

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on August 19, 2009, in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Noel Gish - President
Matthew Swinson – 2nd Vice President
Ronald Beattie - Treasurer
Gretchen Oldrin Mones - Secretary
Sarah Anker - Trustee
Donald McKay - Trustee
Daniel Olivieri - Trustee
Arthur M. Sillman, Jr. - Trustee
Lynn Dwyer - Trustee
Thomas D. Glascock - Trustee
Dr. Steven Gittelman - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
Lorraine Vernola - Staff
Peter Newman - Staff
Tim Donaldson - Staff
Randy Lang - Staff
Lance Reinheimer – Budget Review Office
Stephanie Gress - Staff
Ed Luber - Guest
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Excused Absence:

Michael DeLuise – 1st Vice President

Absent:

Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee

(Mr. Noel Gish called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

I'd like to welcome everybody to the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees meeting for August. I'd ask you to stand for a Pledge to the flag, please.

(Salute to the Flag)

MR. GISH:

Do we have a list of guests in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

MR. GISH:

Can I have a motion to accept the minutes from the July meeting?

MR. SILLMAN:

Motion.

MS. DWYER:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Not Present: Ms. Anker, Mr. Glascock & Mr. Swinson. Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Dr. Pecorale. One vacant position.)**

Do any members of the Suffolk County Oversight Committee have any comments or criticisms?

I am going to give you the report on the Director. I spoke to Carol today. She is at her mother's house in Farmingdale where she went after she was released from the hospital, North Shore in Manhasset. She is doing fine, at least our conversation was good. She is a little bit behind on where she wanted to be at this stage in the game. She has to go to the doctor next week. When she reports to that doctor, then she will probably have some discussion about when she will be back. But she is doing well. I went through her mother today, rather than calling her directly in case she was sleeping or something. I got her mother's permission, so I was able to talk to Carol. She seems to be doing well. She sends her best to all of you. I told her we all wish her a quick recovery.

I will now open the meeting to any public comments. Does anybody in the audience want to address the Board? If so, this is the time to do so. Anybody?

I will tell you that I did receive a number of phone calls from individuals concerning the cell tower issue. I asked if they wanted to attend tonight's meeting to address the Board. One individual, I believe his name was Bill Walters who lives on Idle Day Drive, expressed some concerns about the building of the cell tower. I mentioned, as I will later on, that we are still in the preliminary stages of that. In fact, at this stage of the game we're moving backwards not forward. I told him he had the opportunity to come to the next meeting.

Committee reports, Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

The Education and Exhibits Committee has not met yet this month, but there are a few things going on that I will make you aware of. Over 500 gala invitations went out to members, people we do business with, Legislators and people who have attended other events. Carol designed the invitation, and Stephanie reproduced it in-house. We were happily able to get a bulk rate for the most part for those sent out.

Stephanie has also received the citation that we talked previously about for our organ. So that's another thing to celebrate soon.

Staff has been very busy working on summer camps, the summer programs and also helping to produce this unbelievably wonderful brochure, which I will pass around.

We'd like to give a special thanks to Tom Curran and company for making this happen and for all of his time and expertise that he volunteered for this. Let me pass this brochure around. I only have one copy.

MR. BEATTIE:

That's a proof.

MR. GISH:

And that was reviewed by the staff. We actually remarkably didn't have a brochure this year, and then at the very end we had two brochures completed. We made a choice, and this is the brochure that

will go out to the schools. It will also go out to PTAs and BOCES to see if we can increase student participation in 2009/2010 as we sort of move through the school year. But I think those of you who take a peek at it will see that it has a nice look. I think it will attract attention by some educators looking at the programs that are there.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Thanks also to Ron for knowing Tom and bringing him in on this and for all the time that you spent.

MR. GISH:

Finance Committee, we're going to sort of bypass that. Just to give you an update, Michael DeLuise has had some significant eye surgery. He had some cataracts removed, and it looks like that was a problem for him. He has a tear in his retina. He has been in for two surgeries relatively quickly. We hope he recovers very quickly also.

Ron, the Finance Committee.

MR. BEATTIE:

Everybody has a copy of the Treasurer's Report in their folders, if you'd like to review that. The only thing notable that I think we can mention is that the numbers seem to be a lot better than we had really budgeted. It seems our admissions are up. I wish Barbara was here to give a little more insight, but we've been able to ask for less from the County, knowing full well that September is one of our toughest months. That's all I really have to report.

MR. GISH:

Development, Ron.

MR. BEATTIE:

On the Development side I put together an almost finished – and I will split them up – set of forms for doing the bricks. Steve, I have to apologize, I completely forgot about the brick that you wanted me to get for Emily. I will work on that this week.

This form has two sides to it. I'd like to run that also by Tom Curran because I'm obviously not a designer. One is for bricks and the other one is for benches. If we can get that into the kiosk in front and start pushing those like we push the stars, hopefully we'll start raising money on bricks and benches relatively soon.

The reimaging, as was previously mentioned, Tom Curran did the Education Brochure, which was the priority, mostly because of the timing of it, not to mention the fact that it is one of our bigger revenue producers.

The next thing that we will start to work on is the general brochure. We haven't had a Development Meeting in the last month, but one of the things that I think we should take a look at – I know we did priorities – is moving the website up in front of the general brochure. I think that's something that is a little bit dated. It's not a bad website, but it's a little bit dated, and I think we can do a lot more to raise funds that way.

MR. GISH:

I think the bricks and the benches will be very shortly moved on to the website also so that people can make contributions that way.

MR. BEATTIE:

And not do it through another organization, to collect the funds directly.

MR. GISH:

No, we would do it on our own.

MR. BEATTIE:

One other thing that I started to work on almost accidentally is that at the last meeting the very next day I had to go to Nashville, and I mentioned that to Carol. She told me that they had a Goto projector in Nashville and asked me to go take a look at it. I noticed a couple of things when I was there. The most important is this whole thing that we keep talking about – the visitor experience and improving the visitor experience. I took some very bad pictures, cell phone pictures, in bad light situations, but I think you will get the general idea. I'll just pass those along.

One of the things that we don't do here, and I saw as soon as I came into the Nashville Children's Museum, which has a planetarium attached to it, is that they have a sign above the information kiosk that says, "Ask us about membership." That's something that we don't do here. In order to increase membership I think that we should probably consider having a sign hanging over the kiosk over there so that we don't have to depend on anybody coming in and trying to make that point.

The other sign that I saw there was a sponsorship board. We might not be able to get it or it might be more difficult to get someone to put their name on the planetarium in terms of the cost, but if we have a board of recognition to people who have donated in some kind of sponsorship and recognize them somewhere here, that would be great.

This is another picture. It's not a great picture, but I hope you can make that out.

(Mr. Glascock entered the meeting at 6:25 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

Cell tower, very quickly. I think I may have mentioned this to a number of you in the past. The number of people I have been talking to with the County dealing with the cell tower has changed radically. My first contact way back when was Kelly Kozikowski. She was maneuvered and is now in the Department of Labor, I believe, with the County. I was then given to Gary Ponzo, Director of Communications. Gary Ponzo has since left his position. Now Gary Quinn is my contact person with the County dealing with the cell tower.

In conversation with a number of people in the Oversight Committee, I have been advised that I probably should have just at this stage of the game rather than working through T Mobile, who has been my contact right along, that I should put out an RFP relatively quickly and open it up to both Verizon and T Mobile, since the person who told me to go to T Mobile is no longer with the County. I think it would eliminate any concerns that people might have that I have something in with T Mobile. We will put out an RFP and get an answer to the RFP and then we will move quickly on it after that.

