme of education and exhibits this year. She is documenting the files, the condition reports, and the locations of specimens. Her work is on target. She is updating all the computer records. Currently everything is accessioned; this is in life sciences, by location, which is not an acceptable practice with the current theory in museum work. So we are changing those to specific accession numbers for each item.

She has also been speaking with other institutions in this area, "networking," to see how we can help each other and establish firmer relations with them.

Right now she is also working on the lighting project. As you may recall, some of our areas are very dark and the lighting and air conditioning is being revisited. There is a possible potentially scheduled demonstration of a fiber optic lighting network for next Friday, if all participants can manage to get there together.

She is also constantly assessing the need of the collection. With that in mind, we have one of our requests. If anyone has an IBM, IBM compatible Windows based laptop that they are not using, the Curators could really use it. We're still walking around with the card catalog files, and I still live in fear of sneezing. Those things are on computer files. When they need to do work at the site, they still need to bring the cards with them because we don't have a laptop available for their use. So if anyone can provide one or knows where we might be able to acquire one at an inexpensive cost, please let me know.

In your packet of information tonight is a folder. This is a brochure; 1,500 of them were mailed today, and 15,000 of them have been printed. They include a handy, dandy tear-off for an application for membership. They will be used with inserts for various programs. The same graphic artist who did the big folder for the anniversary ball provided the graphic work for this small folder.

Betsy has also been working on the invertebrates. She has taken that on as her own. She has located all the invertebrates, but the numbers still need to be put on all the jars, and there is currently a debate as to how that's going to be done. Will it be done through modern means, such as computer print, or will we do as Mr. Vanderbilt would have done and hand write all the labels?

This summer she is looking for a student to do taxonomy; I didn't say that right. Her next project after the invertebrates will be the fish.

Florence has hired a part-timer person who is entering a fine and decorative arts into Past Perfect. She is also entering research on the artists. There is a reference section being done as well. This is in preparation of reaccreditation; therefore, all of the reaccreditation records from our last go-around are being updated. We're adding a lot of information.

We're also going to have a new report available for the Reaccreditation Committee. It's a report on published research covering the years 1996 to 2000. There will be a section on TV coverage, radio coverage, and other things that we were not necessarily doing on our own, but we researched for others, such as the American Castle's Program on Arts and Entertainment Network and Driving Passion on A & E, as well. The report is in draft, and it's on Lance's desk waiting for his review. In this report there is another section on brochure information that we have provided for other institutions. As some of you may recall, for example, though this specific event was too long ago, we worked with the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan in preparation for an exhibit they did on the Vanderbilt Parkway history. Something like that would be included in this as well.

Warren Newman and Mike Kerr have finished the butler's pantry; it is now being loaded. It will be open to the public probably next week. Florence went into New York, and she met with various drapery people. Drapery samples are being sent here, and a selection will be made as to the new draperies for the Mansion. This is part of the heating and environmental project. The information went back to Christies.

As some of you may recall from last month, we were talking about having a reappraisal done for the upcoming reaccreditation. Christies did the last one in 1985. They are in the process of pulling their records. They would like to set up a meeting to do a preliminary walk-through and give us an estimate as to what it will cost to have a full appraisal done. The newsletter that we all received, the next one, will include an insert from Mark from the Planetarium on, "The Legends of the Spring Constellations."

For reaccreditation – I sound like a broken record – the Planetarium records and files are being put in order. The slides are being computerized. The inventory is being computerized, which had never been done. He's also doing an inventory of them, and where we are missing masters of the slides; we are sending out and having the masters made.

As you are aware, June 30 will be the Planetarium's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In preparation for this event, the Planetarium staff is very hard at work. NASA will be sending us some traveling exhibits for our use in this presentation. These exhibits are free to us. We just have to pay for the shipping. They are arranging the shipping because they get a huge discount since NASA ships a lot of things and we don't. We will be getting shuttle tiles. We will be getting information from the Goddard & Johnson Space Centers. We will have panels up in the lobby of the Planetarium exploring the planets and their moons. They will be down where the butterflies used to be. There will be probes of the last missions. We're getting a shuttle in-flight cover suit, size large, and we have been given permission to have somebody wear it. So if anyone

would like to, I have a picture of it here. Maybe we could pass that around, if anyone is interested in trying on a space shuttle suit.

“Weight of the World,” which is the exhibit behind us over here with the moon and the planets, is leaving. We will be having a new exhibit there called “Investing in our Future.” Again, this is part of this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary display; it will be a pop-up display of the first human mission to Mars with the text describing it. This will tie into our Mars show, which is well on its way. It’s working out to be about a 45-minute program and has been shown to Dr. Cooper who has approved of it.

These exhibits from NASA will be here all summer for our use, specifically, for the weekend of June 30, which is the actual anniversary, we have available to us a real space suit, not a mock-up, a real one. However, it cannot be shipped. It has to be picked up at the Goddard Center and then returned one week later. So if someone is heading down to Maryland and would care to do this, we would need to know about it relatively quickly –

**MS. LEBOW:**

What kind of security is there? If someone undertakes to transport that suit, and God forbid there’s an accident or something, what kind of insurance protection is there?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

That’s an excellent question.

**MR. BUSH:**

There is insurance for that.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Thank you, David. I did not think to ask that.

**MS. LEBOW:**

There is a serious responsibility if someone undertakes that.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Well, I looked at it as a road trip.

**MS. LEBOW:**

Now it’s a road trip with insurance.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Insurance is a good thing. Thank you for thinking of that because I did not.

