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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – December 15, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of History, Seminar Room

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

| Roll Call | Board Member | Present | Absent |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| | R. Katherine Brennand | X | |
| | Elizabeth Ann Bulos | X | |
| | Angel Cabrales | X | |
| | Elvira Carrizal-Dukes | X | |
| | Estrella Escobar | X | |
| | Kenneth Gorski | X | |
| | Teresa Hernandez | | X |
| | Ann F. Kruzich | | X |
| | Daniel Longoria | | X |
| | Steve Lujan | X | |
| | M. Erica Marin | X | |
| | Marina Monsisvais | | X |
| | William Moody | | X |
| | Analinda Moreno | X | |
| | Isela Ocegueda | X | |
| | Elia Perez | X | |
| | Carina Ramirez | | X |
| | Ida Mae Steadman | | X |

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Consecutive absences: Ann Kruzich (1st), Daniel Longoria (3rd), Ida Mae Steadman (1st)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Misty Monteros, Omar De La Rosa, Jeff Romney, Christian Gerstheimer, Barbara Angus, Jim Murphy, Ismael Acosta and Miriam Garcia

2. Call for Public Comment. None.

3. Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for October 20, 2016. Chair gave members a few minutes to review the minutes and requested a motion to accept. Elvira Carrizal-Dukes moved to approve; Steve Lujan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Action on the 2017 Public Art Plan. Ben explained that the Public Art Plan for the next calendar year was being brought forward for approval after having received initial approval from the Public Art Committee before turning the floor over to Miriam Garcia for the presentation. Miriam noted that the Public Art Program is 10 years old with 54 projects completed, the Art Purchase Program was established with 98 acquisitions, the Allied Artist Program was established with 12 commissions, the program worked with 115 artists, 65% of which were local, and 84 local businesses have been impacted by Public Art projects. Ben added that since 1984, the city of San Francisco has completed approximately 50 projects, whereas our program has completed 54 projects in 10 years, which is a strong testament to the growth within the City and the strength of the program. Miriam continued to review recently completed projects, along with new projects and allocations for 2017, via a PowerPoint slideshow. Ben added that we are required to go to Council for the contract amounts individually, and about 7-8 years ago, we started assembling a plan for the year in order to go to Council once, rather than having to go numerous times each year in an effort to be more efficient. Ben opened the floor for questions and general discussion followed. Elia Perez asked what the City Entryways project was, and Ben

explained they are gateways into the City for a visual identity as commuters drive in. They will be located at El Paso St. coming in from the bridge, on I-10 coming in from the east side, on I-10 coming in from the west side, and US-54 coming in from New Mexico. Elizabeth Bulos asked if the design was not yet selected; this approval is to get funding for proposals; Ben replied affirmatively, noting that we are requesting approval to allocate the appropriated funding in order to enter into the process of artist selection. Isela Ocegueda moved to approve the 2017 Public Art Plan projects and allocations; Elizabeth Ann Bulos seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Ben provided a quick update on the Cabrera piece, noting the City is still in deliberation with the artist.

5. Discussion and Action on Extension of Artifact Loans to the Bryan Museum by the El Paso Museum of History. Barbara Angus began by reminding members that the loan of artifacts from this institution in Galveston had been brought before the board last spring and they have requested an extension through the end of February. Images of the items were reviewed via a PowerPoint slide. Katherine Brennand so moved; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on Extension of Artifact Loans to the International Museum of Art by the El Paso Museum of Art. Christian Gerstheimer explained this is a request for the 5-year extension of a loan to the International Museum of Art. There are 27 items, including: 20 sculptures and plates made by Edward Marshall Boehm, 1 crystal chandelier, 2 paintings of Senator and Mrs. Turney, 1 Federal style dressing table, 1 Baroque style sideboard, 1 French Rococo Revival style love seat and 1 French Rococo Revival style armchair that have been on loan since the Art Museum moved downtown. A listing was provided for review via a PowerPoint slide. Katherine Brennand asked if the condition of said items was checked, and Christian replied that the Art Museum registrar visits the International Museum and makes a condition report on an annual basis. Chair requested a motion to approve the loan extension. M. Erica Marin made a motion to approve; Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Museum Reports. Ben requested that Katherine Brennand provide an update to the group as a member of the Foundation Board on director status for the Museum of Art. Katherine announced that the new director, Dr. Victoria Ramirez, currently heads the Bullock Museum in Austin. She starts on January 23rd and Ben added she previously headed the Education Department of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and at the Georgia Museum of Art. She has a wealth of experience in outreach, fundraising and operations. Christian Gerstheimer provided the Art Museum report, briefly reviewing attendance figures along with current and upcoming exhibits. Holiday Members' Choice was a success, with teaching artists vending their artwork and pop-ups in the museum. The winning artist, Asya Reznikov, is a Russian immigrant video artist whose piece, *Be Fruitful*, is a 3-minute long video installation.

Jim Murphy gave the History Museum report, briefly reviewing current and upcoming exhibitions, attendance figures and tours. A \$700 Target grant was received for bussing, the grant application for Phase II of the Neighborhoods and Shared Memories Gallery has been submitted and the Digital Wall cityscape was changed to a Christmas theme. Ben provided an update on the History Museum Director search, noting that preliminary conversations have been had and a review panel was held with some of the candidates. The decision was made to re-open the search using a consultant to help with recruitment in an effort to find the best possible fit.

Jeff Romney began the Archaeology Museum report, noting that the first-ever Tigua Day was very successful and the Tigua are looking forward to partnering with us next November for a similar type of event. There was record-breaking attendance at Native American Storytelling with 164 people in attendance and a tentative gazebo unveiling event with El Paso Pro-Musica is scheduled sometime in April 2017. Jeff provided updates on personnel, store product and ongoing work with the Museum Gallery Update Plan before briefly reviewing upcoming programs, activities and attendance figures.

8. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Isela Ocegueda so moved; Elizabeth Ann Bulos seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:51p.m. Next meeting scheduled for February 16, 2017.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

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

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