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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)

Thursday – October 17th 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

El Paso Museum of History

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Roll call:	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Adame, Rachel		X
	Bulos, Elizabeth	X	
	Diaz, Alfredo	X	
	Giangiulio, Anne	X	
	Gorski, Kenneth	X	
	Hamilton, Lloyd III		X
	Harris, Jeff	X	
	Jaquez, Laura		X
	Leon, Vanessa	X	
	Loweree, Carlos III	X	
	Luna, Frank	X	
	Marshall, Adam	X	
	Nino, Ivan	X	
	Schmid-Falcon, Stephanie	X	
	Valdez, Laura	X	

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Consecutive Absences: Lloyd Hamilton III (5th), Laura Jaquez (5th)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Jeff Romney, Vladimir VonTsurikov, Russell Abeln, and Courtney Kurtzrock

2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Kenneth Gorski allowed members a few minutes to review the minutes of the last meeting on August 15th 2019. Jeff Harris motioned to approve the minutes; Adam Marshall seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Discussion and Action on Election of Officers for MCAAB board:** Ken gave a brief explanation of two positions available for election, chair and vice chair and liaison for the PAC (Public Art Committee). Ben advised that this item was for selection of the chair and vice chair. Ken explained that he was interested in running for vice chair, Adam motioned to

nominate Ken Gorski for chair of the MCAAB board, Carlos Loweree III seconded the motion, all members voted in favor, Ken Gorski will serve as Chair of the MCAAB board until the next election or his term expires. Ken asked if anyone was interested in running for vice chair, Ken nominated Carlos Loweree III as Vice Chair, Frank Luna seconded the motion, all members voted in favor, Carlos will serve as the MCAAB's Vice Chair until the next election, or his term expired.

5. **Discussion and Action to appoint two MCAAB Liaisons to Public Art Committee:** Ken asked if there were any liaisons appointed, Ben advised that Adam was the Liaison for PAC, and Adam stated he was interested in serving as a liaison again. Ivan Nino was interested in more information pertaining to being a liaison, and Ken began explaining that the PAC is to evaluate the art that goes in through construction projects, and budget is set aside for public art. This committee meets regularly every second Tuesday of the month except for January and July as per ordinance. The committee works with MCAD and the chair of PAC is appointed by MCAAB. Liaisons are positions that are filled by MCAAB. Adam Marshall began to further explain that the PAC is a panel of artists with very extensive backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning or engineering and the PAC serves as a standing committee to the MCAAB and advises on certain Public Art projects happening throughout The City of El Paso, with a total of 11 members. Ivan Nino expressed interest, and Adam stated he would like to continue, Jeff Harris motioned to approve, Laura Valdez seconded, all members voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion and Action on Reappointment of Josue Munoz to the Public Art Committee:** Ken began by explaining Josue Munoz's background while members went over his resume. Adam Marshall motioned to approve, Laura Valdez seconded, all members voted in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
7. **Discussion and Action on Proposed Accessions to The El Paso Museum of Archaeology's collection:** Jeff Romney began a presentation on items for consideration for accessions into the permanent collection. The first item is a gift from Sally Andrade, a modern framed artwork that is made out of recycled clothing material, and will be placed into the museum's Ethnographic collection. The second item up for accession are two historic pieces of pueblo pottery by Nancy Bain who is a member of the El Paso Archaeological Society, one is a Acoma Polychrome Olla purchased from an artist in the 1980's, the second is a San Ildefonso Black on Black Olla by Maximiliana Martinez, the fourth are two Raramuri Pine needle baskets from Nancy Bain. The fifth are two Raramuri Ceramic objects, one small Olla with rawhide, and a ceramic rosary. The next items are a small soapstone bear as a comparative piece for the Zuni collection and Native American collection from the southwest, and a carved antler big-horned sheep which has turquoise inlaid eyes. Next is a Basaltic Stone Metate, donated by Cruz Camargo and came from pseudo pueblos, and was refurbished by his grandmother and is pre-Columbian. The next item is a wooden tigua mask donated by Marshal Carter-Tripp, added to the collection as an example of the variety of masks as part of the ethnographic collection. The next item is another Basaltic Stone Metate donated by Robert DiPardo, this stone is from the El Paso region. The next item is the Lancondon Maya God Pot donated by Julie Lama, used to call men into societies into God's house, this item is not a sacred object, and has a temporary ceremonial use. The next item is a Jade and Spindle Whorl necklace donated by Julie Lama, pre-Columbian and entered the U.S prior to the 1972 Paris Accord (Mesoamerican collection). The Casas Grandes Bowl is the next item also donated by Julie Lama, it's a ceramic Villa Ahumada Polychrome bowl. The next item is a Wooden Kuna Drum donated by James and Mariwyn Maloney and will be a comparative piece as it is not regional. The next two items are