Another exhibit that NASA will be sending us is a scale model of the space shuttle, a 3-D exhibit which will be located in that area of the lobby for the duration. We will also be receiving the first satellite photos taken from space of Earth. The date of the photographs specifically is April 30, 1960. The photograph is 49 inches. It’s museum quality. It is framed. We will also be getting a photograph of Bruce {McCanderish} who had a space walk in 1984. Again, this is another 49-inch museum quality photograph.

In December a program in the lobby, continuing with our relationship with NASA, will be called "Food for the Astronauts." There will be four panels and a food tray will actually come out. We will be exhibiting 70 foods and 20 beverages that are available on the space shuttle. We will have additional panels on the space shuttle and space station foods. Of course, the freeze-dried ice cream will be heavily shown. The Johnson Space Center has offered us in the spring of 2002 two 48-foot long trailers, which will be on site for three weeks with a hands-on exhibits on the international space station. That's what our relationship with NASA has been lately and what's planned for the future.

The Education Department has been very, very busy. In your folders, you have the March numbers. You have the admission numbers for the spring break. The spring break was extremely successful. In four days we made a profit for \$3,212 on the spring break programs. They were all fully booked. The summer is booking up now. Kids who were here for the spring break have signed up for the summer programs. Also, brochures concerning the summer programs have been sent out to the local school districts for distribution. One of the programs that will be worked on is Micronesian Polynesia. A number of local travel agencies have donated travel posters to bring us into the atmosphere of being in Polynesia while the kids are here for camp.

On June 1 the annual artistry and inquiry exhibit will be here probably in the turntable exhibit room, but I'm not totally sure. For the first time, it will also be exhibited at South Huntington's Public Library from June 16 to July 12. Todd Shapiro and Associates have been notified of this event, as they have also been notified about the June 30<sup>th</sup> weekend and other programs with NASA so that we can work with Todd and his people in getting publicity for these things.

On May 1 there will be a BOCES hands-on science exhibit for fifth graders at Bethpage Village on marine life off the shore of Long Island. We will be bringing touch specimens.

Unless anyone has any questions, that is my report. I apologize; it was lengthy but there was a lot to be said.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Is the schedule of children's programs that was in that brochure last year's or this coming year?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

This coming year.

**MR. LUECKE:**

This coming year?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you very much for that report. Any questions? If there are no questions, at this point I think it would be appropriate to begin discussing our partnership with New York Institute of Technology, the proposed partnership and our discussions of a temporary exhibit, which we will do in partnership with them. So Dr. Ray Ann Havacy from NYIT and Eric Patysiak are here to make a presentation to us and to explain from their viewpoint what our relationship is. So if we could give them some time. Thank you for joining us.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Nice to see you all again. I tried to remember – I said to Rita that I know we were in the other building; right, Rita? I have never been here for a meeting. I hope you're all doing well. You guys are playing host to our creatures, and literally we sat around saying it's a shame they're in containers. They need to be out. They need to be shown. They need to be used. We need to begin thinking of a way that we can utilize them and have a lovely way to start a collaborate arrangement and kind of get off on the right foot over the summer. So why don't we take these guys out and let them breath fresh air and talk about a collaboration of opening a summer exhibit?

It sounds a little scary because the summer is around the corner, but the advantage of a collaboration is that you share responsibility and you share the jobs. The first thing we did was Eric, myself, Lance, and Steve sat down and said how possible is this? Well, we think it's very possible, and we're very excited about it for a couple of reasons. If you remember, what we're calling – because now we have the summer exhibit and the Vanderbilt exhibit, the long-term exhibit, that will open up, will tour and will come back here and grace your new seaplane facility. What we're calling the long-term exhibit, the Vanderbilt exhibit, will pilot some extremely new technology in exhibitry. We're very excited about that from a research standpoint, from a PR standpoint for both institutions, and just because we think it will make exhibits better.

Let me start by doing this. Do you know what this is? This is the typical pose of a parent watching their kids enjoy a science planetarium type museum. Have you ever seen that at a museum? Well, Eric and I have been to about 14 institutions looking at different types of hands-on exhibits, and this is the behavior we see because parents don't know how to interact with their children. So the idea is go play, go enjoy. If you ever go to the Queens Hall of Science, if you ever go to exploratoriums, go play, go enjoy, and we'll touch base with you now and again and make sure you're not hungry or you don't need to use the bathrooms. Well, we've been studying inquiry for a long time, and when we met with you the last time we all decided that we needed to approach exhibitry with a little more inquiry. That's what we'd like to do.

We also know that it's a big job to build the Vanderbilt exhibit. We'd like to pilot a couple of things first. So on with the idea. I'm going to pass out some numbers and some figures because I know you're a Board. Let's take a look at what some of the responsibilities are and the costs. NYIT has an advantage. The idea is that the summer exhibit, unlike the Vanderbilt exhibit, would open at NYIT. There are a couple of reasons for that. Number one, we have the space. We have about ten acres of land. We have two huge parking lots at the Central Islip campus, and NYIT happens to have a temporary housing facility that it's willing to loan us. Originally

when we looked at this idea, we looked at bubbles and tents, and they're very, very costly. Just today before this meeting, I got the word from our dean that the tent bubble facility that we have at NYIT that we own can be made available for the summer. That cuts our costs considerably. The figures that we have been given for a bubble are about \$30,000 a month. So because we are able to use the NYIT bubble, which would be heated and cooled and have water supplied, cuts our costs considerably and makes this possible.

