

Everson cancels exhibits, cuts hours, seeks balanced budget

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Everson Museum of Art's board of trustees held its first meeting Monday after making public last month its dire financial situation of a \$500,000 budget deficit and canceling two traveling exhibitions planned at the museum this year. Its action came weeks after museum executive director Steven Kern resigned for a position as chief executive officer and director of Newark Museum in New Jersey.

The board continues to work on the 2014 budget and hopes to present a balanced budget in the near future, said Sarah Massett, interim director.

To trim expenses, the Everson will be closed Tuesdays as well as Mondays. Starting March 18, the museum will be open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Its administrative offices will remain open Monday through Friday. There have been no staff cuts, Massett said.

Thursday, the board's new task force will hold its first meeting and review three-year plans for fiscal stability, artistic programming and facilities.

The task force is composed of several trustees, including board president Gary Grossman and vice president Cliff Malzman, Deputy County Executive Bill Fisher, Ann Clarke, Laurence Bousquet, Gary Lavine, Fred Pestello and Massett. Also on the committee are Gregg Tripoli, executive director of the Onondaga Historical Association, and David Ridings, chairman of Syracuse Symphony Foundation.

Everson also is planning new exhibits, including the museum's permanent video collection, painter Sarah McCoubrey, sculptor Daniel Buckingham and installation artist Mary Giehl.