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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – September 18, 2014 – 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 4:13 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand		X
	Estrella Escobar	X	
	Kenneth Gorski		X
	Teresa Hernandez	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Steve Lujan		X
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody		X
	Analinda Moreno	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 (4th).

Others present: Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Ben Fyffe, Everett Thomas and Misty Castaneda.

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

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for August 21, 2014.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Susan Novick moved to approve as written. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began by briefly discussing three grant awards and the Aleksander Titovets opening on September 4th. He continued by handing out a solicitation piece that also serves as a membership drive piece to members, explaining that a 54,000 piece mail drop was made that resulted in many new memberships. Mentioned upcoming events, classes, school tours, Artists on Art and 'Cezanne & Picasso' opening on October 2nd. Arts Festival Plaza is completely under construction through January to take out stairs and make it more handicap-accessible. There is a close to 400-piece collection that is being offered to the museum's permanent collection by the estate of a member of the community. Michael explained that the Accessions Committee vetting would consist of four different meetings of the community to review the collection. One meeting would be for pieces that are absolutely recommended for acceptance to the museum; another would be for works by artists that are already in the permanent collection, such as Tom Lea and Manuel Acosta; the third group would be for works that are insignificant in size by important regional artists that would probably never be shown; the fourth group will be duplicate pieces that already exist in the collection, or posters/lithographs that have no value to the museum. Approval of the board will be needed to move forward and to reject pieces. Michael opened the floor for questions, there were none, and he concluded his report. Julia Bussinger began with the Archaeology Museum report, mentioning recruitment for the Community Engagement Coordinator was ongoing with 58 applications received and 5 qualified. She mentioned upcoming events and the creation of a terrace garden by master gardeners and naturalists before museum improvements start in Spring 2015.

Julia continued with the History Museum, mentioning a new 'Happy Hour' event that focuses on different cultures, a presentation by Rosa Guerrero, upcoming events, exhibition openings and closings, workshops and lectures. Julia opened the floor for questions, there were none, and she concluded her reports.

5. Update on Digital Wall Progress. Julia began by introducing Everett Thomas, the Curatorial Content and Development Coordinator, who presented the website associated with the Digital Wall. Everett began with a tour of the Digital Wall website, allowing members to view the main page and its contents, along with how pictures can be downloaded and filtered for viewing via the browser before it is opened to the general public. General discussion on the use of search filters and content approval followed.

6. Update on Chalk The Block 7. Ben Fyffe began by providing members a brief synopsis of this year's event via a PowerPoint slideshow. It will take place from October 10th-12th in the Downtown Arts District. He provided a thumbnail sketch of the program, mentioning there are typically over 200 artists participating in the event, from chalk artists to performers to installation artists from all over the world, along with vendors and pop-up galleries. The event generates about a million dollars of economic impact into the economy and has been recognized nationally as a downtown driver. After reviewing the installations that will be present at this year's event, Ben opened the floor for questions and general discussion followed.

7. Notice of Annual Meeting and Elections on October 16, 2014. Michael Tomor reminded members that a new slate of officers and liaisons would be elected through nominations at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Carina Ramirez so moved; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for October 16, 2014.

Approved for content by:
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

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

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