Steve and Lance asked me to work up the open the gate expenses. What we mean by that is, what do we have to put out before we have money coming in in the form of admissions and things like that? It's a very short list, and the reason why it's a very short list is because NYIT is pulling up a lot of the slack and security. We already have that. What we will just do is refigure one of our security guards so that at night there is in-house security at all times. We don't have the cost of the tent. We don't have a lot of the initial costs that we would have. So before we open the gate, these were the expenses that we see. The set-up crew includes our move manager, Terry Fitzpatrick, who some of you have met because he moved them into your facility. Believe it or not, you have to put a deposit on the porta-potties. We don't want to forget that. The lighting and set enhancements that we need to do to get the exhibit would be about \$12,000.

Now I'm going to go through something else that I don't think Steve or Lance are aware of, and that is today I had a conversation with someone that many of you have heard of, and that's Mr. Wizard. Does anyone remember Mr. Wizard?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Don Herbert.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Don Herbert lives in California but is from New York. Don Herbert is a resident and was born in New York. Don Herbert and Steve Jacobs, who was his sidekick, would like to work with us on also using the summer and the Vanderbilt Museum to launch some pretty incredible dinosaur activity shows that would accompany both of them. Needless to say, and this is just a telephone conversation, but needless to say, having Mr. Wizard associated with both exhibits would be a wonderful opportunity. They're looking to come back east, and that's what they have expressed to us. This is where they began.

Our revenue figures were based upon the numbers you see here. Everybody is going to say – even Lance has done his homework – a thousand people? That's a very high number. But remember, folks, this is a limited engagement show piloting new technology. Tomorrow the Vanderbilt staff and the NYIT staff will be meeting together to start thinking of the activities and the ideas we want to put in this. One of the people who will be jumping on board with us is Michael Uttendorfer. Michael Uttendorfer is the head of our technology with teaching with technology centers. He is excited with the opportunity of creating some pilot use of technology in this exhibit. That's going to take some collaboration and some cooperation on our part, but we're excited about that.

On the next page you have what we see as a triple time line for the Vanderbilt, the long-term exhibit, the summer exhibit. The key here is to take one of the modules that will be at the Vanderbilt exhibit and pilot it this summer. I think the idea of creating an exhibit down the road that we haven't looked at the technology in some limited fashion is probably not as wise in the summer taking one of the modules and trying it out. Take one of the technology links that we're going to use and try it out. So that's what you're looking at when we see the two time lines, the two general ideas of where we'd like to go with the Vanderbilt exhibit and the summer exhibit.

We also discussed, quite honestly, a split, how the revenue would be split. Whose responsibility is what? An advantage of collaboration is the Vanderbilt doesn't have to do all the work. NYIT will do the facilities. NYIT will be responsible to staff it. It's not going to be Vanderbilt staff, so you don't have to stretch your – you're going through reaccreditation right now. That's not a time when you want to run thin. But we have graduate students and undergraduate students who need summer jobs, so we have an opportunity to hire some of our students who are educators, future teachers. What a great opportunity for them. So we're really looking forward to this. We think it would be a lot of fun.

We also looking for it as a way to enhance the funding that Bill Rogers has been so generous to give us, but because we foresee a profit, we also want some of the proceeds initially to go to enhance the exhibit funds for what we're calling the Vanderbilt exhibit.

So what we'd like to do, with your permission and your approval, is create a summer exhibit at NYIT, use our tent facility, use our facilities' people, use our security people, hire our student population, which would be a wonderful way to staff it up, pilot some of the modules, at least one of the modules that we think will go into the Vanderbilt exhibit at the seaplane hangar. As I said, tomorrow the plan was for us to meet together –

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Actually, we have to postpone that. We'll discuss that later.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Well, whenever. And talk about what are the activities we can logically and practically do for the summer? What are some of the good inquiry based activities that we can do? What is the one module that we want to carry forward to the Vanderbilt exhibit? We're looking forward to it. We think it will be a great opportunity. One of the things we're looking at is having the Vanderbilt work on the publicity. We, frankly, think you guys do a much better job. What did I forget? Did I forget anything?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

First of all, by all means, if any Trustee has a question –

**MR. LUECKE:**

I have a couple of questions. You represent NYIT. You said, "We're hosting your dinosaurs."

**Ms. HAVACY:**

You're hosting – well, all of our dinosaurs. It's the Vanderbilt's dinosaurs, but we're working on it collaboratively.

**MR. LUECKE:**

But you said, "We're hosting your dinosaurs."

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Right now they are in the parking lot.

**MS. HAVACY:**

They're in the parking lot.

**MR. LUECKE:**

They don't belong to NYIT.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, no.

**MS. HAVACY:**

No.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Secondly, Mr. Rogers gave us money.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes.

**MS. HAVACY:**

We're speaking together. The money isn't being – no the money isn't in our –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Let me clarify things, since the collaboration isn't official. The money that was donated by the Rogers was donated to the Vanderbilt Museum. It was donated –

**MR. LUECKE:**

I understand that. She's saying "our money."

**MS. HAVACY:**

Because we're using it on an exhibit that we're planning collaboratively. Hopefully the plan was that the Vanderbilt exhibit, the one that will end up in your seaplane hangar, was one we were going to work on collaboratively.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

However, to make it clear, the money is entrusted to the Vanderbilt.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Absolutely.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Steve and I have worked together so long that a lot of it is just "we." The money is your money, but plans and working together collaboratively is different.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I think it's very important that the Trustees ask the questions necessary to have it clear. Doug.

