

The Board of Trustees of the Fayetteville Museum of Art has voted to cease operations effective May 31, 2010, until further notice. The Museum will continue to exist as an organization and will retain its name in the hopes that it can reopen at a future date. The Museum cannot continue to accumulate debt to fund its fiscal operational obligations and remain open.

*“The trustees for the Museum have agonized over the decision to close the Museum after two years of steady focus on improving financial operations. Many factors have made our decision for us. Everyone is concerned about their future in the present economy, but it is an especially difficult economy for non-profits. Museums for art and culture around the country are finding themselves in the same position. Economics does play a part in the decision, but there are other factors. Museums with faithful operational grants, a more established donor base or large endowments are in a stronger position to survive.”*

Meredith Player Stiehl, President FMOA Board of Trustees

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County was one of the Museum’s largest sources of financial support, awarding annual grants from income they receive from local occupancy tax. The Arts Council determined they would not award the Museum funds for fiscal years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. Trustees and staff of the Museum have worked diligently to satisfy all questions and meet requirements to restore this funding; however, the Museum was informed in mid-March that they were not eligible for Operational Support funding for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Over the past 2 years, in an effort to bridge the gap left by the absence of Arts Council funding, the Museum has cut operating costs while continuing to provide quality visual arts experiences for our community. It also has staged 3 world-class exhibits, drawing not only local visitors, but also those from throughout the state of North Carolina and the eastern seaboard as well as several foreign countries. Although these efforts have resulted in increased exposure and increased revenue, it has become obvious that they will not make up the deficit that accompanies lack of Arts Council funding. The Board of Trustees realizes the Museum cannot continue operations under these conditions. It is the intent of the organization to honor existing financial obligations to all of our employees and vendors and all efforts will be made towards this end. At this time there has been no determination as to disposition of the Museum’s permanent art collection or other property.

*“It’s been a challenging time. Numerous emotional and financial issues have been addressed by all of us on the board, making this a very difficult decision. It has been a wonderful privilege for the Museum to serve the countless visitors from our immediate area, surrounding counties and throughout the world.”*

Meredith Player Stiehl, President FMOA Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Fayetteville Museum of Art is sincerely grateful to its Supporters and Staff who have kept our community’s art museum viable for the past 38 years.

*“It is difficult for us all to imagine this community gem will soon be gone. Thank-you for the years of love, support, prayers and loyalty to the Fayetteville Museum of Art.”*

Meredith Player Stiehl, President FMOA Board of Trustees