(Ms. Anker entered the meeting at 6:27 p.m.)

MR. OLIVIERI:

Are the RFPs just going to be for those two?

MR. GISH:

No, it will be open to anyone, but right now the only – I'm going to open it up to AT&T, Sprint, Verizon – whoever, but the only two that seem to be doing construction in Suffolk County seem to be Verizon and T Mobile. I'm sure those will be the only ones that respond. But Verizon has gotten in touch with me and asked me why they were out of the loop and so on and so forth down the line. To put them back in the loop, we'll get the best deal obviously from both of those, if, in

fact, we put them in the competitive mode. We're going to operate on that very, very quickly.

We have a couple of RFP returns on our catering. I would like to get a group of Trustees together to oversee and to look at the catering RFPs that have come in. I think we have three of them, if I remember correctly. But I would like to act on that and at least figure out where we're going to go with the catering when it is from the sublime to the ridiculous -- one where more tents are going to be put up on the property and we'd lose the bottom floor of Normandy for their business offices. There would be a luxury port-a-potty placed on the property down from the marine museum to someone willing to come in and do sandwiches and cookies from the Planetarium. We have one end to the other.

I would like to at least be able to go to the County Oversight Committee and let them know that we have reviewed the RFPs on the catering and reached some conclusion on that.

It's the same thing with the development position. We have received a couple -- I believe only two.

MS. DWYER:

We put out four, and I think we got two back.

MR. GISH:

And I spoke to Carol about that, and she could not remember directly, but I think it was two back the last time I checked with her. I would like to at least review those. I'd like to get a committee to review the RFPs on the development position, I would like to do that to have that out and going by September. If anybody is interested in being on the Development Committee or at least reviewing that RFP, please see me. Anybody wishing to review the catering please see me also. Any questions on either of those two?

MR. BEATTIE:

Do you think the Development Committee should be the committee that would review the --

MR. GISH:

If Ron and Lynn would like to be on that committee, that would be great. I just didn't want to force you to do that.

MR. BEATTIE:

Gretchen is on the Development Committee, also.

MR. GISH:

So am I. So it will be the same characters.

MR. OLIVIERI:

For the RFP, is this a contingency type of situation or is this going to be something else?

MR. GISH:

I believe it is relatively short-term. I think it was 18 months. It was not contingent on them bringing in anything. It wasn't like a percentage deal.

MS. DWYER:

That's not standard practice associated with hiring development consultants. You can't pay them on a contingency basis.

MR. GISH:

I think there's an ethical issue dealing with museums on that, also. I think AMA –

MR. OLIVIERI:

You know my next question is, of course, the funding for it.

MR. GISH:

Well, believe it or not, we have run that past the Oversight Committee. I was advised to put it in my monthly request for the money, and that would cover September, October, November and December, which is when they're going to fund us right straight through until the beginning of 2010. At least that will give us a jump-start. But I think we have to do that. That's a direction I think we have to go and see what comes out and what develops.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I don't disagree with you. I was just asking questions. I don't want us to get into a situation where we sign the contract, and then we don't have funding after four or five months. Then what do we do? Looking at our finances, the numbers – okay, look we have work to do.

MR. GISH:

We're going to give it a shot. We're going to try to work it. My meeting yesterday at the County Center in Riverhead I pushed for the

hotel/motel tax with them again. I believe that might be able to come through the first of the year and give us a little bit of a cushion. I hope that our fall drive or corporate sponsors might come through and give us a little bit of a cushion for operating expenses.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I was just asking. I understand.

MR. GISH:

I'm just letting you know that I thought about it. I think if we don't start with a development person, we're never going to do it. If we think we can't pay them, let's get to a point where we can, and let's think we can. Any other questions on that?

MR. BEATTIE:

My apologies, Sarah is also on my committee.

MS. ANKER:

Can I ask a question regarding the hotel/motel tax?

MR. GISH:

Sure.

MS. ANKER:

That was signed by the State in July, and it's been approved by the County.

MR. GISH:

The County has only had a public hearing, which was yesterday. I believe now it goes into committee. I addressed the Legislature yesterday at approximately nine-thirty. I told them our position and asked them to consider IR 1614. I believe that was the number. It's going to be in committee. It will be voted out of committee, and then it will probably come up for a full vote in September. We are on the record as supporting it.

MR. McKay:

What's there for the Legislators to consider? Are there parameters from Albany where this money is supposed to be earmarked, or is that they're going to get a pot of money and give it to the Suffolk County Legislators?

MR. GISH:

It will be divvied up, but obviously there was an issue yesterday relating to those motel owners who felt that another tax would curtail the already drop in revenue they have seen out on the east end. After I spoke, what I gathered from Lance was that there were a number of people who were relatively vocal in the afternoon as opposed to the tax. That will have to be bounced out in committee. We're going to get a percentage of the hotel/motel tax – I'm sure not all of it. Lance?

MR. REINHEIMER:

The State legislation provided for \$750,000 for the museum. It doesn't name the museum specifically, but it defines the situation as such that it's the Vanderbilt Museum. If things go as they look right now, and if the bill is adopted in September, probably December 1 would be the increase in the hotel/motel tax, at least by December or the beginning of January. It looks like it's on schedule.

What we're doing is we're adopting the state legislation. This enables us to increase it. Now we're taking the legislative action to formally increase the hotel/motel tax to 3 percent.

MR. GISH:

The Oversight Committee was aware that we were putting that into our budget for 2010. It sort of extrapolated what we thought we might be able to get from the endowment and what would come from the motel/hotel tax in an effort to get us to the fall of 2010 when we expect to have the planetarium on line.

MS. ANKER:

I put a call into Assemblyman Steve Englebright, and I spoke to his assistant. She was explaining to me basically he spearheaded, from what I heard, the legislation with the State. I think originally he had stated in the legislation the Vanderbilt Museum and the Walt Whitman Museum and then it had to get reworded. There is a lot of support in the State with this museum.

MR GISH:

In one of the emails that I had sent to you, I think the Board moved very, very well in notifying their particular Assembly people and New York State Senate people to vote for it. I think that was one of the few things that the Senate actually got through. I did receive feedback from my Assemblyman who was not in favor of it, but that was the one favor I was able to call in.

MR. MCKAY:

Now we need to lobby our County lawmakers.

MR. GISH:

Yes, now it's in the hands of the County, correct.

MS. ANKER:

Do you think there will be a problem in that vote?

MR. GISH:

I don't want to speculate. I have made my case a number of different ways telling them it would be a way in which we could transition into what they wanted us to be, self sustaining. They have the power. They have all gotten an invitation to our September 12 gala. So when they come, we can give them an earful at that stage of the game.

For those of you who were not looking at me during any time of the meeting, the View Space that you took a peek at and that Art was concerned about not appearing in any way, shape or form, that his money would somehow vanish and become part of the bumper of my car, is now operating behind us. Dave completed the operation, as you can see. Those of you who watched it last time, it was a little fuzzy. There was an S-cable that needed to be completed. This is now sort of a link to NASA.

We get these updates about every seven to ten minutes. There is a new program that is running. If anybody at the end of the meeting takes a peek, these are the benches that have now been moved into the facility. We can move these benches in front of us here. When I was in this week, there were a whole bunch of kids just laying on the benches watching the View Space. I know it sounds odd, but this is a great educational tool because the attention span is about seven to ten minutes for the kids to come in here.