**MR. SHAW:**

I'm concerned for the reputation of the Vanderbilt's exhibition program, which I think at this point is quite good. Two months from now you're opening this exhibit, which really isn't conceptualized and an incredible amount of fabrication has to take place. Are you confident that that's a reasonable time frame?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes, we talked a lot about that, and I'll tell you, are we 100 percent? We're talking about a June opening. Are we 100 percent? Until we have this collaborative meeting, we won't know that because we have to sit down and say what the add-on components are, Doug. Let me be real simple. The add-on components might be just, we build a dig for the kids and we do a couple of inquiry-based activities. Then I can come back to you and say we could have that up in two weeks. The first order of business is for the staff here, the people here, and for the NYIT people to get together and say, what are the enhancements we need to do to make this happen?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I think there is a component missing. The exhibit was just exhibited in Chicago. It has been shipped here after having been successfully exhibited as it stands with no enhancements. You could take this exhibit and just deliver it to a location and call it an exhibit.

**MS. HAVACY:**

There is signage. The specimens have all been repainted and everything because they have already been exhibited. So the work that had to be done there has already been done.

**MR. SHAW:**

Then we're changing our exhibit focus away from being one of the modules from our long-term exhibit –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It's not our long-term exhibit. That's what you have to know.

**MS. HAVACY:**

This is not going to be the Vanderbilt exhibit. This is going to be a pilot. Think of it as a smaller version or a pilot version. Steve actually had a good idea. What Steve and Lance came up with is if we're going to do this summer thing, why don't we design one of the modules out that we would like to show in the Vanderbilt exhibit and pilot it here.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

But you have to understand that that module would not be complete with the technological advantages that we would want to have in the final exhibit. So under no circumstances do I want this to be the exhibit that will later appear because it isn't and it won't.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Let me give you an example. If you remember from the Vanderbilt plan that we initially brought to you, the idea was to use PDA's, but we can't do that for one standing module of an exhibit, so we may use a PC. But if we can create an inquiry-based experience, at least we would see what that looks like. Now it may not be the exact thing that appears in the long-term Vanderbilt, but I think we have a great opportunity to pilot technology and inquiry and see what it might look like and how it would do with kids.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

However, I have real questions like you do, Doug, about a time frame of what, at the moment, if you were starting in June which is a few weeks, the only thing that makes me comfortable from an exhibit standpoint is that we have an exhibit that has been exhibited recently, and that the exhibitor who had borrowed it wants to rent it again. However, my concern is that we not look for this to capture anything that we plan to do in the future. This is an exhibit coming off the shelf that currently exists. We have possession of it, but there are risks. I want to point out that Lance and I are very concerned about the projections on attendance and the revenues that are here. It's yet to be seen that these kinds of attendance figures will ever be reached. However, the expenditures are presented to us are now reduced by \$124,000. Theoretically, we don't have to worry about putting up a structure. Neither Lance nor I would want to take on this task and try to deliver it in six weeks because the facilities that have to be delivered are intensive to say the least. We believe we would have to dedicate ourselves almost full time to getting the facilities, the inspections, and everything else that is necessary to get it to work.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I think, just to clarify, Ray Ann, you said June. I thought we had revised it to say July 1.

**MS. HAVACY:**

No, end of June, beginning of July.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

June 29, in that area. So I think we're adding another three or four weeks in there.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Irrespective of that, I still remain concerned about NYIT delivering on that end. I want Ray Ann and you all to know that that's a concern.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I know that the exhibit is now housed in some trucks in the parking lot. Has anyone examined the exhibits to make sure that they are as the exhibitors had said?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes. They're great.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

So someone has gone through the truck.

**MS. HAVACY:**

The three or four specimens that I was concerned about, the struthiomus and the deinonychus, we looked at ourselves.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Carl.

**MR. LUECKE:**

On the first page you have the set-up opening the gates and on the last page the expenses, some of which are bringing the dinosaurs from the Vanderbilt to wherever they're going to be, isn't that set up?

**MS. HAVACY:**

No, because what we're looking at is, if we move them from the Vanderbilt here, the invoicing is 30 to 45 days. So we don't have to pay that. This is opening the gate. These are the expenses we have to pay out before we see anything coming in. The move expenses, you have a 30 to 45 day invoice. So you're seeing gate before you have to –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Are we to interpret this that you would be seeking, because we did discuss this, a cash flow loan equal to the sum of your opening the gate expenses as represented here? So you're saying that you need approximately \$29,800?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes, until we all get together and see what we want to do, the next step is that we have to see what the enhancements would be. As you notice, I have set up a crew. I don't have an enhancement number here for two reasons. Number one, because on most of these things we would build, once again, it's a 30 to 45 day pay-out. So it's not something you have to pay for to open the gate. These were the numbers that you had asked for specifically to open the gate. The second thing is, until we sit together and plan out the enhancement, it's hard to know what those – as I said, we may simply say we want a couple of inquiry activities. Until we all get together and plan it out completely, I think it's hard to say exactly how much money we're going to be spending.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Except that as custodians of the exhibit fund, it's our responsibility to have a handle on what would be borrowed from the exhibit fund. In order for us to go forward with this, we need to consider a resolution tonight. We need to fill in that blank.

**MS. HAVACY:**

No, because as I said –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, we do. You may not, but we do.

**MS. HAVACY:**

But once again, as we said, the monies we would spend to create the enhancements are billable after the gate opens.

**MR. LUECKE:**

So you're saying all you need to start with –

**MS. HAVACY:**

All I need to start with is this.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So if we agreed to loan this project \$30,000 from the exhibit fund, is that sufficient for your needs to launch the project?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes.

