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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – June 16, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Archaeology, Auditorium

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	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: Kenneth Gorski (2nd)

Others present: Tracey Jerome, Ben Fyffe, Patrick Shaw Cable, Patricia Dalbin and Misty Monteros

2. **Call for Public Comment.** Seth Moorman signed up for public comment, but declined when he was called.
3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for May 19, 2016.** *Vice-Chair Carina Ramirez assisted in carrying out action items in the absence of the Chair.* Vice-Chair provided members time to review the minutes before requesting a motion to approve as submitted. Katherine Brennand made a motion to approve; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
4. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Accessions.** Patrick Shaw Cable reviewed an anonymous gift offer of *Torus Isotopico* by Sebastian, an iron with acrylic enamel sculpture with an insurance value of \$45,000 via a PowerPoint slide. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve; Steve Lujan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
5. **Presentation on Sun City Lights Project, Public Art Component.** Ben Fyffe began by providing clarification to members, noting this project went straight to City Council and did not go to the Public Art Committee before adding that this public art component presentation is the same one Council received and approved of.
- Patricia Dalbin began by explaining that the City Manager has asked for this project as a means of beautifying El Paso while providing direction to visitors navigating gateways into the city. Artists Pae White, Jim Isermann and Randy Twaddle were asked to provide their ideas of what our gateways should express to visitors in order to create first and lasting impressions by being eye-catching, contemporary, and visible day and night while reflecting the diversity and creativity that can be found throughout the city. Members reviewed background information on each artist along with their design concept and images of past works via a PowerPoint slideshow.

General discussion on upcoming public meetings throughout the city and the process going forward followed. Pat explained this is a major project and as it moves forward, it will need buy-in by the City and the citizens of El Paso. This is part of a bigger project and local artists will be contracted individually, but used as a collaborative to develop their vision of El Paso while working with other artists and designers to design elements and create a vision for the city.

6. Museum Reports. Patrick Shaw Cable gave the Art Museum report, noting the museum has had 36,000 visitors year-to-date, with over 6,000 visitors last month. He briefly reviewed new exhibitions such as *Humpbacks and Warheads* by Ray Parish, *Intimate Figures* - over 175 works from the private collection of Sugar Goodman with a focus on French and American prints, *Celebrating Picasso*, *Posting Picasso* and *Eldridge Hardie*. *Artists on Art* has been rebranded and will now be known as *LabEPMA*, which is much more contemporary. There will be four shows per year, with the artists receiving an honorarium after the successful completion of their presentations. The first *LabEPMA* artist in August will be Isadora Stowe. Patrick provided information on educational programs and summer youth camp registration, noting substantial scholarship money has been received and there will be three different camps in June, July and August. He opened the floor for questions, there were none, and he concluded his report.

Ben Fyffe began the History Museum report, briefly reviewing attendance and noting we are in the final stages of exhibition planning and negotiation with lenders on the second collaboration with the Plaza Classic Film Festival, opening in August. This exhibition explores the filming of *A 'Giant' Story: When Hollywood Came to West Texas* in 1955. Loans from the Warner Bros. archive will include one costume each, worn by Rock Hudson, Liz Taylor and James Dean. Currently working with the airport on offsite exhibitions of our artifacts from the permanent collection that are normally off-view due to limited exhibition space. These pieces will be on display, allowing airport patrons to peruse the collection and learn more about our history and our people. Ben continued, noting the planning process for fiscal year 2017 in terms of mapping out programs, exhibitions and fundraising initiatives is underway. He closed his report by announcing the History Museum's receipt of a MUSE award, a gold-level award by the American Association of Museums for DIGIE. Ben opened the floor for questions and general discussion on the filming of *'Giant'* followed.

Ben Fyffe began the Archaeology Museum report by noting that summer camp has begun and camp programs offered have tripled. An improvement plan for the galleries to include updating didactics, rethinking artifacts on loan, and better ways to bring out more of the impressive collections, is being reviewed. The three finalists for the supervisory position that will serve as museum director have been interviewed and a reception will be held for members of the public and stakeholders to talk to the candidates about their backgrounds and interests immediately following the conclusion of the meeting. Ben opened the floor for questions and general discussion on the three finalists for the Archaeology Museum position followed.

7. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for August 18, 2016.

Approved for content by:
Carina Ramirez, Vice-Chair

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

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