That's when this program changes. It does everything on weather. It does things on glaciers. It does things on planets. It's an excellent resource. For those of you who were here earlier, you heard the musical background that sort of accompanies this, but there are actually words that go with this that we hook up and they actually come through with an audio sequence also. I'd like to thank Dave for getting that done. He's not here, but he was responsible for making all the changes.

I also wanted you to take note, and as you sort of sashay out the door, I want you to look to the left outside the planetarium. There is a new open space that we have that's been opened up to the public. Those of you who remember we had a wonderful wall that sort of was outside. That has since been changed. Peter and Tim Donaldson, he's going to raise his hand in the back. Tim has been with us for 22 years here at the Vanderbilt Museum. Has anybody been here 22 years? So Tim wins in the length of service that he has been here. He has never been to an evening Trustees meeting.

Tim and Peter did a great job in taking out the old fence, maneuvering the little sucker, and now making it a great eating spot for kids. We're going to put up some tables in that area to the side. They are going to be round tables. Peter has already picked up some cement benches. Kids will be able to come here and with good weather go outside and sit around the tables.

The suggestion was to make the tables round. With that in mind, Peter picked up some round benches, and we're going to make the tables into planets, so kids will sit around planets and have something to eat in that area that was not open to the public and is now very much usable space. I would like to thank Tim and Peter for their efforts in doing some projects that I just make a suggestion, and they go ahead and get it done. They put five gallons of paint on the fence today, and it was a great effort.

Very quickly, I want to report on the Alex Torres concert on August 8. Sadly Matt is not here. Matt attended that along with Don, who moved quickly behind the alcohol table. He was willing to work the entire night and help us out. It was an absolutely spectacular concert, and I'd like to thank Barbara who has since left. She handled that from PR 1, to the letters going out, to arranging for Alex Torres to be here for the promotional detail. The entire staff was here that evening. So for the Trustees who didn't make it, it was a spectacular night from beginning to end because the staff showed up in support for Barbara's efforts. I think that's what made it great. They have done that now for three years. Every year it has gotten better. Barbara will be doing nine of the events that I have assigned here this year coming up.

MR. BEATTIE:

I don't know if Barbara mentioned to you, but she gave me a call the other day and she had a surprise late sponsorship for that event and actually raised another \$500 just this week.

MR. GISH:

Yes, that just came in. Somebody who wanted to sponsor it forgot to send in the money, and then sent it in. It actually was very productive. Again, Don showed up for the Rotary Wine Tasting event that was on August 8, along with Sarah. We did some on-spot observations as to how the Rotary runs a large function. I believe there were about 650 people who attended at \$100 a throw. It is a major Rotary function, very well publicized. It ran very well with a lot of security. There was great entertainment. I think there were five or six bands playing in different venues from the courtyard to each individual tent. We took a look and saw the possibilities of us doing something similar to that. Art is going to run that one. It's going to be Oktoberfest. Art, you have a month to work on that.

MR. SILLMAN:

I will actually be in Oktoberfest in Munich that week.

MR. GISH:

That's your excuse, and it's a good one. But we're going to attempt to try and do something similar to that probably in 2010. We are not going to take away from what the Rotary does. They are a good organization. They have been here, and I think that's fine. We're going to stay away from the wine night, but I think the logistics of that opens up a lot of doors for us for a fundraiser, maybe not at \$100 a ticket but one of significant amount that we might be able to raise.

We have the September 12 gala, the reopening of the Habitat Wing. Stephanie has been working very hard since Carol has gone into the hospital. She got out all of the invitations. Those of you who have not seen them, they are kicking around. You probably should have gotten them in the proverbial mail. They were very nicely done. I believe about 500 of them have gone out. All of the Legislators have gotten theirs, so make sure you put September 12 on your list. If you can support us by maybe selling a few chances, that would be great. Tickets would be great. If you can support and attend on your own, that would be great, too.

MS. ANKER:

Can I ask you a question? Is there a raffle? Is there an additional fundraising type of effort?

MR. GISH:

The staff is putting together some baskets that will be raffled off that evening. So if you have a restaurant that's willing to donate \$50 or if you have a florist that is willing to donate, please feel free to do so.

We're going to try to have those available here. I believe Lorraine spoke to me about going out and doing that for that evening.

We have the music. Music is arranged. Catering has been arranged. The invitations are out. We are pretty well set. We will need tables, tablecloths, candles, and things, but I think it will be a spectacular evening. I believe the Legislature should show up, and I think we should be there in great numbers. I think this is a great thing.

The "Saving America's Treasures" was a great grant. Stephanie completed it on time. I think you already know from our last one that we invited Hillary, the Secretary of State.

MS. GRESS:

They called, and she can't come, unfortunately. But she was invited.

MR. GISH:

September 12, please put that on your calendar. Tom.

MR. GLASCOCK:

I just want to apologize for being late. I had twenty miles of bumper to bumper traffic from Uniondale. I actually have to leave now because my four-year-old daughter has a singing concert that starts at seven o'clock. My apologies. If you could add me to the list of people for the Development and also the Catering Hall, I would very much appreciate that.

MR. GISH:

Tom, you got it.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Again, my apologies for rushing in late and rushing out of here.

MR. GISH:

Those of you sitting here now have this in your possession. It's the Vanderbilt Museum Harvest Moon Celebration of Science and Song. This should be brand new to you because I've just gotten involved with this. I'm going to go out on a limb and try and do something for October 3. It was a date that we had open. I have been in touch with a promoter. We are going to try and do two shows in the planetarium, two movies showing volcanoes of the deep sea. It's done by Dr. Richard Lutx of Rutgers University. He is going to appear that night and do a pre-movie introduction and will stay for questions about the movie afterwards. The movie is a limited release.

I have spoken to Dave. Dave thinks we can put this movie on the dome. This is a movie that was done with the Alvin, which is the same deep sea explorer that did the Titanic. So there is a neat little connection. Since this is a nice earth science routine here, I think this works very, very nicely into what we do as far as education.

We will have two shows, four and six o'clock. It will be \$15 for each show. We can only sell a limited number of tickets, 230 seats for the four o'clock and 230 for the six o'clock. Then at seven thirty we're going to have a concert with Mary Fahl. Mary Fahl is the person that is in that, also. You can read about her. I have listened to her music. She is on Sony Records. She will perform in the courtyard that evening.

Again, working with a promoter, we are trying to get a number of people who are interested in classical music. We are trying to work on sponsors for that night. We're going to see how that goes. I was just impressed by what happened at Alex Torres Night, to be very honest with you. When I saw the opportunity of being able to do this, and it was very quick, we're going to try to do it on-line at ticket sales. The maximum number of tickets for the courtyard will be about 240. We don't want to run across any fire marshal problems. Since it's not going to be a dancing situation, and Peter and Tim don't have to put out the dance floor, we should be able to jam a few more people in there in chairs. It will be a classical concert performance. It may not go over as big as Alex Torres, but let's give it a try and see what we can do. It might be a good way to raise a little bit of money.

MS. ANKER:

I'd like to suggest, as far as the target of people who may be interested in this -- science clubs, the Science Departments for Stony Brook.

MR. GISH:

We're going to try to have these ready to go out with the educational brochure. So it should be a month away. We're hoping that we might be able to attract students who might want to come and do extra credit. They can come to the showing of the film, "Volcanoes in the Deep Sea." If they keep their ticket stubs, their teachers may give them extra credit. We will offer that as an opportunity for students.

