


Date: February 10, 2025
 To: Board of Directors
 From: Library, Archives & Workroom Committee
 Subject: Honorary Membership for Alan West

Motion				
Approve to grant a one-year honorary membership to Allan West as presented.				
Objective				
To grant a one-year honorary membership to the speaker of the May 14, 2025 Book Break “They Hang Me in Tokyo: A Barbarian Artist’s Life-Changing Journey to Master Nihonga, the Traditional Art of Japan”.				
Background				
<div></div> <p>Nihonga painter, blends traditional and modern Japanese art. Trained under Kayama Matazo, he's exhibited in prestigious museums worldwide, including the Smithsonian. West is recognized for his large-scale folding screens and the way his work alters dramatically with light due to his innovative use of minerals. Holding a BFA from Carnegie Mellon and an MFA from Tokyo University of Fine Arts, West has had art featured across major TV networks and magazines.</p> <p>Born in Washington, D.C. While a high school student, West believed he pioneered the use of animal glues mixed with natural pigments, unaware that these are the same materials used in the nihonga technique. West settled in Japan after several visits, entering the Graduate School of Fine Arts at Tokyo University of the Arts in 1989. A decade later, he opened Art Sanctuary Allan West, a studio-cum-gallery, in Yanaka, Tokyo. The majority of his artwork is commissioned work consisting of plant and flower paintings on hanging scrolls, folding screens, and fans. He also serves as a trustee at The Yurabi Institute for the Study and Preservation of Japan’s Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>www.Allanwest.jp https://www.japan.go.jp/kizuna/2021/01/drawing_natural_beauty.html https://youtu.be/TPELu-Pv7Rs</p>				
Pros & Cons				
<p>PROS:</p> <p>➤ Retains Allan West as a member for one year, and potentially longer.</p> <p>CONS:</p> <p>➤ None.</p>				
Financial impact				
Potential club utilization revenue. Potential new member.				
RACI Matrix	Responsibility	Authority	Consult	Inform
	Management	Board of Directors	LAW Committee	LAW Committee
Consult Committee & Date	His Book Break was approved at the regular meeting of Library, Archives & Workroom Committee in November, 2024.			