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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – December 15, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor conference room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:08pm.

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

Others present: Sean McGlynn, Michael Tomor, Barbara Angus, Marilyn Guida and Misty Castaneda.

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

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes.** Susan Novick assisted in carrying out the action items in the Chair's absence, as he was running late to the meeting. Jane Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on November 17, 2011, as presented. Estrella Escobar seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Introduction of New Board Member(s).** Susan Novick began by requesting introductions of two new board members, Daniel Longoria and Gustavo Reveles. Sean McGlynn continued by asking each member to introduce themselves as well. Introductions were made around the table.

5. **Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor started by reminding members of the Members' Choice program in which members had approved the purchasing of all works in case of whatever was purchased. There were about 250 in attendance and the work being selected was one of four by nationally-recognized Chicano artists. The Judithe Hernandez piece was selected out of the four by the members. Due to monies being left over from the Lipscomb Foundation, the Ann Enriquez Memorial Fund and the Katharine White Harvey Fund of the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation, which is used to purchase artwork, the remaining three were also purchased because they are such significant pieces that will be great additions to the collection. Mentioned that a \$45,000 grant was received from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, to be used towards the *Golden Age* exhibition coming next September. Of the \$45,000, \$35,000 will go towards a lease fee and \$10,000 is earmarked for a lecture series coming to El Paso next September through November in conjunction with UTEP's Humanities Lecture series, titled *Rembrandt, Rubens, Gainsborough and Golden Age Painting from 1600-1800*. Received a \$5,000 gift from the Shiloff Family Foundation towards education programming, and launched a new community partnership with the Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Texas Tech School of Architecture to embark upon a lecture series focused on architectural design and urban planning that will be held at the Museum of Art. School tours are doing very

well, membership is up and attendance is up, primarily due to the Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol exhibits. There are three exhibitions being brought in from Mexico City opening on January 29th, with a VIP opening on January 27th. The first is *Diego Rivera and the Cubist Vision*, which consists of 8 Diego Rivera cubist paintings from the 1910's, closing on April 8th. The second is 48 paintings from the Borja family private collection, closing on March 26th. The third is *Dibujos Divinos*, which consists of 40 drawings from the National Museum in Mexico City, closing on May 24th. In the interim, between the closing of the Borja exhibit and the *Dibujos Divinos* exhibit, there will be a local exhibition of works by local artists opening on April 1st that will run for 2 months.

Barbara Angus began the History Museum report by mentioning their major exhibit, *The Mystery of the Mayan Medallion* and related activities such as a class entitled *Mayan Designs on Tin*, a workshop on Mayan glyphs with a focus on deciphering, and *A Merry Maya Holiday History Camp* for children. Educational programming includes a storytelling activity for Native American Heritage Month, the Burges High School Pilot Program, the Re-Encuentro program, and another set of docents just completed their training and graduated. On the exhibit front, the *Neighborhoods and Shared Memories* exhibit is in production with proofreading and gallery preparations. Notices for the opening will be sent out towards the end of January. A small photographic exhibit on Asarco will be opening and notices will be sent out for that as well. Mandy the Mule had her first television experience on KCOS, filming three episodes for the children's program "Blast Beyond". The newsletter is coming out in December, grant applications are out for the 3D digital wall, attendance has increased and educational visitation has tripled.

Marilyn Guida began the Archaeology Museum report by mentioning that Dr. Matthew Taylor has started an artifact inventory, since there has never been an inventory of the artifacts on display. Discussed an El Paso Times article on Dr. Taylor and his ideas for the museum, which was followed up with an editorial from the Times. Estrella Escobar asked to see the article, and Sean McGlynn stated that members would be copied on it. Due to work by TxDOT widening Transmountain on the east side, about 100 feet of frontage depth will be paved. Because of concern for native plants, local experts were consulted in regards to transplantation. The Archaeology Museum has become part of the Far West Texas Wildlife Trail, which connects in from Hueco Tanks to the northeast and west side of El Paso, and helps promote birding and wildlife watching. Expressed concern for dwindling school trips and asked that members help get the word out on the availability of free tours.

6. Discussion and Action on Museum Acquisitions. Barbara Angus began by explaining that the History Museum acquisition is a pen and ink drawing made by Tom Lea in 1956, entitled "Train" and created specifically for the El Paso Times. The piece is currently on display in the first floor lobby and will be used as part of the Transportation Gallery. Image and accessions acceptance form were provided for review and consideration. Chair requested a motion for acquisition of the piece. Katherine Brennand moved to approve; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Michael Tomor reminded members of a work of art by James Drake that was donated by W. Park Kerr to the El Paso Museum of Art and approved for a gift by the board last spring. During the appraisal process, it became clear that the title of the work rested with his mother. The gift now needs to be brought in under the gift of Norma Kerr, his mother. Michael requested approval of the change, indicated that all previous paperwork would be disregarded, all new paperwork would be issued to Mrs. Norma Kerr, and museum files would be adjusted accordingly. Estrella Escobar moved to approve the changes presented. Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Michael continued by bringing four gifts before the board for approval. A self-portrait by Susan Klahr, offered by David Klahr; "El Indio" by Rudy Montoya, offered by Anne Bowbeer; Cone I and Cone II by Mark Gary, offered by the same; and 11 works by Tom Lea, offered by the family of Henry and Pat Taylor. Images were provided for review and consideration via a PowerPoint presentation. Chair requested a motion to acquire the pieces. Susan Novick moved to approve; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on Selection of Board Liaisons to Public Art Committee. Chair began by appointing Marina Monsisvais. Sean McGlynn indicated that 2 additional appointments needed to be made and one needed to take on the chair responsibility. Estrella Escobar nominated Gustavo Reveles, and he accepted. Katherine Brennand nominated Abel Saucedo, but he withdrew due to his desire to serve as the Art Museum liaison. Daniel Longoria volunteered, as did Jane Thomas. Daniel deferred to Jane, and she was appointed to serve as well. In conclusion, chair appointed Marina Monsisvais as chair, with Gustavo Reveles and Jane Thomas appointed to serve as well.

8. QOL Bond Issuance Presentation. Sean McGlynn began the PowerPoint presentation by explaining that City Council would have liked to proceed with a bond issuance in 2008, but with the challenges in the economy, they thought it best not to bring forward a bond issuance at that time. Target date to have a bond election for quality of life is November 2012, to coincide with the general election. It is an attempt to find out gaps in the community, address those gaps, and nominate signature projects that might have an influence

downtown. Public art will not be a debatable item within the bond because it is capital construction, and by ordinance, 2% will be set aside. The City wants to become a model and promote healthy living by installing trail systems and bike paths. The bond issuance is not only for new projects, but also to look at existing facilities and think about how they might be rehabilitated. City Council did not set a cap on this bond issuance; they want to think big and bold, and have an opportunity to entertain these projects and then figure out what that means in terms of the tax roll. The Engineering staff will then develop a scope and estimates for the proposed projects, as well as what the cost for building, operating and maintaining that facility will be. Choices will be made, a threshold will be set and language will be crafted for City Council to consider at that point. Extensive public outreach will be used to convince voters this is where we need to go. General discussion followed and community comment cards were supplied to all members for their participation.

9. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for February 16, 2012.

Approved for content by:
William Moody, Chair

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