**MR. LABUA:**

Could that be taken from the \$50,000?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It would come from the exhibit fund money that has been donated by Mr. Rogers.

**MR. LABUA:**

That \$50,000 is in hand?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

That is in hand. It's in a special checking account. That money would be loaned for the purposes of getting this project going, but it would be returned as the first priority. We would have to have an agreement for repayment. What I would ask is that Ray Ann and Lance get together and perhaps a special committee from this Board get together to formulate how the repayment will go and to oversee the structure of that repayment. We have to be very careful that we get that money back.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Absolutely.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Our exposure on this is, one, merchandise that we put into the exhibit hop. Two, the money that we lend from the exhibit fund. In terms of cash, we have to be very careful. What other cash exposures do we have?

**MR. LUECKE:**

Could I make a motion to discuss this in executive session? Not that we can't continue with this now, but could this be part of an executive session?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I think that would be fine. I have a motion for an executive session. Do I have a second?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 12/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Fischhoff)**

**MS. PERICONI :**

Ray Ann, could you just tell us what you do at NYIT? Are you a professor?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Well, there are two things. Number one, I'm a Professor of Science Education. My specialty is inquiry hands-on science experiences. Part of that is the research that we do because that's a requirement. The second thing is we have developed the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, which is an organization that specifically looks at enhancing science experiences, informal science experiences particularly. This is one thing, but we do other projects. We have, for example, a sun shack. The sun shack is an alternative energy trailer that we're readying with a grant from LIPA and will tour schools throughout Long Island. It gives kids hands-on experiences to do with wind power and solar power. So we do all hands-on types of things to spotlight inquiry science learning for children.

**MS. PERICONI :**

Thank you.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Tim.

**MR. VOTAPKA:**

My question is with regard to promotion. Between now and June 29 or July 1, whenever the exhibit opens, what sort of budget or allocation have we put together - - not we, but you -- for advertising, space advertising, to generate the type of projected attendance that will get the exposure for the exhibit and then get some portion or some percentage beyond our projected attendance? That will be a budgeted item that will not be paid for after July or August. It will be paid up front as you go.

**MS. HAVACY:**

That's one of the things that Lance had talked about coming through the Vanderbilt –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, that's public relations.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Right, public relations through the Vanderbilt. That would be one of the tasks of the Vanderbilt. As far as paid advertising goes, the people that I have talked to have said, once again, it's a 30 to 45 day bill. Understand that these aren't the only expenses. They're well aware of that. The question is, what are the expenses before we see the dollar come in and what are the expenses after? That was the critical question.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

However, there is no number in the budget for paid advertising.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Insurance is through NYIT. That we already ascertained. So there will be no cost. There's no cost for insurance. The advertising I'm waiting to get some numbers for paid advertising. From our staff, I'm trying to get that supported by NYIT.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Just to fill in some blanks here, you have phone system as an item. Is that something you're going to have to pay for?

**MS. HAVACY:**

No.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Advertising, we don't know what that's –

**MS. HAVACY:**

We have to figure out how much of that is being picked up through NYIT.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So phone system is NYIT, insurance is NYIT, utilities are NYIT.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Fire code requirements?

**MS. HAVACY:**

The tent is already up to code, so with sprinklers and the system at NYIT, Mike, our Facilities Manager, has already said he would be responsible to make sure we have occupancy permits.

**MR. HAHN:**

What's the size of the tent?

**MS. HAVACY:**

It's about 10,000 square feet.

**MR. HAHN:**

And how many specimens are going to be inside the tent?

**MS. HAVACY:**

The exhibit size right now is a little bit under 5,000 square feet. Take the exhibit and measure it out. But we need gift shop space, and we need space for other things.

**MR. HAHN:**

This is going to be done during the summer, so are we going to be able to accommodate people inside the tent without any problems?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes, that was our feeling. That's why we didn't want to get a smaller tent. When NYIT made their bigger tent available, we decided to take it because it's 10,000 square feet.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Fire code requirements –

**MS. HAVACY:**

It's already equipped.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

But what about inspections?

**MS. HAVACY:**

The Park Facilities Manager will handle that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

And it certainly would not open without all fire codes –

**MS. HAVACY:**

You have to have that to open.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So you're taking care of that?

**MS. HAVACY:**

That was our agreement. We would handle facilities.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Security?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Around the clock.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes, in the exhibit. That's important, in the exhibit, not around the clock meaning we drive by but sitting there in the exhibit.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any other government permits?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Any permitting necessary we will handle. That was our agreement with you. All the permitting, facilities, occupancy permits, whatever we need, whatever fire inspections need to be done, whatever inspections need to be done to open the door, that was the responsibility we took. Our person at NYIT is very experienced with that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Although Ray Ann omitted it, and I have no clue why, the Center for Learning happens to be named after me. Because of that, it could represent a conflict to some people looking in from the outside, which is why I want a Trustee body to oversee – in other words, I have taken it this far, you have to take it from here. I will be looking for – certainly if someone has experience with exhibits – Doug, do you have experience with exhibits?

**MR. SHAW:**

Sure.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Would you be willing to chair such as committee? I realize you're already doing that.

**MR. SHAW:**

I'd need to talk a little more to Ray Ann.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Ed, you're a lawyer, would you be willing to join this? Is there anybody else that has interest?

**MR. VOTAPKA:**

Sure.

**MR. BROXMEYER:**

Sure.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Marge, do you want to join this?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Ed, would you chair it?