pieces of Jornada Mogollon Pottery, they are El Paso polychrome, they were excavated by Ciudad Juarez, and brought into the county prior to 1972, one is a piece with two handles with Big Horned Sheep on either end, and the other one is a French Wedding vessel similar to Casas Grande's Style. Anne Giangulio asked how old they are, Jeff explained they date to A.D 1150-1450. The last two pieces are from Casa Grandes Pottery, one Polychrome olla and a Polychrome bowl. Ken asked for a motion to accept, Vanessa Leon motioned to approve, Ivan Nino seconded, all member's voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

8. **Discussion and action on El Paso Museum of Art proposal for accession of gifts received:** Read into record item # 10 Discussion and Action for the El Paso Museum of Art members choice list of 3 offerings, Ken asked when members choice began Vladimir added that the projected date was December 4th, however the department will send information regarding dates to the MCAAB at a later date. Vladimir VonTsurikov began with the member's choice presentation by revisiting the mission for collection and what the museum offers to the community. The mission started with Early Texas which holds a rich collection at the Art museum and the first piece is one of 3 pieces, these items were grouped based on cost due to grant information. The first item is from the 1930's by and Early Texas Hispanic Artist Porfirio Salinas valued at \$18,500, the second by Eugene Thurston is called Golden Autumn, and the second Superstition Mountains, valued at \$10,000 close to the 30,000 acquisition. The second option for member's choice is from European Art, which will reflect the Kress Collection and within the Museum's mission. The first piece is inscribed at the upper left corner, it came from London and is valued at 25,000 from the 16th century, finally within contemporary art a piece installed at the Ballroom Marfa 76 point cosmic shield, and a multimedia instillation Pinball machine both noted as an interactive sculptures. Ben interjected and stated that museum members are able to vote annually on gifts, which then the museum asks to approve 3 potential purchases asking for permission to the item(s) that win the vote. Adam asked about categories and Vladimir answered with there are three categories for selection, and since there is a disbursement of a specific amount that can be allocated for a purchase. In the past there could be one purchase totaling the allocated amount or multiple pieces depending on what is available on the art market. Adam asked about the Pinball sculpture, and Vladimir stated that it was an actual Pinball machine and that it was a recommendation for contemporary art. Ben asked to go back to the description and read that the machine was an actual Pinball machine and is adapted from an existing machine to be interactive. Ken requested a motion to approve, Laura Valdez motioned to accept, Adam Marshall seconded, all members voted in favor motion passed unanimously. Vladimir continued with item # 8 and began with a presentation on proposed accession of gifts, the first gift is a collection of photographs by Bret Weston, and the collection focuses on the region but not exclusively. It will complement the museum's collection of photography, it contains 50 black and white photographs and is appraised at \$400,000. This gift will be paid for and shipped by the donator, it will be placed in the De Wetter gallery in 2020. The next item is a photograph that was offered last year at member's choice by Teresa Margolis, and is appraised at \$15,000. Ken asked how big the Margolis photograph was and Vladimir mentioned it was 47' by 70'. Adam Marshall motioned to approve, Frank Luna seconded, all members voted in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
9. **Discussion and Action on Part 1 of the Deaccessioning project for the El Paso Museum of History:** Erica Marin began a presentation on items that the museum would like to deaccession, explaining that originally the museum was a Calvary Museum and many of the items do not fit the current mission and many items need conservation that they cannot provide. In 2017 City Council and MCABB approved a new collections care/management policy, and beginning in September 2019 the museum is seeking approval going forward. Ben