MS. ANKER:

I know the planetarium directors that meet here for their monthly meeting, a lot of them are involved in high schools. Maybe it's something where we can shoot them an email and see if the kids will—

MR. GISH:

The Astronomy Club, that's a possibility.

MS. ANKER:

It's another target audience.

MR. GISH:

Yes, we should do that.

MS. ANKER:

I think the previous shows there was a huge following for that type of dancing and music. I think we were able to target those people to bring them in. Now I think we need to kind of find out where the next target is.

MR. GISH:

We're actually working with a violin shop in Huntington. He's going to allow us to use his mailing list, which is quite extensive. We should be able to get some people interested in classical. Plus we're going to have this on the web site. Since it's out early enough we're hoping to get it to *Newsday*. I think this is pretty enough as a PR piece of material that it might attract people into it. Again, we're prominent enough. We hope to be able to click that up and be able to buy tickets on line through our website. We will have printed tickets also.

MS. ANKER:

Who is directing this project?

MR. GISH:

I have the promoter, but I will give you the name afterwards.

MS. ANKER:

So that I can give them my information.

MR. GISH:

Any questions on that? That's October 3, so if you're doing nothing that night, come in and listen to a concert by Mary Fall. I believe that will be before Art goes to the Octoberfest.

Veterans Day Celebration, I'd like to do something for Veterans Day. I will tell you that this is not going to be a money making operation. Veterans Day is November 11. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918 was the end of World War I. It was Veterans Day. It was Armistice Day until World War II, when it became Veterans Day. I don't think we should do that Wednesday. The schools are closed. We normally have good attendance on that day here when the schools are closed. The veterans will be marching in most of the parades in the surrounding communities. If we did something on November 7 or 8, a Saturday or Sunday, open up the institution to a veteran. The veterans get in free.

We could have a display of Vanderbilt's Alva that he donated to the military and what was happening at the Vanderbilt during World War II. We could have a Red Cross cantina and give out coffee and donuts. I would like to drag in Dunkin Donuts to the guys coming here. Hopefully the veterans will come in with their families. They get in for free, but we'd be able to charge the family member – that's not the effort there, but free admission for veterans.

Hopefully we can get some sponsors to come in and maybe give out flag pins, maybe have the marine corps color guard, maybe a marine corps band. John Phillip Sousa, who did the Sousa marches, lived in Manhasset here on Long Island. If we could get people to do little concerts, I think it would be nice. I think we could open it up to tours of the mansion and talk about what was happening. I think that would fit us very, very nicely.

We could get a DJ. The tent would still be open. I'm going to try to push to stay opened until November 7 or 8. If we had a DJ playing Glenn Miller or Tommy Dorsey music, that would be great, music from the World War II period. I thought that would be nice. I think we can make it a nice feeling of a nice day. It's not going to be a big money maker, but I think Veterans Day would be a good way just for the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum to just do something on that weekend. Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

A couple of things that are a little close to home is that Vanderbilt's father was the secret financier of the Lafayette Astrodome. Those were the Americans that went over with their planes in support of the French. He was a patriot. He also started a movie production studio that filmed World War I, provided the first real footage of the front and played it here and all around the world – his own studio. Willie K.'s

stepmother, his father's wife, also received the French {inaudible} – a famous and well known nurse working on the front. His sister was also caught in a crossfire and has told many stories about acting as a nurse. The whole family was involved.

MR. GISH:

We could actually use, as Steve is pointing out -- our institution could show our role or the Vanderbilt's role in World War I and II. I think that would be just neat.

MS. ANKER:

Sounds like a nice presentation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are a lot of flying clubs that might have some planes that might come over. There are a lot of children's things you can do with that kind of beautiful history. And there's a book out on it also, and it mentions Vanderbilt.

MR. GISH:

There is a possibility, and I'm not going to give you who and when because it may not come about, but if we do this with enough notice, it's quite possible the Coast Guard will provide us with a cutter for the harbor to be moored out there, and we could take little shuttle boats out there if kids were in the immediate area. We would have to give them enough notice. It would not be on Veterans Day. It would be on the weekend, but it would be a nice ancillary item for Veterans Day and the event here. Again, not Saturday and Sunday but Saturday or Sunday. I will speak to Stephanie and the staff to see what day would be most appropriate. But I do think that would be neat for us to go out and do that. I don't think we have ever done that before, but I think it would be –

MR. MCKAY:

Veterans Day you always look in the past, but we might also want to look to the present, which is honoring our veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and allow them free admission. There are so many Suffolk County families that have soldiers and children overseas. We could honor them. What's that flag they have with the star on it --

MR. GISH

That's a great idea. If you've got a son overseas it was in the window. There were the Gold Star Mothers during World War II.

MS. ANKER:

So could we say in addition to the veterans, we could also have the Gold Star members?

MR. GISH:

If the family of a veteran serving overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan, if you're in harm's way, we would cover you also. I think that would be fine. That's a great idea. We shouldn't just hang around the past. But I think if we can do that, we can add Vietnam vets, Korean War vets, whatever it happens to be down the line.

MR. SILLMAN:

You might want to contact the local VFWs. Those guys know how to get in touch with –

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are some wonderful stories about Willie himself regarding his desire to serve, how he was rejected and how when he finally got served. There are stories of how he was Senior Vice President of the New York Central Rail Road, had to do some desk work, was rejected by his captain and had to stay on his boat. There is some great stuff about him and how it impacted on his whole life.

MR. GISH:

I think we have enough time for those stories to be out and for us to get them in a sort of neat educational format. Maybe we can sort of put this together, that would be a great day. We could bring it up current. I really like that idea, too.

MS. ANKER:

Who is directing this event, so we know who to go to?

MR. GISH:

Well--

MR. MCKAY:

I can help out with this.

MR. GISH:

That's great. Very, very quickly, the star projector schedule, I gave that to you here so everybody knows where we are headed. We have a very tight timeline for the star projector, but it is scheduled. Suffolk County agreed to this and that it is aggressive.

We should be at certain points on down the line with the opening date of October of 2010. October 2010 will allow us to field the new kids programs coming in October. We have very little in September because you're just getting back to school and the teachers are just going through the test schedules. But October the kids start coming to the Vanderbilt. We are open in October and the planetarium is functioning. We should be really able to augment our revenue for 2010 through October, November and December of that year. Just so that you have a copy of that, and you'll know where we are.

I'd like to get the Board's permission to work on some personnel changes and some responsibilities redefined among the staff. Why I'm asking for that permission is that we have this timeline. The timeline puts us in operation October 2010. I would like to secure positions of people who are on the staff now to make sure they are here in October 2010. I do not want tech people who are necessary to be trained by whoever comes in, whether it's Zeiss or Goto or Cannon/Minolta, whichever star projector we get. There must be competent people here at the planetarium and on-line and in the administration to guarantee that we have some people here for that time period.

I would like a motion from the Board for me to pursue personnel changes and responsibilities redefined among the staff to make sure that for the next two years we have those people in position so that there is no shifting or no loss of the staff. We're down to 11. If we lose the tech guy in the planetarium, or if we lose the Director, that's going to be crucial at this stage of the game. I would like a motion to support my efforts to try to make that happen.

MR. MCKAY:

I don't understand.

MR. GISH:

I would like to get the people who are here to stay. In some way, shape or form I would like to negotiate with the individuals who I think are necessary both at the planetarium and at the Vanderbilt to make sure that they are going to be around when the star projector comes on line. I don't want a loss of staff at this stage of the game.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Isn't that normally the task of the Executive Director?

MR. GISH:

Not if the Executive Director does not have a contract. That may be part of what I'm attempting to do here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Then why don't you give the Executive Director a contract?