**MR. HAHN:**

Sure.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Doug, I'm sorry, you had a question?

**MR. SHAW:**

On the front page, \$100,000 in sponsorship money, it seems to me that to raise that kind of money in sponsorships, is that something you have committed at this point?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Well, I put that in today and I'll tell you why. I spoke with our Development Officer who is willing to take this challenge on. Without that committed, I would not have put that on there. But with the help of a professional Development Officer at our end who has incredible amounts of experience, honestly, and I'll be real straight with you, the number may be a little high. This was his number based upon our conversation. So I'll be real honest. Until I sit with him and have a meeting, which is scheduled, I don't know if that represents 100 percent accurate. But I do know his track record, and it's excellent. He would be willing to do this as a service to this effort. Once again, we wouldn't be paying for development effort.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Marge.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Actually, Steve, you answered one of my questions which was concerning the cost of these various exhibit charges. So we can assume this \$382,620 on the bottom is really not a totally relevant figure because we're missing so many other numbers.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, actually, the biggest change you have to make is to subtract \$124,000, which is for the tent, which we now have for free.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

So this is an irrelevant number.

**MS. HAVACY:**

Yes, we only heard about the tent today. I had to make sure it would be available. So I wanted to reserve the tent.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

The other question, Ray Ann, perhaps you could tell us something about yourself, your educational background. You said you are a Professor; is that a capital "P" Professor or small "p" professor?

**MS. HAVACY:**

What do you mean capital "P"?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Are you a true, full professor?

**MS. HAVACY:**

I have a doctorate. Is that what you mean?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

No.

**MS. HAVACY:**

No, I'm not a full professor. I have only been there four years. I'm a tenure track position professor but not a full professor. I will be associate as of next year, but my real work is hands-on science inquiry.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Other questions? Okay, we recognize that all of this has been somewhat rushed, but we have what we call Exhibit A, which I would like to call the Board's attention to, which is a resolution.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Is it in our folders?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It is in the folders. This is not a resolution. It's written like a resolution. It's more written like a contract. What I would like to do is, these are terms, and some of them still need a little flushing out. They have been prepared by Lance this afternoon based upon discussions with Ray Ann. No one is prepared to sign these tonight, but what I need is a resolution from the Board whereby the committee that is going to be acting on this can finish up the contract and present it to the Director and – I don't think I should be the signator on this, so Gary Fischhoff will be the signator, since he is the Senior Vice President.

**MS. HAVACY:**

If you don't mind me ending off because I know you have to go into executive session, but the last point I think is important to make here is that we have an opportunity to do a collaboration. I think the advantages are for both institutions that provided we all sit together, which I think would be great and exciting and wonderful and do our due diligence with planning some enhancements to the exhibit. It comes without a lot of outlays for either part in terms of initial capital costs. Our end is very facilities heavy, but that's a commitment NYIT is willing to make. We're responsible for all the facilities work, to bring this up to code and up to par, and to make sure the thing is open.

I think this is an exciting opportunity. I know that the Vanderbilt likes to do collaborative arrangements. I know you have one with Cornell and you have one with some other people. This is something new, something different, something you need to think about. I know that, but if you have any questions in the meantime, I want you to feel free to get in touch with me and Doug and Tim and Michael. I really look forward to working with you guys.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All questions should go through Lance. One of the things that has to happen is that we have to move extremely fast. We certainly don't want to slow the process up since we all agree we're short on time. Would the committee consider meeting soon and hashing this out in one meeting? Would it be possible to coordinate that with Ray Ann and Eric and have Lance there? Would you all agree to that?

**MR. HAHN:**

Sure.

**MR. SHAW:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I would appreciate that, because otherwise we're killing it. Does the Board still feel the need to go into executive session to discuss this? Does anybody have any issues that they would like to discuss about this in executive session?

**MS. PERICONI :**

I would like to.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Would you like to do that now?

**MS. PERICONI :**

Yes, just a couple of brief questions.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We'll just do a couple of brief questions, and we'll come back as soon as we can.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

On just one issue?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

On one issue, and then we'll come out as quickly as we can. Would you mind staying?

**MS. HAVACY:**

Not at all.

**(EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:00 – 9:17 P.M.)****DR. GITTELMAN:**

We need a resolution from the Board of Trustees that captures the concept that the Board approves of the plan as stated in principle and that the committee will hash out the details with Ray Ann Havacy and NYIT and that they will meet. Ed, do you have a concept of when you can meet?

**MR. HAHN:**

Yes, Thursday at two o'clock in Commack.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

This week. Thank you very much. That would be great. Is that okay with you, Ray Ann?

**MS. HAVACY:**

I have a class at 6:40, so two o'clock should be fine.

**MR. HAHN:**

Sixty-six Commack Road.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Has everybody heard that? I need a resolution in support of the Trustees in committee approving that for signage by either Gary Fischhoff or I actually would rather it be someone who is here tonight. Who else is an officer? Carl?

**MR. LUECKE:**

Sure.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So, Carl can sign it. Is that okay with everybody? May I have a resolution to that effect?

**MR. LUECKE:**

So moved.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Second?

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It carries. (Vote: 12/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff & Dr. Pecorale)** Thank you very much. Thank you, Ray Ann and Eric. We have to move on to other business. We appreciate it. Development Committee report.

**MR. BROXMEYER:**

I think you all know we have an event planned for August 3 at 7 p.m. It's a Friday evening. The charge for tickets for the event will be \$125 per person. In addition, we'll be having two levels of sponsorships, one at \$500, which will include two tickets and a one-year patron membership for the person donating the money. We'll also have a \$1,000 sponsorship. For that they will get four tickets and either a corporate membership or benefactor membership, depending on whether it's from a corporation or a personal donation.

