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2013 FEB -4 AM 11:21

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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – November 15, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor conference room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Francesca Alonso		X
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Lilia Limon		X
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Belinda Luna		X
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Jane B. Thomas		X

Others present: Sean McGlynn, Michael Tomor, Barbara Angus, Marilyn Guida, Ben Fyffe, Socorro Diamondstein, Pat Dalbin and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Annual Meeting Schedule.** After allowing members time to review the schedule, Sean McGlynn stated it was for their calendars and no action was needed on the item.

4. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for September 20, 2012.** Susan Novick assisted in carrying out the action items in the absence of the Chair. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on September 20, 2012, as presented. Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on Election of Officers.** Sean McGlynn explained that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be elected during this meeting. Mentioned that responsibility list is not huge, but they are responsible for running the meetings and may be asked to represent the body at a City Council meeting, if needed. If the body wanted to author a letter in support of grants or other activities, one of the two officials would be asked to sign on behalf of the body signifying their approval on that particular measure. Katherine Brennand nominated Carina Ramirez for Chair, and she declined due to other commitments. Isela Ocegueda expressed a desire to serve as Vice-Chair, and was encouraged to serve as Chair by members. Marina Monsisvais nominated Elia Perez for Vice-Chair, and Elia explained she felt that Marina should be Vice-Chair. Marina declined due to her position as Chair of the Public Art Committee and Sean further explained that members may not serve in dual capacity within advisory board, PAC and museum facilities. Carina Ramirez moved to accept the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Marina Monsisvais seconded the motion; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. In conclusion, Isela Ocegueda was elected Chair and Elia Perez was elected Vice-Chair.

6. **Discussion and Action on Selection of Board Liaisons to Museum Facilities.** Sean McGlynn explained that there did not necessarily need to be changes made, but the board could elect to make

changes if so desired. Jeannine Kennedy stated that she is the liaison for the History Museum and she would be pleased to stay in that role. Sean added that Elia Perez was the liaison for the Archaeology Museum and there is currently a vacancy for the Art Museum liaison with the departure of Abel Saucedo, who resigned from the advisory board. Marina Monsisvais nominated Susan Novick for the Art Museum liaison; Susan declined and asked if there was anyone else who would like the position. Carina Ramirez expressed her interest in the position. Marina Monsisvais moved to accept Elia for Archaeology, Jeannine for History and Carina for Art. Carina Ramirez seconded the motion; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. In conclusion, Elia Perez was elected Archaeology Museum liaison, Jeannine Kennedy was elected History Museum liaison and Carina Ramirez was elected Art Museum liaison.

7. Museum Reports. Michael Tomor began by updating members on Art Museum activities during the month of November. He reminded members that the Member's Choice event is this evening and provided a brief explanation of the event. The museum receives a restricted grant for the purchase of artwork from the Lipscomb Foundation and each year the community has the opportunity to come together and choose a piece of art for the museum's permanent collection. They are given a focus on where there is a gap in the collection and this year the focus was on European art and bringing a piece of British art into the collection as the museum's collection does not contain any original oil pieces from Great Britain. December programming will include 'The Birth of Opera' opening on December 1st in the El Paso Energy Auditorium and a zip tour on December 5th with Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable. Christian Gerstheimer is providing another zip tour on December 12th on an exhibition he curated. The search for a Museum Education Curator is in its final phase after receiving numerous applications, few of whom were qualified, according to the minimum qualifications, but there were enough to commence with interviews for six candidates. Michael expressed his hope to have the position filled by January 1st if all goes well. Michael provided a brief overview of exhibits coming in January, and initiatives in very early planning stages that are being worked on. Mentioned that the Texas Tech School of Architecture would like to use the Algur H. Meadows library as an architectural resource library. They will be supplying us with half-time staff to help oversee that program. Our library is uniquely focused on the arts, which includes architecture. Michael opened the floor for questions and general discussion followed.

Barbara Angus began by reminding members that the Tom Lea exhibit is still tucked away in the Changing Pass gallery of the History Museum. There is some original artwork by Tom Lea, courtesy of the El Paso Museum of Art, paired up with some nineteenth century saddles and it worked out very well. The Wall of Giants honoring the El Paso mayors is now down and the walls are being prepped for the next Wall of Giants, which is The Missions and their People, opening December 8th. The Ysleta Mission Door is at a conservator in Dallas, Texas and has been put back together and put in a custom-made case to be returned to us right after Thanksgiving. This will be the focal artifact for the new Wall of Giants exhibit. The contract for 'Arte en Charrería' has been signed and the exhibit will open next spring. Mentioned the Museum Assessment Program will bring in a consultant next February, and the consultant wishes to meet with the advisory board during her visit to talk about collection stewardship because the board provides final approval for accessions. Barbara briefly reviewed museum programming and discussed plans for the T-38 jet to be transported to North Carolina by NASA. There are lots of plans for the gallery space the jet is currently in now that the bond effort has passed. Part of the bond money is earmarked for that gallery and we are in the process of applying for a TXDOT grant that will help with the digital wall, a transportation gallery that will showcase larger artifacts such as Mandy the Mule's mule car, and a Tourist and Welcome Center that is tied in with the digital wall. Barbara opened the floor for questions and general discussion followed.