MR. GISH:

Well –

MS. DWYER:

We really should be dealing with this in executive session.

MR. GISH:

I was doing this very, very carefully, but what I would like to do is to move to secure positions in the institution that will keep people here past the opening of the planetarium. That's the aim. I will advise the Board of my progress.

DR. ROGERS:

Are these new people?

MR. GISH:

No, these are people who are here.

DR. ROGERS:

Have you spoken to them about it?

MR. GISH:

In generalities but not in specifics.

DR. ROGERS:

Are they willing to participate in this?

MR. GISH:

I wanted to get some permission from the Board before I pursued that.

DR. ROGERS:

What type of permission do you need? Financial permission?

MR. GISH:

No, I will come to you if there is a financial consideration or a financial concern and tell you about that. But that might be one thing that will impact decisions.

DR. ROGERS:

I don't see where the Board has to get involved in that. I think there is a –

MR. GISH:

Just pursue that action, is what you're saying? That it's not a necessity for me to bring that to a motion?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm confused. I really am. The Executive Director deals with the staff.

MR. MCKAY:

But you work with the Executive Director.

MR. GISH:

Right, there will be no personnel changes and no personnel responsibilities redefined unless Carol agrees.

MR. MCKAY:

You're speaking in generalities. I'm kind of new so I don't really know all the players and employees yet, but in generalities it could be a positive thing. If you're going to give them more responsibility or if the job is more appealing to them, it will give them more reason to stay here. Basically from what I've seen, and I wanted to say this before with the fundraiser, in the short time that I have been here is that what I have seen with the staff is that they are going above and beyond the call of duty. They are the most dedicated employees. They are working hours and events that they're not even being compensated for. But the dedication that they have – they are really holding this place together. I think the objective there by redefining their duties and making it more appealing for them to stay here is a win/win.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't wish it to sound like I object to the objective. I totally encourage the objective. It just seems like you're going around the Executive Director.

MR. GISH:

No, I'm not. I am not going around the Executive Director.

MR. SILLMAN:

I understand your intent, but I don't understand what method would be used to ensure an employee would stay. Or can't we talk about this in session.

MR. GISH:

The aim was that, number one, we have staff that's here. It creates somewhat of a problem for me in a public forum to talk about it. But there would be nothing that I would do that would not come back to you in some way, shape or form.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Why don't we go into executive session if you're uncomfortable?

MR. GISH:

Okay, do we have a motion to go into executive session?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MR. BEATTIE:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 11/0/0/4 Not Present: Mr. Glascock. Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Dr. Pecorale. One vacant position.)**

(Executive session 7:05 – 7:25 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

We are back in session. I'd like to remind everyone that I would like to make a real concerted effort among the Trustees for a fall membership drive, a corporate drive. Initially Lynn and I called everyone to ask whether you had contacts that we could explore for the fall. The County will, in fact, terminate their funds to us in December of 2009. Everyone is aware of that. The letter just went out from Jon Cooper's office delineating that. We are going to have to come up with some funds.

Lynn initially had thought that \$100,000 was a reasonable amount of money that we should be able to raise on our own. I would like to do a little better than that. Those of you who have been talking to me about contacts on the Island, and I'm not going to go public with the contacts at this meeting, so if they have them, we can discuss them later. We have to start in September. I am aiming to make those contacts in September so that we have money available in 2010. If you have a strategy or you have people, a law group, a corporation, a contact -- if you're not willing to go on your own, I will be willing to go with you. But we need to have the contacts available to see what we can do for those corporate sponsorships and philanthropic efforts.

Stephanie has made efforts on grants. We would be better off getting grants if, in fact, we could supply some outside support. If you have those, please email me. Please come and see me. I will go with you. What do we need? Do we need a brochure to hand to them? What will we need to go and get corporate sponsors for 2010/2011?

I would like to look for a long-term contract also. I'd like you to think about sponsorships for the planetarium. Do we have anyone that would be willing to give us significant amounts of money over a three or four year period to sponsor the planetarium or to put a new rug in? We're going to have the star projector coming in. This rug needs to be replaced. I think we are done painting this rug. Yes, we paint this rug. We need a new rug, and we need new chairs in that planetarium. We need either the seats refurbished or we need new seats. A corporation coming in and doing that would be fine. We can give them that sponsorship that Ron talked about on the wall or before any planetarium show Dave says that we can flash up a slide that will give the contributions of this major sponsor who made this planetarium possible.

Those are all up for your discussion, but we have to move on it. We have been sitting for a while and doing the things we should do to keep us afloat but we now have to get down and bite the bullet and go meet some of those corporate sponsors.

MS. ANKER:

Do we have the sales material ready to go?

MR. BEATTIE:

I forget where it is on the priority list, but it has to be up there.

MR. GISH:

I have to be honest with you. We worked on the Education brochure to get that out first. I thought that was essential to get the kids in. We didn't have one last year. We need those kids coming in every single day. If we can increase the membership, we can show the County that we're doing what we said we'd do. That's the cash flow thing that Lynn talked about initially.

MS. ANKER:

Bringing in the 60,000 kids, where does that money come from? Does it come from a grant from the State?

MR. GISH:

No, that's individual schools. They supply that with field trip money.

MS. ANKER:

A lot of them – most of them are funded through the Eastern Suffolk BOCES.

MR. GISH:

That is correct. Yes, some of them are funded through Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Some of the kids that come here are funded through PTAs.

MS. ANKER:

Could you find out who the contact person is at Eastern Suffolk because that's where I'm employed, and I will reach out to them and see if there is more we can do to try to attract more school districts because it seems like even with the district, that's quite a –

MR. GISH:

I intend on doing it in Suffolk and Nassau County also. We're going to do Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Western Suffolk, and Nassau County School Districts. Matt said he's going to deal with the whole north shore, Pt. Washington, Manhasset area.

MR. SWINSON:

I can take that on.

MR. GISH:

If you have any other ideas for getting the information out to PTAs, PTAs a lot of times will support field trips. We can do it that way. And we can just drop a lot of these brochures off. We have a number of them. We can drop them off at BOCES and leave them on the table.

Let people coming into BOCES pick them up. If you have any other venues you think we can hit, I will do that also.

MS. ANKER:

I just want to throw out a name, Susan Lippman. She is the President. She is a former West Islip PTA President and resident. She is the President of the New York State PTA.

MR. GISH:

Okay, that's terrific. Do you happen to know her?

MS. ANKER:

I do.

MR. GISH:

If you would make the contact, we can go together.

MS. ANKER:

Absolutely.

MR. GISH:

Any old business? Bill.

DR. ROGERS:

Initially I made a pledge to this museum on under certain conditions. That was for the dinosaur society. It would be that the County would put up the bricks and mortar, and I would furnish the dollars necessary to outfit the interior. That has not happened.

Also, subsequently, because the museum had gotten into some difficulty financially they asked me if they could borrow money from that fund, and they would repay it. I haven't gotten an account from the County of how much money had been borrowed. I haven't gotten any ideas back from when it was going to be repaid and how it was going to be repaid.

I would like the Board to be aware at this point that it's the responsibility of this Board and the Officers of this Board to make that accounting available.

MR. GISH:

Okay, could I ask some specifics? What was the amount of money you gave to the County?

DR. ROGERS:

I pledged \$1 million.

MR. GISH:

Did the County get any of the money from you?