We have plenty of room for attendance at the party, at least for 400 people, so hopefully everyone can start making calls and lining up people to attend the event. Lance is developing letters already to mail out. He'll start to develop letters to be sent out to promote the event.

As far as the details for the event, I'm going to let Donna handle that because she's really most involved with that.

**MS. PERICONI:**

As I mentioned two months ago, the night is named "Cocktails with Cole Porter." Remarkably two people in the Museum did not know who Cole Porter was which either ages me and the rest of this Board, but when someone asked me who Cole Porter was, that starts to make me concerned. But it was refreshing to hear that. Perhaps we're going to have to educate the populace.

We were able to get Rich Iacona and his wife Madeline to do the music for the event, and we're going to try to keep it as just Cole Porter. We have agreed to hire Lessings organization for the event. It will be a raw bar and passed hors d'oeuvres starting at seven and probably going until ten o'clock, which means most people will leave by ten-thirty. It should be a delightful evening. We do have room for 400 plus, so we'll have to emphasize ticket sales. It's a moderate ticket price. We deliberated between \$100 and \$125, but we felt that the additional \$25 probably would not make a great difference. So we will see how we do with the ticket sales. The sponsorships are reasonable. We hope that each of the Board Members can sell at least two to three \$500 sponsorships. We're counting on the Executive Director being able to sell a number of sponsorships, too. We will have an evening program that recognizes the sponsors. It should be a great deal of fun. We'll be doing some unique things; namely having martinis all over tables. That sounds great. I spoke to Lance already. I came up with this idea, which I think is quite interesting. We'll have projectors showing Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers' movies on the courtyard walls when it gets dark. Of course, we'll play foggy day Cole Porter. It should be a fun evening, and we do have Todd Shapiro to promote this event. We should get great coverage in the press on this.

**MS. LEBOW:**

Question, what happens if it rains?

**MS. PERICONI:**

We're moving the whole thing inside. That's very doable because it's cocktails. We can pass trays of hors d'oeuvres, set up the raw bar into different sections, and disperse the musicians. If it happens, it would not spoil the evening. It's doable. It's not as if we're setting up dinner tables with formal dining. So that makes it a little easier. I think it should really be a great event, especially with the gardenias and martinis, whatever. Thank you, and save the date. It is a Friday evening. Rita Beckman polled the Board Members, and more people were able to do Friday evening than Saturday. So that's why we opted for that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Anything else on the Development Committee?

**MR. LUECKE:**

No.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you for that report. Finance Committee.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I'm doing the Finance Committee. In your folders you all have the latest numbers. As you can see, we're holding to the budget. In fact, we're a little ahead. You also have a sheet on membership numbers. Please note that membership numbers are very good. Membership is up very much so from previous years. You have the admissions' figures for January and February. Again, admissions are up through February, but we would like to point out that cash flow will be slightly tight this month, as it is a three payroll month. That is the report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any questions? Personnel Committee, Gary is absent.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

There was no meeting.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Membership Committee?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I would like to make a motion that we go into executive session at the end of our public session regarding a personnel matter.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Do I have a second?

**MS. PERICONI:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? **It carries unanimously. (Vote: 12/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff & Dr. Pecorale)** Membership Committee, Doug.

**MR. SHAW:**

You have the membership numbers in front of you. As Marge mentioned, they are very good. They're a testament to the very, very hard work of Wendy O'Donohoe, who is nothing short of phenomenal. At some point soon, I have been speaking to Wendy, and we have been looking at some software packages. As these numbers grow, we will no longer be able to manage these records as she is currently doing, which is by pencil and paper method. We need to look at some sort of computer set-up to manage that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Anything else? Thank you. We certainly have tremendous progress. Reaccreditation Committee.

**MR. LABUA:**

Reaccreditation is coming along very well. Most of the things that we need to tackle have already been our self-study program. The major thing that we have to address right now would be the photographs. Because of the tremendous leadership of Lance Mallamo and because we have had so many changes from the last reaccreditation that we had, it's necessary to take almost a whole full set of photographs. So we are in the process of obtaining prices from a photographer to do that. I will report on the progress of that. Hopefully, we can have somebody to be considered at our next meeting. Once we do that, we should be well on our way to meeting the time frames. Yes, Marge.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

For the past accreditation that we did a few years ago, members of the Huntington Camera Club took the photographs, as I recall. Can we approach them about doing that?

**MR. LABUA:**

We are going to approach the same person that did it the last time.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Thank you.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you for that report. Any other questions or comments? Lance.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

You forgot Buildings and Grounds.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I'm sorry, Bert.

