

**Institute of American Indian Arts  
Alumni Council Meeting  
IAIA Campus, CLE Building Conference Room 1  
February 5, 2018**

**Minutes**

Present: Tristan Ahtone (telephonically), Heidi Brandow, Tahnee Growingthunder (telephonically), and Linley Logan (telephonically).

Not Present: Cynthia King, Kevin Locke, and Rose Simpson.

Guests Present: Chee Brossy, Dr. Robert Martin, Judith Pepper, and Angela Sedillo

10:19 a.m. Meeting called to order by Heidi Brandow. Note: A decision was made to continue informally as there was not a quorum. Linley Logan later joined the meeting telephonically and a quorum was reached.

**Alumni Survey:** Chee Brossy, Alumni Relations Manager, has drafted an alumni survey and intends to send out by mid-February. The 12-question questionnaire was developed to determine various ways to increase alumni engagement. The resulting feedback and data will enable Alumni Relations to focus on specific concerns. Chee asked Council members to encourage any alumni they are in contact with to submit and/or update their contact information.

**Discussion of By-laws Re: Council Member/Staff:** During the November 2017 AC meeting, the By-laws were amended to address the issue of a Council member also being a staff member or faculty to vote on action items or issues. Article 4.3 of the By-Laws was amended to remove the following sentence:

Current IAIA staff or faculty are only eligible to be counselors as non-voting counselors.

Both Rose Simpson and Heidi Brandow are employed by IAIA. Rose Simpson is in the Ceramics division of Studio Arts and Heidi Brandow is a Retention Specialist for Student Success Department.

**Funding Proposal for Artists – Linley Logan:** Linley submitted a draft proposal to support at least two artists to come to IAIA and conduct workshops in specialized areas. While the Council agrees that Linley's proposal is promising, it was decided to table this issue until after the results from the Alumni Survey are received.

**Alumni Association development – Chee Brossy:** The association would be available to all alumni—early years as high school, as well as college. The association would be non-dues at this time. Membership would be automatic upon graduation. Benefits are under discussion.

**Alumni Webpage Ideas – Chee Brossy:** The Alumni webpage needs to be developed more. Photos and a short bio of counselors can be added and updated. Chee asked for ideas to make it more informative and interesting. Item discussed:

- Alumni profiles – information about the work they do and their experience while at IAIA. Profiles focusing on artists that have not been as visible or represented as much. It was

suggested that students could do profiles, allowing them to meet and possibly work with alumni.

- Provide links to alumni webpages to find artists' curriculum vitae (CV)/resume, gallery showings, etc.
- Employment, intern, or volunteer opportunities.
- Alumni database/searchable catalog available not only to IAIA staff.
- Expand social media, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**IAIA Powwow and Alumni Booth** – Heidi Brandow and Chee Brossy: Powwow and an alumni booth provide opportunities for fundraising to supplement the Alumni Relations budget. Heidi asked council members for their feedback regarding pursuing those options.

**Presentation – Judith Pepper, Director of Institutional Advancement:** Judith provides an overview of the Office of Institutional Advancement, the Foundation Board, and the Scholarship Dinner and Auction fundraising.

- The Foundation is beginning a campaign planning study. The goal is \$10-12 million. Dini Spheris has been hired as the consultant for the five-month study, which began February 1. Judith will provide Alumni Relations with updates.

**Presentation – Dr. Robert Martin, IAIA President:** Dr. Martin thanked the council members for their service and asked if there were any questions. There being no questions, Dr. Martin shared news out of the President's Office.

- A committee is looking at the scholarship program to address the financial needs of students. They will be reviewing recommendations to simplify the application process, increase the number of awards, and involve the alumni in mentoring the students.
- IAIA has hired alum, Nancy Deleary, to develop a feasibility study to offer a low-res MFA program in Studio Arts.
- A refurbishing project is underway for the studios and faculty offices in the Academic Building. Eighty projects have been identified for a cost of approximately \$325,000. Work is planned to start in Spring 2018.
- The old fitness center is being converted to a student union and study area. Work is ongoing and a completion date set for the end of summer.
- The campaign planning study is looking to the private sector to help sustain the future of IAIA by doubling the endowment for scholarships from \$5 million to \$10 million and bring in additional funds to expand programs to address needs of students.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is hosting a conference October 9-13, 2018. Tahnee suggested IAIA alumni presence as well as recruitment opportunities for the Admissions Department to pursue. IAIA alumni could host a reading and/or a reception.
- Heidi asked the councilors for feedback regarding the previous discussion related to the Scholarship dinner and auction alumni art donations. When working with the committee, she would like to provide clarity on how to approach and support donating alumni artists. Alum, Keri Ataumbi and Lorraine Gala Lewis, are co-chairs for the Art Ask committee.
- Alumni elections are in August, with three seats open.
- Chee asked councilors to provide any news or updates regarding IAIA alumni. Tahnee Growingthunder shared:
  - She has been named the State Curator for the Oklahoma History Center for the American Indian collections.

- Tristan Ahtone is currently on a fellowship at Harvard.
- Heather Ahtone was named Chief Curator of the Oklahoma Cultural Center.
- American Meredith is entering her fifth year as owner/Literary Editor of First American Art magazine.

Tristan Ahtone shared:

- He is at Harvard with the Neiman Foundation for Journalism and currently halfway through the 10-month fellowship.
- Michael Two Bulls is currently an IAIA Artist-in-Residence.

Linley Logan shared:

- He is waiting on a prospect—a residency for the Ucross Fellowship for Native American Visual Artists in Wyoming. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2018.
- He also applied for a Native American fellowship in Washington state.
- Ryan Fedderson received one of the Native Arts and Culture Foundation fellowships.

Heidi Brandow shared:

- She has been hired by IAIA as a Retention Specialist in the Student Success Center.
- She was awarded the First Peoples Fund Artist in Business and Leadership fellowship.
- She begins a 10-month fellowship the end of February with the Ford Foundation and the Santa Fe Art Institute related to the Story Maps project. Terran Last Gun Kipp was also awarded a fellowship. Cannupa Luger is a mentor for the program.

Chee Brossy shared:

- He will participate in a two-week artist-in-residency with the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont. He will work on his book, a collection of fiction stories.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Next Alumni Council Meeting is May 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- Commencement is Saturday, May 12, 2018.

11:55 a.m. Meeting adjourned.