



Stanley Museum of Art

University of Iowa
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March 24, 2021

To: Kevin Kregel, Executive Vice President and Provost
From: Lauren Lessing, Director, Museum of Art
Re: Response to Provost's Summary and Recommendations to Museum of Art Program Review

Dear Provost Kregel,

Thank you for your letter outlining your conclusions and suggestions for our Museum of Art Program review that was conducted during the fall semester of 2020. Our leadership team found the recommendations useful and instructive.

As instructed, we shared the review letter and your recommendations with the Museum Staff and Leadership Team and received the following responses:

1. **Staffing:** Student employees will be vital to the success of the museum. Student gallery hosts will be the public's point of contact to the museum staff in the galleries. Programs like First Gen Hawks are good starting points for recruitment to bring more diversity to our staff, particularly our public-facing staff. Undergraduate interns and graduate fellows will also be essential to achieving our teaching and researching goals. Furthermore, the new librarian-curator position funded by a P3 grant will allow the library and museum to make their collections more accessible and the connections between the collections clearer to faculty and students. The museum is also a site for graduate professional development through our existing GA positions funded by the Graduate College and, more recently, through a new summer program developed with the support of the AAU. These Iowa Digital Internships in the Humanities are being piloted through English, History, the Grad College and the Library of Congress from 2021-23.
2. *Continue to expand the UISMA's Advisory Board to increase patron support for the museum:* The Advisory Board expansion also needs to diversify the board. Doing so will strengthen the museum by bringing important perspectives that have historically been excluded from museums. While new board members will bring essential experiences and new networks to the museum, they may not in all cases have the financial resources to promise significant annual gifts to the museum;

however, new board members will help us shape the museum's presence in the community and in the field at large in ways that could help bring new donors and other financial support to the museum.

3. Digital resources: As the Final Committee reports notes, the museum will need significant IT support to increase the digital resources. At present, the education and communications team are creating, recording, and editing content with current staff who do not have specialized training in these areas. While we continue to increase the digital content, including teacher guides, educational videos, and recorded programming, the museum would need additional IT support and, eventually, a digital media specialist to increase both the depth and breadth of digital resources.
4. Access: The museum working with the library to enhance access to the entire collection through the Iowa Digital Library. The partnership will make this searchable digital collection part of the research infrastructure of the university by 2023.

The Museum of Art plans to use this review to aid in our future plans. I look forward to working with you on our future progress, and keeping you updated during our one – on – one meetings

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Lessing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Lessing, Director
Museum of Art