advised the museums do not do this very often and there were a number of issues with how items were accessioned, and as anticipated this will be brought to the board in the future as there are multiple items the museum has examined and needs to further examine. Erica began a presentation on items for deaccession, the first is an operator switchboard that was accessioned in the 1980's into the Calvary museum, the item does not support the mission and there is a storage issue. Ben explained that as per the collections and care policy there are multiple ways after items are selected for deaccession to be disposed/donated. The next item is a stuffed animal of 1991 Snoopy and was accessioned in 2001. Many members had questions about how and why items like this were accessioned, Ben advised that prior to MCAAB each of the museums had their own board and this particular item came from the daughter of one of the members at the time. The next items had to be disposed of because while the museum was going through them they came across infestation of living creatures or carcasses which poses a danger to the rest of the collections, two boxes that include several textiles, which included a Japanese cloth fragment, a women's handbag with seeds, Laplander doll, and a Russian boy doll. The next item was a set of historic El Paso paintings that were once in a local restaurant called Jaxon's, the paintings were damaged, permeated with grease and have crayon markings. The next item is a mattress, from the early twentieth century, the item has questionable infestation and is heavily stained. Anne Giangliulo asked about the historic reference to the mattress, and Ben advised that previous employees had a habit of driving around and finding items that were on the side of the road and brought them into the museum. Erica continued by explaining that the mattress was accessioned in 1989, and the record does not state the historic significance. The next item is a 1980's travel bag, and is made of polyester that was donated by a woman who donated several items from WWII and the Korean War. The next item is a wig which the description stating it is a reproduction wig and does not support the mission of the museum, it also shows several signs of infestation. The last item is a group of 7 objects that are oxidized animal traps from the 1970's. Jeff Harris would like it to be read into the record that he abstains from voting due to a theoretical conflict of interest, this is because he works for the Magoffin Home and any items that are deaccessioned can possibly be taken in to the Magoffin Home. Adam Marshall motioned to approve, Anne Giangliulo seconded. All members except for Jeff Harris voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Action for the El Paso Museum of Art member's choice list of 3 offerings:
As read into the record, this item was approved in item # 8.

11. Museum Reports: Jeff Romney began The El Paso Museum of Archaeology report which the museum saw their fiscal year attendance at 1782 attendees. From a previous meeting Anne Giangliulo asked what the museums total take in was, which Jeff looked into the amount further and found that it was \$49,189 out of which \$25,000 was brought in by means other than store sales as originally quoted. The museum opened Enchanted Faces Latin American Masked Traditions which has been popular with families. The weekend prior the museum held the biennial Jornada Mogollon Archeology Conference which held a record attendance of 91 attendees. A formal archaeological journal that was presented two years ago from the prior biennial conference was passed around for the MCAAB to review. The museum did not have as many school tours this past month, but has been working with contacts from school districts who state there is not enough funding for school buses to be used for tours. This month is Texas Archaeology month and the museum has a number of activities for children to participate in. November is Native American Heritage month, and the museum has many future lectures and events to choose from. History Museum Report: Vladimir VonTsurikov began with The El Paso Museum of History, which has had a busy month with plenty of events and exhibitions. The digital has seen a 33% rise in digital touches after the digital memorial for the

August 3rd 2019 mass shooting victims was opened The trolley tours with Adair Margo are selling out and the prior events have allowed the Museum to collaboratively work with Sun Metro to raise attendance. The El Paso Community Foundation has advocated for programing and reached out to school districts to allow students to come and see the culture that the downtown has preserved. The Museum has opened up the tenth and last Wall of Giants, in commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce. For Chalk the Block the museum saw 3,664 attendees. A new experience will be happening twice a year, the first installment will be the crisis of democracy and the rise of populism and nationalism, and a photography exhibition by local photographers with a total of 488 submission and 200 selected, all submission regardless if they make it into the gallery will be uploaded to the digital wall. The El Paso Museum of Art Report: After the opening of the newly remodeled second floor, the museum held a member preview which brought 465 attendees through the door. The museum continues to host important and exciting conferences, CODA summit was brought this year and deals exclusively with Public Art. During Chalk the Block the TEDx was hosted, for Chalk the Block the museum saw 5727 attendees, future events will be Dia de los Muertos with an estimated 10,000 attendees.

12. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday November 21st 2019.

Approved for content by:
Kenneth Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Courtney Kurtzrock, Administrative Secretary
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

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