**MR. SEIDES:**

Well, buildings and grounds, the last time I had made my report I failed to say that the report would be made quarterly. However, I would just like to report that the tree has been removed out in front of the Planetarium successfully with no damage to any of the buildings. The court will be bricked over and should be able to handle a much larger crowd and opens the visual expanse from the walk to the Planetarium. I don't know if you noticed tonight, but you can see the down quite beautifully. It sets it off the way you come down the hill. Also the vista from the entrance to the Planetarium to the rose garden is opened up and looks quite beautiful. From now on, like I said, the report will be quarterly. I have spent some time with Bill, and I will be spending a lot more time reviewing each building, getting familiar with the necessary need of each structure here. Then I can report more comprehensively to you. Thank you.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any more comments or questions? Lance.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I apologize twice to you, Bert, because I know you were here last week with Bill, and I seemed to be following you about the building trying to find you, and then someone told me you had left. Then I found out you were still here.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

So aren't you lucky you got an apology for being left out and an apology for being put in. Director's Report.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Actually, I think I was trying to buy some time to let Bert speak before myself. As I'm sure you can all see, there is a lot going on here at this time. It's a very, very busy time for us. I couldn't be more pleased with the way the staff is really working together to make things happen. I think everybody is making a tremendous contribution from the grounds crew and the operations to site use, to membership, to the curatorial staff, personnel. Everybody has been involved in major undertakings, the gift shop, and the business unit, everybody is chipping in. Even I'm having a hard time keeping up with it, but it's really very invigorating.

Yesterday the Planetarium staff and I spent the day at the Rose Center in Manhattan where we were treated to a Planetarium show of that institution at the Hayden Planetarium. Then they gave us an extensive tour behind the scenes in that facility. I had had a similar tour last summer, but the one we had yesterday was much more comprehensive. They were quick to point out when we were done that, "We rarely do this for anybody, so you really got the great tour today." They were very, very helpful. We did this as kind of our pre-planning for the selection of the consultant who will be working on replacing our Goto projector. We wanted to see what's hot and what's not in Planetarium design today. Although we don't have nearly the money that they have or had to build their facility, we did learn some very interesting tricks on how to accomplish something on a shoestring budget and what not to pursue and what to pursue.

Actually, I will share that much of what they opened where they're finding now isn't working for them, they're going to be replacing it. So I think we were really the beneficiaries of that experience. We also learned quite a bit from their gift shop operations, their employee uniform, and some of the special events that they're doing at their planetarium. So it was a very productive and stimulating day for the five of us that attended.

The week after next I'll be attending the American Association of Museum annual meeting in St. Louis. Several staff members and I are going to be going out there. We look forward to participating particularly this year when we're in our reaccreditation process to be participating in that meeting.

As Marjorie said, you have a new brochure in front of you. We can finally give up sending a photocopy of maps and short history of the Museum when people call. I think it's very professional. We have designed it to be a module system where to address specific needs of people, we can put these small inserts and add to them. We're going to be doing a new insert on the different types of mansion tours that we

provide so that people get a comprehensive view of our facilities and what we offer here at the Vanderbilt.

Our capital program is being announced this week. I haven't received the official copy, but I have verbally been informed that most of the projects that we had requested have been included, but specifically what the details are I'm not at liberty to say right now. I should have that toward the end of the week. On Friday, the Budget Review Office will be spending the day here reviewing all of our projects and our future requests as they review the County Executive's recommended budget. The budget that has come out is only the recommended budget. The Legislature must still confirm that.

In our interpretive program at the mansion, I don't know if I mentioned last month, but our Living History Program will focus this year on the year 1939. We're moving up two years. As part of that, we will be cosponsoring an exhibit with the Queen's Museum on the New York's World's Fair. This is a very popular subject. Our special event activity in the courtyard will be the World's Fair Radio Review, which will key right into our Living History Program. Our guides and curators are busy at work doing research on the costuming and the activities and events of that time, so that we're at the cutting edge of that interpretation.

I hope you make a plan on being here some time in the next week or two. Last fall we planted 2,000 bulbs including tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, and a number of other things. Those are now up. Not all of them are out. I think the daffodils are out, but not the tulips. They'll be up in a couple of weeks because we see them, and the squirrels didn't get them over the winter. The gardens by the mansion are absolutely brimming with flowers. In fact, I have the County Executive's photographer on call the day before we expect them to come out. He's going to come over and photograph the courtyard for us for our new brochure, which we're going to have coming out this summer – not brochures, but booklet. Remember the 36 page booklet that we did several years ago, maybe ten or fifteen years ago, we're going to be reprinting that this year, only we're going to 48 pages with that booklet. We had quite a bit to add.

Also I don't know if you noticed the improvements by the peacock pool, but we have an eagle project occurring over there. It's been cleaned out even since our last meeting of the Trustees. The staff has really cleaned that up. We hope that by mid summer we'll show a significant improvement. The fountain here at the Planetarium is being all restored currently. We'll be repainting the exterior of this building over the next couple of weeks. So hopefully by the next time you come here, we'll have all our new brick sidewalks in. We will be putting in a new brick terrace outside the Planetarium. The pool should be done, and we should really have a showplace here in time for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I think I talked enough.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Does anybody have any questions or comments of Lance? Okay, the President's report, all the activities speak for themselves. I have no report, but I do have a request for two executive sessions on contract issues. So may I have a motion?

**MR. LUECKE:**

So moved.

**MR. HAHN:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? **(VOTE: 12/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Fischhoff)**

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I'm sorry I neglected to hand this out. I'm going to pass around some love letters from school groups to our Museum staff. They're talking about how they enjoyed their programs here. We're going to start putting up a temporary changing exhibit here each month of different letters that we get.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

And we're sending samples to the appropriate County Legislators so they know that people from their districts do benefit from this even if they're not physically in this locale.

**MR. LUECKE:**

What were the two contracts for executive session?

**MR. HAHN:**

I have a motion for that second contractual issue and executive session.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We were voting on it, and then we got sidetracked. We voted on the first one; all in favor? Opposed? The second one, do I have a second for that?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I'll second that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

All in favor? Opposed? I would like us to take a five-minute break, and then we'll go into executive session.

**(EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:40 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.)**

**(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 11:01 p.m.)**