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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – August 18, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art – Larry Francis Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

| Roll call | Board Member | Present | Absent |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Francesca Alonso | | X |
| | R. Katherine Brennand | X | |
| | Tania Chozet | X | |
| | Estrella Escobar | X | |
| | Jeannine Kennedy | X | |
| | Ann F. Kruzich | | X |
| | Belinda Luna | | X |
| | Marina Monsisvais | X | |
| | William Moody | X | |
| | Susan Novick | X | |
| | Elia Perez | X | |
| | Carina Ramirez | X | |
| | Jane E. Ratcliff | | X |
| | Abel Saucedo | X | |
| | Jane B. Thomas | | X |
| | Ray Valencia | X | |

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

2. **Public Comment.** None.

3. **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. Carina Ramirez moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on June 23, 2011, as presented. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Julia Bussinger began by giving background information on Dr. Matt Taylor, who accepted the job as the new Archaeology Curator. He will start on September 19th and Julia asked that Sean McGlynn bring Dr. Taylor to an advisory board meeting for introductions to members. Mentioned that everything is moving very smoothly for the Jornada Mogollon Conference. Received 18 abstracts so far for the next publication, which is good in comparison to 2009, when there were 12 received. Publication is ready for printing, everything is edited and on time to publish 100-150 publications, part will be given to participants, and part will be for sale. The conference is scheduled to take place on October 7th and 8th, beginning at 9am and ending with a reception at the Archaeology Museum. Mentioned that the summer camps for the Archaeology Museum were very successful, as usual. The new component was the collaboration with the Tigua Cultural Center, which is reporting both artists are very pleased and will continue working with them. Current exhibit, *Legacy: Paso del Norte* will be ending the day of the conference. With the help of the new curator, we will focus on pulling something from our collection, possibly beads and beadworks from the Archaeology Museum collection. For the History Museum, a major priority is *Las Villitas: Neighborhoods and Shared Memories*. This exhibit will complete the last stage of development for the History Museum. Will discuss a reasonable rotation schedule at a future board meeting. Mentioned that Sean will present the fabrication, proposal and bids for Segundo Barrio and Chihuahuita to City Council at the September 13th meeting. Mentioned that Boots and Heels is an important event whose major purpose is to raise money for the conservation of the Ysleta Mission. The conservation assessment is \$23,000, and \$8,000 has been raised so far. Hope is that the community will support the

fundraiser and the \$15,000 difference will be made up.

Michael Tomor reported that two exhibitions will be closing; The Ten Commandments on August 28th and the Paul Strand exhibit on September 9th. Margarita Cabrera exhibit will open in the Grand Lobby on August 28th. She will be available that day at 1pm to meet with guests for a private Members' Preview and Reception. Exhibition of ten Andy Warhol works from the private collection of Jonathan Rogers, Jr.; private VIP opening on September 10th at 5pm, open to the public that Sunday. Charge for this exhibition will be \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members and ticket will be exchangeable for Norman Rockwell exhibit opening on October 1st with VIP opening on September 30th. Paso Del Norte Health Foundation is presenting sponsor for both exhibits. Offered 34 summer camps this year; it was a tremendous program and great year. Fall classes for adults and children on the weekends are already filling. Michael will be in Ensenada on September 26th and 27th to attend the award ceremony for winning the Cross Border Cooperation Award. The Woodrow Wilson Institute has agreed to come to El Paso in October and present the same award to the City of El Paso and Juarez. The date has yet to be finalized. Good news from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, just found out we received a 2-yr grant in the amount of \$133,000 to take the EPMA downstairs library and make it publicly accessible. The ideal situation is that this library would become the 14th branch of the El Paso Public Library System, and El Paso would have the first public library dedicated to art in the country. Search for Senior Curator was launched again, 2 candidates returning for second interviews within the next 3 weeks. Quietly launched a \$12.5M endowment campaign for the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation; found out that the Hunt Foundation will be donating \$1M towards the campaign, on top of \$300,000 already raised.

5. Discussion and Action on Museum Acquisitions. Michael Tomor gave a behind-the-scenes tour of the acquisitions in the registrar's office. Presented 17 artworks selected by the Acquisitions Committee as proposed additions to the Art Museum's permanent collection. Original artworks and signature pages were provided for review and consideration. Michael Tomor requested approval of the selected artworks to be added to the museum's permanent collection. Estrella Escobar so motioned; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on FY12 Cultural Funding Program and FY12 KickstArt Downtown Award Recommendations. *Sean McGlynn requested item 6 be moved to the forefront of the agenda after Museum Reports. Judge Moody asked for a motion, Marina Monsisvais motioned to approve; Carina Ramirez seconded, all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.* Ben Fyffe spoke about the Cultural Funding Program, explaining that MCAD grants out about a quarter of the Cultural Affairs budget each year to local artists and non-profit organization to do work with the community and also to engage in outreach activities as well as trying to stimulate tourism to El Paso. Major categories within the Cultural Funding Program are the Community Arts Program, Artist Incubator Program, Operating Support, and Project Support Program. Ben Fyffe requested action; Katherine Brennand moved for approval of allocations; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Ben Fyffe continued speaking on the KickstArt program, which is a new funding program initiated this summer with funds that were allocated mid-year. This program is not part of the traditional Cultural Funding Program. Funding is specifically for recurring events downtown that are designed to drive tourism. The Downtown Street Festival and the Plaza Classic Film Festival were funded last summer. This year there were 9 applications and 7 awards brought for action, to include Splendid Sun Production, Townsquare Media, Downtown KidsPALOOZA, El Paso Comic Con, Centro Cultural Mexicano, El Paso Sun City Pride, and the El Paso Marathon Foundation. These are 3 year awards; each year awardees are required to report and meet certain benchmarks. Carina Ramirez motioned to accept; Marina Monsisvais seconded, all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for September 15, 2011.

Approved for content by:
William Moody, Chair

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