DR. ROGERS:

I don't remember how much right now, but the County got maybe \$300,000 or \$400,000 – not the County, but the museum did. That money has been used for other purposes when it shouldn't have been. The idea was that it would be used and then returned. It's been used, and it hasn't been returned. I'm still left with the balance of my pledge, which I am considering negating because I haven't seen any good results. I don't even know what this money has been used for.

MR. GISH:

And approximately how long ago was the \$300,000 given? I've been on since October 2008, so you're going to have to give me a little bit of history on this.

DR. ROGERS:

This has probably been over the past five years – ever since I've been on the Board.

MR. GISH:

I will do the best I possibly can to research that and get back to you on that.

Any other old business? Oh, yes. I should do this under new business. The audit firm, ABZ is in operation now. Some of you may have gotten a letter from ABZ concerning your knowledge of any fiscal malfeasance. I had to answer some questions concerning that. They promise to be done by September. They were in three days last week, and they are in from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They were in tonight. There was one fellow working in Normandy Manor. When I was in this morning at 8 a.m. he was here, and when I came in this evening at 4:30 he was there. The auditors are working. They promise to be done by September. We should be on track for the audit.

MR. OLIVIERI:

What audit firm is that?

MR. GISH:

ABZ. They seem to be very competent individuals. Any other questions? Motion to adjourn?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Motion.

MR. BEATTIE:

Second.

MR. GISH:

(Vote: 11/0/0/4 Not Present: Mr. Glascock. Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Dr. Pecorale. One vacant position.)

(Mr. Gish adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)

NG:ap

Attachments

Agenda

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium
Board of Trustees
August 19, 2009

Pledge to Flag

Introduction of Guests

Suffolk County Oversight Committee—Comments/ Concerns

Report on the Director

Public Comments

Committee Reports

- 1- Education-Gretchen Oldrin-Mones
- 2- Finance-Michael DeLuise
- 3- Development-Ron Beattie/ Lynn Dwyer
- 4- Building /Grounds/infrastructure- Ron Beattie
- 5- Public Relations- Sarah Anker
- 6- Cell tower- Noel Gish
- 7- RFP review of Catering-need committee
- 8- RFP review of Development position-need committee

Presidents Report

- 1- View Space—complete thanks to Dave Bush
- 2- New open space-thanks Tim Donaldson and Peter Newman
- 3- Alex Torres 8-8-09—Report---thanks to Barbara Oster and our staff
- 4- Rotary Wine Tasting--- report-8-13-09
- 5- September 12 Gala- REOPENING OF THE HABITAT WING-----need your help ---support and attendance
- 6- Oct 3-Harvest Moon celebration of Sea and Song
Two showings of “Volcanoes of the Deep Sea”
Concert in the Courtyard- Ms. Mary Fahl
- 7- Veteran’s Day celebration-November 7? 8? Wednesday 11?
- 8- Star projector schedule
- 9- Personnel changes--responsibilities redefined.
- 10- Fall membership-corporate drive for support for 2010

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
TREASURER REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2009**

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Project	Business	Dollar
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year End	Plan	Variance	
REVENUE																
EARNED INCOME																
Admissions	37,753	59,540	48,355	66,987	55,282	41,264	73,500	74,500	35,500	49,500	55,500	34,500	632,181	700,000	(67,819)	
Membership	2,180	4,892	668	1,375	375	885	3,333	3,333	3,333	3,333	3,333	3,337	30,377	40,000	(9,623)	
Museum Store	1,646	5,528	4,738	4,344	8,509	3,393	4,500	4,400	3,500	2,800	4,000	3,000	50,358	70,000	(19,642)	
Special Events	356	19,087	2,073	2,309	2,221	1,589	6,000	8,000	45,000	5,000	8,000	14,000	113,635	120,000	(6,365)	
Suffolk County Funds	0	0	10,000	79,835	76,470	68,980	66,666	66,666	66,666	66,666	66,666	66,674	635,289	800,000	(164,711)	
Endowment	0	45,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,500	45,500	0	
Site Use	5,555	6,555	4,652	6,100	31,969	12,229	12,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	8,000	17,500	134,590	100,500	34,090	
Donations & Gifts	7,384	10,147	15	2	1,365	250	6,666	6,666	6,666	6,666	6,666	6,674	59,167	80,000	(20,833)	
Other General	45	233	341	149	233	152							1,153		1,153	
Total Earned Income	54,949	151,482	70,842	161,101	176,424	128,742	172,665	175,565	172,665	139,965	152,165	145,685	1,702,250	1,956,000	(253,750)	
EXPENSES																
Salaries & Wages	73,493	66,678	64,142	67,475	70,877	68,961	81,666	81,666	81,666	81,666	81,666	81,674	901,630	980,000	(78,370)	
Benefits	23,900	16,576	29,272	18,076	18,886	18,793	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	275,503	300,000	(24,497)	
Maintenance & Equip.	2,069	3,888	3,678	3,746	2,463	2,542	9,166	9,166	9,166	9,166	9,166	9,174	73,390	110,000	(36,610)	
Insurance	6,800	6,971	8,337	6,919	6,419	6,418	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	79,364	75,000	4,364	
Professional	17,357	23,084	16,310	24,427	29,426	18,279	21,666	21,666	21,666	21,666	21,666	21,674	258,887	260,000	(1,113)	
Museum Store	2,725	1,229	3,146	2,493	4,345	1,490	2,750	2,450	1,100	2,775	2,400	1,400	28,303	35,000	(6,697)	
Telephone Communic.	2,891	2,254	2,276	2,371	2,304	2,255	2,333	2,333	2,333	2,333	2,333	2,337	28,363	28,000	363	
Utilities	17,249	12,624	15,273	13,854	10,435	11,389	19,000	18,000	19,000	19,000	15,000	17,000	187,824	200,000	(12,176)	
Supplies, Prgm., Bail	2,473	7,541	5,149	2,571	8,606	7,200	8,000	12,000	23,000	9,000	8,500	9,000	103,040	110,000	(6,960)	
General Expenses	757	2,130	1,491	9,359	410	4,526	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	48,673	60,000	(11,327)	
Total Expenses	149,714	142,985	149,074	151,291	154,171	141,853	180,831	183,531	194,181	181,856	176,981	178,509	1,984,977	2,158,000	(173,023)	
Excess / Deficiency of Revenue	(94,765)	8,497	(78,232)	9,810	22,253	(13,111)	(8,166)	(7,966)	(21,516)	(41,891)	(24,816)	(32,824)	(282,727)	(202,000)	(80,727)	

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
Treasurer Report
June 2009

	Actual June	Budget June	Variance
Revenue			
Admission	\$ 41,264	\$ 51,500	\$ (10,236)
Membership	\$ 885	\$ 3,333	\$ (2,448)
Museum Store	\$ 3,393	\$ 5,800	\$ (2,407)
Special Events	\$ 1,589	\$ 6,000	\$ (4,411)
Suffolk County Funds	\$ 68,980	\$ 66,666	\$ 2,314
Endowment	0	0	0
Site Use	\$ 12,229	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,229
Donations & Gifts	\$ 250	\$ 6,666	\$ (6,416)
Other General	\$ 152	0	\$ 152
Total Revenue	\$ 128,742	\$ 144,965	\$ (16,223)
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 68,961	\$ 81,666	\$ (12,705)
Benefits	\$ 18,793	\$ 25,000	\$ (6,207)
Maintenance & Equipment	\$ 2,542	\$ 9,166	\$ (6,624)
Insurance	\$ 6,418	\$ 6,250	\$ 168
Professional	\$ 18,279	\$ 21,666	\$ (3,387)
Museum Store	\$ 1,490	\$ 2,950	\$ (1,460)
Telephone	\$ 2,255	\$ 2,333	\$ (78)
Utilities	\$ 11,389	\$ 15,000	\$ (3,611)
Supplies, Programs, Gala	\$ 7,200	\$ 8,000	\$ (800)
General Expenses	\$ 4,526	\$ 5,000	\$ (474)
Total Expenses	\$ 141,853	\$ 177,031	\$ (35,178)
Excess / Deficiency	\$ (13,111)	\$ (32,066)	\$ 18,955

