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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)  
Thursday – May 17, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.  
City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

**REVISED  
MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:12pm.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	Francesca Alonso	X	
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Lilia B. 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
	Gustavo Reveles-Acosta	X	
	Abel Saucedo	X	
	Jane B. Thomas		X

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Others present: Sean McGlynn, Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Ben Fyffe, Patricia Dalbin and Misty Castaneda.

- Call for Public Comment.** None.
- Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes.** Marina Monsisvais assisted in carrying out the action items in the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Gustavo Reveles-Acosta moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on April 19, 2012, as presented. Estrella Escobar seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
- Museum Reports.** Julia Bussinger began by explaining that the month of May is the month that museums around the world celebrate International Museum Day, Museum Week and Museum Month. Mentioned that the Archaeology Museum continues to audit, inventory and make condition reports on its collection, with the help of the consultant. A new provisional employee starting on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> will assist the consultant with the database and an in-depth analysis of what the collection contains. Membership is picking up, with about 5 new members joining within the past few weeks. The Friends group is meeting on a regular basis and planning great activities, in particular, a fundraiser to promote awareness of honoring our ancestors, which they hope to make a signature event. For Museum Day (May 18<sup>th</sup>), the Archaeology Museum and Friends of the Museum are having an event, "Coyote, Pottery and the Night Sky: The Stories of Navajo Pueblo and Apache People". The recruitment for curator at the Archaeology Museum is still open and resumes are being read. For the History Museum, Julia mentioned a lecture series connected with 2 exhibits, the Mayors Exhibit and "Healing Hands & Healing Ways: Traditional Medicine in the Borderlands", with guest curator Dr. Yolanda Leyva. This exhibit will run until mid-July. For Museum Week, the History Museum is having belly-dancing, henna artists and other presentations of the Middle-Eastern culture from 6-8pm on Thursday. Using innovative technology, the History Museum is

showcasing their projects and galleries using moveable cameras to have live video communication with museums around the world, affording us the opportunity to showcase projects, exhibits, and different cultural performance art.

Michael Tomor began by recapping the last month's museum activities. Mentioned opening the library, preparing for the next round of programs in June and winding down the Mexican exhibits, which are closing on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Algur H. Meadows Library opened within the Museum of Art in May. As a result of the opening, about \$1100 in donations to purchase books for the library and over 450 art volumes have been received as gifts to add to the collection. This is the first public library dedicated to the visual arts in the country. Mentioned the launch of two programs through the library, dramatic readings of "Sabrina Fair", given in two parts on July 21<sup>st</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>; and a Tennessee Williams play, "This Property is Condemned" on August 5<sup>th</sup>. A foreign film series is being launched, with a foreign film being offered every Saturday at 2pm in the auditorium for 50 weeks a year. Karen Cordero, a scholar from Mexico City, will give a lecture titled "Gesture, Style and Function in Modern Mexican Drawing", which is being held in combination with "Dibujos Divinos" from the National Museum of Mexican Art on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The next Artists on Art will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> with Robert Lingle. Major exhibition, "Inquisitive Eyes", opening on June 17<sup>th</sup>, represents 52 years of creation in El Paso by 104 El Paso artists. Michael updated the board on Art Museum staffing changes and discussed two programs, Texas Women for the Arts and The National Society for Arts and Letters. Michael opened the floor for questions and a general discussion followed.

5. **Public Art Report.** *Sean McGlynn requested item 5 be revisited after a correction was made to the PowerPoint presentation. Marina Monsisvais requested a motion, Katherine Brennand moved to approve; Lilia Limon seconded, all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.* Pat Dalbin gave a presentation on Public Art projects that were completed in 2011 and provided board members with a preview of what is to come in the next year. Images were provided for review via a PowerPoint slideshow.

6. **Discussion and Action to Approve Cultural Funding Review Panelists.** Ben Fyffe began by reminding board members that once a year, funding is granted out to individual artists and local arts organizations through the cultural funding program. Approximately a quarter of the Cultural Affairs budget goes out to the organizations and artists to do new work, arts education services within the community, rec centers, libraries and neighborhood spaces as well as helping fund programming and operations for organizations as varied as the El Paso Symphony Orchestra to small grass-roots arts collectives. A panel of community members and local content experts in the arts and fiscal management is put together to review these grants. Ben requested action in support of the individuals serving on the FY2013 panels and he opened the floor for comments. Estrella Escobar asked if they had agreed to serve and Ben responded affirmatively. Estrella Escobar moved to approve as presented; Gustavo Reveles-Acosta seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. **Presentation on the Downtown Pathway and Creative Kids Workshop.** Ben Fyffe began by providing board members with a finalized report to pass around while the presentation was made. Mentioned that the City entered into wayfinding discussions over three years ago to talk about navigating downtown as a pedestrian. A consulting firm looked at areas of downtown and how easy it is to get from point A to point B. An area that was strongly identified as a potential area for redevelopment as a pedestrian area is the area behind the Chamber of Commerce that runs parallel to the railroad coming through downtown. Before and after artist renderings were provided for board member review via a PowerPoint presentation, and general discussion followed.

8. **Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Lilia Limon moved to adjourn; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for June 21, 2012.

Approved for content by:  
William Moody, Chair

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

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