Marilyn Guida began by reminding members of current exhibits and events. The storytelling event was rescheduled to January 19th due to low interest and Poppies Fest is scheduled for March 23rd. There are three small grants that have come in over the last few months, a Humanities Texas grant for the Maya 2012 lectures. Franklin Mountains Rotary Club is supporting the winter camp and there are four new volunteers in training. Marilyn discussed upcoming programming and opened the floor for questions. There were none and she concluded her report.

8. Discussion and Action on selection of Board Liaisons to Public Art Committee. Sean McGlynn began by reminding members of the current members serving as liaisons to the Public Art Committee, Marina Monsisvais and Jane Thomas, and there is a vacancy that needs to be filled. Marina expressed her interest in staying on. Carina Ramirez moved that Marina Monsisvais continue in her position; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Sean added that Jane Thomas has not expressed any interest in getting off the committee. Jeannine Kennedy asked what the board obligations were, and Pat Dalbin explained that the meetings are monthly on every second Tuesday at 3:30pm. Committee members take turns serving on artist selection panels and added that it is a

working group, selecting artists for projects and artist selection panelists, members approve funding for the public art plan, but primarily review projects that the City of El Paso is currently working on. Jeannine expressed her interest in serving on the committee in that capacity. Carina Ramirez amended her original motion, moving to approve the nominations of Marina Monsisvais, Jane Thomas and Jeannine Kennedy as board liaisons to the Public Art Committee. Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Action on Nominations to Serve on the Public Art Committee. Sean McGlynn began by explaining there are some vacancies on the Public Art Committee and turned the floor over to Pat Dalbin from the Public Art Program to answer any questions members might have about nominees. Pat began by listing the nominees, Robert Gonzalez, who will replace Martina Lorey; Anna Aleman, who will replace Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson; and Kim Bauer, who will replace Ray Parish. Pat provided a brief overview of each nominee's letter of interest. Marina Monsisvais moved to accept all three nominations. Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Action on FY2013 Cultural Funding Appeal: Lydia Patterson Institute. Sean McGlynn began by reminding members that at the time of his arrival to the department there was no formal appeals process in the Cultural Funding Program. In an effort to make things more transparent and give groups the opportunity to make a case for why they thought there was something we needed to further consider, we instituted an appeal process. He mentioned this is the first time that two groups have elected to follow through on the appeals process and they were notified of today's meeting, offering them the chance to come in and provide public comment to members if they so desired. No one signed up for public comment, and Sean turned the floor over to Cultural Programs Supervisor Ben Fyffe to discuss the process and the determination. Ben began by briefly walking members through the appeal process and notified members that they would need to enter into discussion and action separately on each of the two. Ben reminded members that two meetings ago, we brought forward two recommendations for funding for artists and also for organizations that had applied for funding to the department and our four funding programs. Ben provided a brief overview of the grounds on which an applicant may appeal the decision that was made, and general discussion followed. Ben proceeded to provide some background on the two applicants that have entered into appeals, noting that neither applicant showed up for their scheduled application review with panel. Per our guidelines, failure to do so results in a twenty point deduction from your final score, and if your score falls below 70, you are ineligible for funding per Council-approved guidelines. The Lydia Patterson Institute has been funded in the past and applied again this year for a festival in Segundo Barrio. Their panel score ended up being an 82.2, but with the 20 point deduction, they went down to 62.2. Kids-n-Co.'s score was 71.2, but with the 20 point deduction, they went down to 51.2. Ben continued to explain the process in which applicants are notified of their scheduled time for review, and general discussion followed. For Lydia Patterson, the issue they brought forward was an internal transition; the new project coordinator was unaware of the application and panel review, but the staff that actually turned in the application was still employed with the organization. For Kids-n-Co., the issue was that the acting director had a family emergency. Staff recommendation for both appeals is that neither situation fit the appeal criteria. Susan Novick moved to accept staff recommendation to deny appeal by Lydia Patterson Institute. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Marina Monsisvais moved to accept staff recommendation to deny appeal by Kids-n-Co. Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and Action on FY2013 Cultural Funding Appeal: Kids-n-Co. *It was decided that items 10 and 11 would be taken together and voted on as part of item 10.*

12. Discussion on the Approval of Propositions 1, 2 and 3. Sean McGlynn began by noting that this is not only a boon for potential new facilities, but our existing facilities as well. Right now we are in a 90-day period that City Council has to appoint their Citizen Oversight Board, which will be followed by prioritizing of projects. The relocation of City Hall and the baseball park will be the number one items because they have the most urgency at this point. Some things are being expedited because of circumstances, such as the loading dock improvements at the History Museum because we need to be able to accept some of the assets within Insights such as the Fire collection, which is actually the City's collection, and will be moving into the History Museum for a period of time. The signature piece is an 1880 steam pumper, which the Smithsonian has consistently inquired about acquiring. Part of this package includes improvements at the Archaeology Museum, History Museum, Art Museum, building of a Children's Museum, and the building of a Heritage Center. All of these things will be lined up in this process and worked through. It will be an interesting 10-year process as this bond money rolls into the system and the projects coming up. Members were offered the opportunity to ask questions, and general discussion followed.

13. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Marina Monsisvais moved to adjourn; Susan

Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for December 20, 2012.

Approved for content by:
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

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