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS THRU September 30, 2009

PROJECTED REVENUE

Education	\$ 3,500.00
Planetarium	\$ 6,500.00
Events	\$ 40,000.00
Grounds/tours	\$ 17,000.00
membership	\$ 2,000.00
Gifts & Grants	\$ 30,000.00
Gift Shop	\$ 3,000.00
Site use	\$ 20,000.00
SC Distribution	\$ 70,821.00
Cash on 8/14/09	\$ 75,513.00

Total Projected Revenue & Cash

\$ 268,334.00

PROJECTED EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 118,000.00	8/27, 9/10, 9/24
Benefits	\$ 10,000.00	health, pension, life
Outside Prof	\$ 15,000.00	Simplex,ADP,CPA,Auditors
Gift shop resale	\$ 1,500.00	Vendors
Ops supplies/repairs	\$ 7,000.00	Depot, Hdware,CIng,Sewer,
Ad & marketing	\$ 1,000.00	Gala
General office	\$ 1,000.00	copier,supplies
Printing	\$ 10,500.00	school brochure, misc
Postage	\$ 600.00	"
Insurance	\$ 3,700.00	D&O package, workers comp
Event expense	\$ 15,000.00	Performer Gala, Supplies
Utilities	\$ 34,000.00	electric, heat,water,cartage
Telephone/net	\$ 2,500.00	Verizon. Cablevision
Outside Development	\$ 6,000.00	
Program Edu	\$ 2,000.00	Planet equip, Edu supplies
Security	\$ 12,000.00	
Audio Tours	\$ 40,000.00	Antenna Audio
A/P 8/14/09 *	\$ 51,813.00	

Total Projected Expense & A/P

\$ 331,613.00

Net gain/loss

(\$63,279.00)

*AP does not include liability insurance to County

WE SAVED AN AMERICAN TREASURE

HABITAT HALL CELEBRATION 2009

VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY
HABITAT HALL



180 HILL ST. S.W.
PO BOX 605
CINCINNATI, OH 45201-0605

HABITAT HALL CELEBRATION

2009

GALA EVENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President **Noel Gish**

First Vice President **Michael DeLuise**

Second Vice President **Matthew Swinson**

Treasurer **Ron Beattie**

Secretary **Gretchen Oldrin-Mones**

**Sarah Anker, Lynn Dwyer, Steve Gittelman PhD,
Thomas Glascock, Don McKay, Daniel Olivieri,
Anthony Pecorale PhD, William Rogers PhD, Art Sillman.**

www.vanderbiltmuseum.org

631.654.5579

OUR VISION

To become Long Island's premier waterfront cultural institution- a focal point of modern-day community-based cultural, arts, science and educational activities for an increasingly diverse audience.

OUR MISSION

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum—a unique combination of mansion, marine and natural history museum, planetarium and park—is dedicated to the education and enjoyment of the people of Long Island and beyond.

This mission shall be achieved through the thoughtful preservation, interpretation, and enhancement of the Eagle's Nest estate as an informal educational facility. Exhibition and program themes focus upon Long Island's Gold Coast Era and build upon William K. Vanderbilt II's desire that his marine, natural history, and ethnographic collections promote appreciation and understanding of the marvelous diversity of life, other cultures and scientific knowledge.

VANDERBILT HABITAT HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

The habitat diorama hall was closed in 1996 due to unsafe conditions and deterioration of the exhibits. In 2003, the Vanderbilt Museum received the prestigious Save America's Treasures Grant to restore the habitat hall, which includes a thirty-two foot whale shark and nine natural history dioramas with backgrounds painted by American landscape artist Henry Hobart Nichols.

Vanderbilt Museum Director of Curatorial Affairs Stephanie Gress, assembled and led a restoration team that included Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, David Schwendeman and his taxidermy studio, Taxidermists/Artists George Dante and Rick Krane, and Artists Tom Doncourt and Sean Murtha. The sharks are restored, the sea lions and lizards are back, and the moon once again shines over the Galapagos Islands. We honor this team, as well as Suffolk County and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as we officially reopen one of the beloved halls of the Vanderbilt Museum.

You are cordially invited to celebrate the
Grand Re-Opening.

HABITAT HALL CELEBRATION 2009

GALA EVENT

We honor the team that completed this historic restoration
thanks to Suffolk County and the Federal Save America's Treasures grant from the
Institute of Museum and Library Services.



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

**VANDERBILT MANSION COURTYARD
6:30– 10:30 IN THE EVENING**

Dinner, Open Bar, Dessert, Music, Dancing



\$100 per person to benefit the Education Programs of the Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium
\$50 per person is tax-deductible for this event

The Vanderbilt Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

R.S.V.P. by September 5
Card enclosed. For more information
Please call **631.854.5579**

HABITAT HALL CELEBRATION 2009



GALA EVENT

Sponsorships

Partner \$ 5,000 Name displayed individually before each public planetarium show for 1 year. Name displayed in the main museum lobby and on website. Recognition in museum newsletter. 20 Tickets to Gala.

Benefactor \$ 2,500 Name displayed as a group before each public planetarium show for 1 year. Name displayed in the main museum lobby and on website. Recognition in museum newsletter. 10 Tickets to Gala.

Patron \$ 1,000 Name displayed as a group before each public planetarium show for 1 year. Name displayed on website. Recognition in museum newsletter. 4 Tickets to Gala.

Associate \$ 500 Name displayed on website. Recognition in museum newsletter. 2 Tickets to Gala.

Supporter \$ 150 Recognition in museum newsletter. 1 Ticket to Gala

NAME: _____ **COMPANY:** _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____
NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ (x \$100) = \$ _____
VISA/MC/AMEX: _____ **EXP. DATE:** _____

I am unable to attend, but am pleased to make a Donation of \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Vanderbilt Museum, or pay on-line at vanderbiltmuseum.org. For more information please call **631.854.5579**

