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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)  
Thursday – August 15, 2013 – 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 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	Francesca Alonso		X
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar	X	
	Bernice Gregory	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich		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

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Consecutive absences: Daniel Longoria (6<sup>th</sup>), Belinda Luna (13<sup>th</sup>), and William Moody (5<sup>th</sup>).

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

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

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for June 20, 2013.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Julia Bussinger began with the Archaeology Museum, mentioning that the *Voladores de Papantla* event was a success, with paid attendance of 520. Special exhibit, *Pieces of the Puzzle: New Perspectives on the Hohokam* will be on display through the end of the year, and the Jornada Mogollon conference will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Julia continued with the History Museum, mentioning two major events, the *National Day of the Cowboy* had 770 in attendance, and the *Pete's Eats Fundraiser* sold 60 tickets at \$25 each. The Fifth Wall of Giants dedicated to UTEP's Centennial is upcoming, and a lot of work with the community is happening through the Circle of Giants. The charro exhibit has concluded and the next exhibit, *People of the Sun*, is a Tigua exhibit with artifacts coming from Leiden in the Netherlands. Summer camps were very successful at both museums. Julia opened the floor for questions, and Jeannine Kennedy asked for clarification on the location of the artifacts coming from Leiden. Julia confirmed they were coming from Leiden in the Netherlands, and Sean McGlynn added that there were issues with the importation due to feathers being on the artifacts. He further added that government permits were completed to export, house and exhibit them. There were no further questions and Julia concluded her presentation.

Michael Tomor began by mentioning the loss of James Jamison, the Museum of Art's Facility Supervisor,

who is retiring. Human Resources is working on compiling a list of candidates and the hope is to fill his vacancy soon. Fifty scholarships to summer camp were given out, with most being given to schools within the region; adult workshop formats were tested out over the summer, they went well and a new type of workshop for adults will be launched; the pre-kindergarten program launched this summer is doing very well; EPISD made a commitment to send all fourth grade students to the museum this year; and about \$5,000 in bussing scholarships were raised to reach the kids in San Elizario, Gadsden, Anthony, Vinton and outlying areas. The Biennial Exhibition is closing this Sunday with a program called *Romeo and Julieta*, which is a partnership program with Shakespeare on the Rocks. It is a bilingual presentation of Romeo and Juliet that will be free to the public. The lobby area downstairs and the sculpture gallery upstairs have both been reinstalled. *Discovering the American Modern*, a beautiful exhibit of 90 original works of art by some of the more important American artists between 1900-1935 opens on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Michael briefly discussed upcoming exhibitions and grants that have been received this year. Cheech Marin will be doing a special meet and greet as part of a fundraiser for the Ann Enriquez Memorial Foundation on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Michael opened the floor for questions, there were none, and he concluded his report.

**5. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of History Acquisitions.** Barbara Angus began by proposing the accession of two murals of historic El Pasoans by Bassel Wolfe. The work once hung inside the Jaxon's restaurant on Airway. Barbara mentioned there is an immediate purpose for the piece in the hallway on the second floor of the History Museum at the end of the *Changing Pass* exhibit. Julia added that this is a donation from Jack Maxon, for which the museum is very grateful. Images were provided for review via a PowerPoint slide. Chair requested a motion to approve the acquisitions as presented. Carina Ramirez so moved; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Action on Fiscal Year 2014 Cultural Funding Program Funding Recommendations.** Ben Fyffe began by providing a brief overview of the process to grant out a portion of our hotel occupancy tax funding to local artists and non-profit organization with art specific missions or art projects. He continued by giving brief explanations of each category and the funding recommendations, starting with Operational Support, which is a program for the largest organizations in our community; Project Support, which is funding available for non-profit organizations for art projects; the Artist Incubator Program is a program designed to fund new work by local artists, and we are one of only two communities in Texas that grants funding out to local artists to create new work, with the caveat that the work has to have some sort of public component in exhibition or presentation; lastly, the Community Arts Program is funding that can be granted out for arts education services, such as workshops, presentation, productions, classes and residencies by teaching artists and non-profit arts organizations. Ben further mentioned that when award notification letters are sent out, individuals and entities also receive their score and the comments that the community panelists gave with the advice that they should use them to structure future applications in an effort to make the process as constructive as possible. Sean added that those who have received no funding recommendation fell below the minimum score, which is a 70 for funding consideration as it is outlined in the guidelines. Those individuals and entities have an appellate process available to them and they may or may not avail themselves of that process. Ben opened the floor for questions, and general discussion followed. Chair requested a motion to approve. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve as submitted; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Action on Fiscal Year 2014 KickstART Downtown Program Funding Recommendations.** Ben Fyffe began by explaining that KickstART Downtown is a funding program that is structured toward incentivizing downtown events and festivals. This program can be awarded to non-profit organizations, individuals, consortia and businesses who can prove a track record of successful recurring events with a demonstrated draw for tourism to the downtown area. He further explained that this is a multi-year commitment with a three-year award cycle. The first year is a 100% award, the second year is 75% of what the first year was and the third year is 50%. Ben opened the floor for questions, and general discussion followed. Marina Monsisvais moved to accept the KickstART recommendation as submitted; Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**8. Update on Quality of Life Bonds.** Sean McGlynn began with quick updates on individual projects. The Pedestrian Pathways project was just approved by City Council to go to contract with Quantum Engineering. This project will connect the Union Plaza District with the Arts District and help us with performing arts venues and museums downtown. There will also be a pedestrian connectivity project behind the Chamber of Commerce that will take you under the Durango underpass; breaking ground will begin in September and the hope is to have the entire project completed by February 2015. We are moving very close to procuring services for the Touch City Wall project, which means we will be moving full steam ahead by the fall and looking towards completion around February 2015. We will be putting out an RFQ for a business planner for the Children's Museum in October to help us set expectations for revenue

generators and the private sector. Katherine Brennand asked what happened to the committee that was put together to be informed about the Children's Museum, and Sean replied that there is no formal committee at this point, the project is 3-4 years out and there will be a business planning process to complete, plus a stakeholder involvement conversation before any committee is formed. Jeannine Kennedy asked if there was a location for the museum yet, and Sean replied that except for direction that it be downtown, there is no location determination yet. The Cultural Heritage Center is in conversations while sights are being looked at, but it is not scheduled to kick-off until after the first three years of the issuance. General discussion followed.

**9. Discussion and Action on Selecting a Member of the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board to Serve as Liaison with the Children's Museum Planning Committee.** Sean McGlynn requested that someone from this body work with the department as the Children's Museum project unfolds. He asked anyone who may be interested in serving in a capacity to help the community through the conversation as it wrestles with the Children's Museum project be prepared to come forward at the next meeting. No action was taken at this time.

**10. Discussion on Notification of Mayor and Council Members for Current and Upcoming Vacancies.** Sean McGlynn began by reminding members that due to the recent election, those appointed by the Mayor and Districts 2, 4 and 7 will see their terms expire at the beginning of October. He asked that the Chair assist in writing a letter with him, notifying those Council members that appointments need to be made so that the business of this committee can continue in October. Katherine Brennand reminded Sean that other members will also come to the end of their appointments at the beginning of October, and Sean replied that indeed those individuals will be included in the letter as well. He continued to say that the letter will be sent out to Council and any member whose term is expiring in October will be carbon copied. Members can go speak with their district representatives if they want to continue in that capacity. General discussion followed.

**11. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Jeannine Kennedy moved to adjourn; Marina Monsivais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for September 19, 2013.

Approved for content by:  
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

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

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