PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Mr. James Carter

Ms. Leslie Bouie Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Mr. Wood Delahoussaye Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Janice R. Manuel

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Mr. Carlos Zervigon

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Silas Cooper

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were nine of thirteen members present. Quorum was present.

NOCCA EVENT

Mr. Silas Cooper, NOCCA President/CEO, and Mr. Brian Hammell, NOCCA Director of Communications, reported on the Homer Plessy Pardoning Event on NOCCA’s campus. Working closely with Governor John Bel Edwards’ office, NOCCA hosted the event in the courtyard of NOCCA, the site where the train ticket for Homer Plessy’s short, historic ride took place. This train ride and subsequent arrest resulted in the Plessy vs. Ferguson verdict which paved the way for decades of legal separate but equal policies and practices. NOCCA was proud to witness and honor Homer Plessy’s pardon with descendants of those personally affected, dignitaries and proud observers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Leslie Bouie moved to approve the minutes in globo of the NOCCA Board Meetings of October 18th and November 9th and Personnel Committee Meeting of November 5th 2021. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boe asked for public comment. There was none.

NOCCA BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Buddy Boe reported that NOCCA Foundation’s Home for the Holidays was a wonderfully successful event and was well-attended.

NOCCA ARTS AND ACADEMICS

Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, and Ms. Kesha Mckey, Director of Arts, reported on current COVID precautions in response to the recent spike in COVID cases. Mitigation measures include continued masking and social distancing as well as splitting the lunch hour. Healthy snacks are halted and weekly COVID testing continues. There are a number of students and teachers who are quarantined and all teachers are remaining flexible to cover classes and/or teach virtually. Mr. Cooper thanked NOCCA Nurse, Ms. Renauda Brisco, for her hard work in keeping up with documentation, communication, and management of ill students.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported that the Fiscal Year 2023 Recommended Budget is in a positive light. Of the six different items requested, three were granted. One was recognized during an appeal hearing with the comment that the Plessy Signing Event, the upcoming departure of outgoing President/CEO Mr. Kyle Wedberg and the incoming tenure of Mr. Cooper as President/CEO were important moments to recognize with good will. Funding was allowed for raises, emergency stairs, and an increase in hourly employees. Due to COVID, the cost of hourly employees has increased. Of the $1.1 million requested, $400,000 was funded.

Ms. Delaney spoke about the slow process of attaining funds to repair damages due to Ida.

Ms. Maisha Joshua asked for approval of an update to the NOCCA Holiday Policy for employees, last updated in 2018. The approval process for requested holidays was updated and a few holidays were added. Mr. Carlos Zervigon motioned to approve the NOCCA Holiday Policy update. Mr. Wood Delahoussaye seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

ADMISSIONS

Mr. Hammell reported on the upcoming application deadline of January 21, 2022 and the related communications. A continuing relationship with the Orleans Parish School Government Access Channel 8 allows for information sharing of NOCCA events including application deadline reminders. The Channel 4 morning show Good Day Louisiana spotlighted NOCCA with a Culinary piece and interview of Ms. McKey. With the support of NOCCA Foundation, NOCCA was able to purchase electronic mobile billboards to announce the upcoming application deadline.

The 11th/12th Grade Academic Studio On-Boarding applications have been released.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Ms. Sally Perry, NOCCA Foundation Executive Director, expressed excitement regarding the upcoming partnership with Mr. Cooper, Ms. McKey, and Dr. Nelson. Ms. Perry reported that the Home for the Holidays was indeed a great success, exceeding the net goal by $15,000 and resulting in the best-ever earning of $50,000 for the Student Success Program and Visual Arts Scholarship. The Art and Soul Gala planning was going well with a possibility of a date change to May 14 to allow for recovery time from the recent COVID surge. Orders for King Cakes were at a whopping 859.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Cooper thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the organization. His approach to acting, applicable to this new challenge as well, is focused in the belief that “it is never about me, it’s about the other person and the story” and grounded in the view of the whole. Mr. Cooper acknowledged his team for the hours spent in transition meetings and asked them to work as if this was his first day on campus with a strong curiosity to learn the nuances of each of their roles. He closed with a request to meet individually with the Board Members to share ideas and to become better acquainted.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Boe asked for any closing remarks/other business. There were none.

ADJOURN

Mr. Solomon made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Delahoussaye seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Silas Cooper Buddy Boe

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_