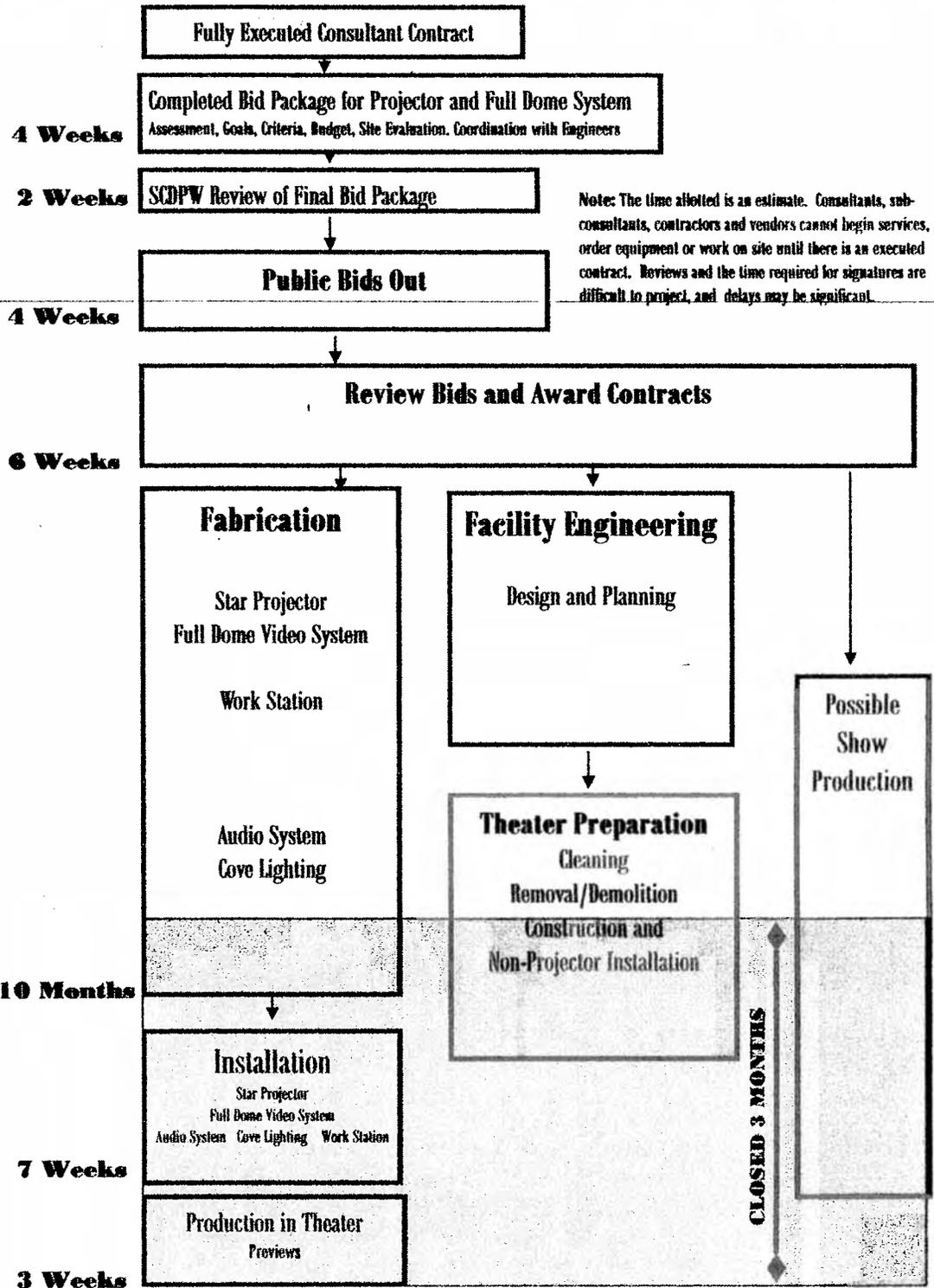
If you are a sponsor (levels on back), or are purchasing multiple tickets, please write your level & provide the names of your guests.

**HABITAT HALL
CELEBRATION
2009**
GALA EVENT


VANDERBILT
SUFFOLK COUNTY
MANSION • PLANETARIUM • MUSEUM
180 LITTLE NECK RD.
P.O. BOX 605
CENTERPORT, NY 11721-0605

Vanderbilt Planetarium Project Time Line

DATE	WEEK
June 1 09	0
June 29	4
July 13	6
Aug. 10	10
Sept. 21	16
2010	
Close July 10 2010	
Aug. 1	59
Sept. 19	66
Oct. 10 2010	69
April 24 2009	



Note: The time allotted is an estimate. Consultants, sub-consultants, contractors and vendors cannot begin services, order equipment or work on site until there is an executed contract. Reviews and the time required for signatures are difficult to project, and delays may be significant.

* This is an aggressive schedule and should be reviewed as such. It has been developed with input from DPW, consultants and manufacturers, but there are many variables to the successful execution of this schedule that are beyond the control of the museum.

Vanderbilt Museum

presents:

A Harvest Moon Celebration of Science and Song

Mary Fahl

7:30 PM in the Spanish Court Yard
\$30 per ticket

"Sounding like no other singer of her generation"

(Allmusic.com) Mary Fahl is an expressive, emotional singer/songwriter who first achieved fame as lead singer and co-founder of the chamber-pop group October Project. Fahl's elegant, cinematic songs draw on classical and world music sources, American art song, as well as thinking man's folk-pop. She sings in an earthy, viscerally powerful contralto that Boston Globe critic Steve Morse calls "a voice for the gods that can transport listeners to other realms." Since her "October Project" days, Fahl has recorded solo albums for Sony Classical and V2 Records. She has written and performed songs for several major motion pictures, including the lead song ("Going Home") for the Warner Bros. Civil War epic "Gods and Generals."

*"a voice for the gods that can transport
listeners to other realms".*



Dr. Richard A. Lutz Host's at the Planetarium

Volcanoes Of The DEEP SEA

A Stephen Low Production &
Executive Produce James Cameron

Show Times:
4pm and 6pm
\$15 per ticket

Dr. Lutz, the film's Science Director, makes a rare appearance to answer your questions about what life is really like in the Deep Abyss.



A GIANT SCREEN EXPERIENCE

Volcanoes of the Deep Sea reveals the astounding sights that lie 12,000 feet below the surface of the ocean, while delivering a real-life tale of mystery as scientists search for an animal that may be one of Earth's greatest survivors—an ancient species that is decorating the deep sea floor with its strange hexagonal trademark. In pursuit of this elusive animal and an understanding of its mysterious habitat, the film propels audiences from the dramatic sea cliffs of Spain, through two oceans, into deep-sea sites dense with astounding life forms and even into the far reaches of space.

The deep diving submersible of "Titanic" fame Alvin drops into the depths — miles below the ocean surface, to a world that looks like it came from the overheated imagination of a science fiction writer. Overheated it may be, with temperatures hot enough to melt lead, but this alien, underwater world, completely unknown just a few short decades ago, is real. It may well hold the keys to understanding the nature of life on Earth. Yet, until now, only a select few have ever experienced it's magic.

Discovering Life Where Life Doesn't Belong.

Awards won by Volcanoes of the Deep Sea

- 2004 Grand Prize - Best Film of the Year - La Geode Film Festival - Paris
- 2004 Kodak Vision Award - Giant Screen Theater Association
- 2004 Special Achievement in Film Award - Giant Screen Theater Association
- 2005 Scientific Literacy Achievement Award - Association for Biomedical Research
- 2007 Best Scientific Exploration Film - Explorers Club Documentary Film Festival
- 2009 Best Marine and Earth Sciences Film - Ocean Film Festival, Savannah, Georgia



Presented By ParksByNature Network



Get Benched at The Vanderbilt!

Buy a Memorial Bench at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

For \$1,000, you can memorialize a person, a sentiment or an idea at The Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, NY by filling out the form below*. Within a few short weeks, your bench will be installed at a location of your choice at The Vanderbilt.

Please fill out your message below. You can create three lines of a message with 15 characters per line.*

* The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum reserves the sole right to reject any message it deems inappropriate for public viewing.

Please indicate the desired location of your bench:

- Mansion Walkway
- Marine Museum Walkway
- Planetarium Walkway
- Rose Garden

Please fill out the following payment information:

Credit Card: _____ American Express _____ Master Card _____ VISA
Card Number: _____ **Expiration:** _____ / _____
Name on Card: _____
Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____
Phone: **Day:** _____ **Night:** _____
Email Address: _____
Name of Membership _____
 (if different from above)
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____