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## Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Art Committee (PAC)  
Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 3:30 PM  
MCAD Board Room

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 3:38 pm.

2. **Roll Call.**

**Members Present:** Sarelah Aguilar, Edmund Castle, Derek Caulfield, Lloyd C Hamilton III, Adam Marshall, Josue Munoz, Abel Saucedo, and Laura Turon.

**Members Absent:** Elvira Carrizal-Dukes and Emmanuel Iglesias.

**Others Present:** Aidee Cosme, Miriam Garcia, Adrian Guzman and Diana Cepeda

3. **Public Comment.**

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Josue Munoz requested a motion to approve the May 10, 2018 minutes. Edmund Castle moved to approve. Adam Marshall seconded. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and action on creation of a Downtown companion Piece for the Men of Company E. Memorial.** Ben Fyffe welcomed the following members of the public who signed in for public comment on this item: Dan Olivas, Ruben Chavez, Martin E. Luna and Norma De La Rosa. Mr. Fyffe explained the existing memorial is located in South El Paso at the Delta recreation center. A group of concerned citizens, family members and affiliates of the Men of Company E as well as Comunidad En Accion (CEA) have brought issues to the City related to how this site looks now and how it has been maintained. The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) hosted a Community meeting on April to discuss the memorial and steps to move forward. There were a few of proposals from the City and one of them included keeping the art piece at the current site with the required maintenance. Another solution brought by the Community group was the removal of the monument to be resided in a high profile location in Downtown, Cleveland Square. The third option presented by the City was to create a companion piece commissioning the same artist. This option gives family members the opportunity to have a piece close to where they live and it will also allow visitors to see the Downtown piece. At the original meeting the vote was to move the original piece, however in a second Community meeting the resolution changed. Dan Olivas introduced himself as member of the CEA, a group of people involved in the Community in different segments such as Arts, History, Economic Development and Education. He stated, "This monument represents a contribution made by El Pasoans not only to El Paso but the United States during World War II. "These men sacrificed their lives for us to be able to have what we enjoy today and there was a monument created for them; however the placement of the monument is in question. Most people in El Paso have no idea of what this monument represents or what these men did during World War II. When this was done the stakeholders asked for this monument to be placed in a more prominent place, but that did not happen. The monument is next to a water plant with a bad smell and there is no lighting." Originally stakeholders wanted to move it, but an engineer looked at the monument and he confirmed the monument will not survive the move. There was another meeting and the vote changed to create sister monument. There is a possibility of a 5K run from one monument to another once a year to raise money to maintain both pieces and spread the word of what the Men of Company E represent to El Paso was suggested. During this meeting the City Representative Cissy Lizarraga agreed to take this vote to the City and include it in the budget session. Mr. Fyffe brought the idea of the companion piece to CEA and the community. Ruben Chavez introduced himself as member of the CEA and his involvement is to recognize our local heroes and the contributions our Hispanic Community has made. Mr. Fyffe and Mr. Chavez walked the site and the monument condition was not good since it has not been protected from the elements and decided it would be more cost effective to build another piece and maintain the current piece. The pieces are actually located approximately 5 kilometers from each other which would work with the idea of the 5K run. Cleveland Square and El Paso

Museum of History digital wall are an ideal location for family members and friends to upload pictures and history of the Men of Company E. Mr. Fyffe added City staff has spent a lot of time working with the CEA and Representative Lizarraga; City staff is recommending approval of this item contingent on funding made available in the FY19 budget process at the request of District 8. Adam Marshall asked if the City will be taking responsibility on building the new piece and maintaining the original site and Mr. Fyffe confirmed the City has responsibility of both sides. Traditionally whenever the Public Art program creates a work of art as soon as is dedicated it the responsibility goes to the Department that is hosting it, in this case is Parks and Recreation Department. They understand the current piece is a high priority item. Mr. Olivas added the current piece has a location of Delta St. but it is not on Delta St and he stated the CEA will be very diligent about this going forward to make sure both monuments are maintained. The current monument includes information about Men of Company E and the companion piece will add to the story. He asked the Committee if anyone had heard about the monument and he said the City has not done a better job casting these men. Edmund Castle asked what kind of deficiency report was generated for the monument, how much money is needed for the repair and maintenance and if the Committee was responsible for the decision. Mr. Fyffe responded Public Art staff will work with the Parks and Recreation Department to design a scope and the artist will provide a maintenance manual. The artist for the piece is Julio Sanchez de Alba and he has a vision of what he wants to do for the second piece. Staff will mandate for these pieces to be in the same style so they can make sense as companion pieces. Norma De La Rosa mentioned her grandfather was a soldier of Company E and she was present at the dedication of this memorial along with the other families. They are very proud this monument is there. She is aware not everyone knows about Company E and where these men came from. They came from south El Paso, Cathedral, Bowie H.S., Jefferson H.S. and many of them gave their lives for this country. Many of their names are in a rotunda at Chapin H.S. because Capitan Chapin was their Commander Officer. Her dad has kept all the history of Company E and as a retired school teacher she is sorry no curriculum is available to teach students. The monument is by her parents' house and it is a reminder of her grandfather. "It is time for the Community to know who Company E is, who those brave men were and that we celebrate their heritage," she stated. She agrees to the companion monument and she hopes the City maintains the monuments as it should be. She asked for the Committee support to approve the companion monument and the maintenance of both monuments. Mr. Fyffe emphasized the motion is tied to the funding allocation that it is being put forward by District 8 in the FY19 budget and he thanked the Community members Mr. Marshall moved to approve. Laura Turon seconded. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Action on artist selection for Carolina Bridge project.** Stephen Ingle from Creative Kids provided a presentation about an overview of their programs, mission, vision, purpose and what they do with the community. They are a national program who was recognized by the White House for working with kids with cancer, disabilities and special needs. They are looking at creating artwork in the sense of education and therapeutic process. They developed a curriculum that involves teamwork leadership skills, the idea of composition and problem solving. The reason they exist is due to the lack of art programs in the school districts. Mr. Ingle extended an invitation to visit their offices and added they are working with kids from ages 4 to 18. When the program makes any public art pieces the program engages with the community and it showcases the kids' talent. The kids have the opportunity to use those public art pieces to pursue a higher education and leave a lasting legacy in their community. Mr. Ingle showed pictures of the pedestrian pathways public art pieces they created for the City and other projects made by their program. He added the program shares the entire process with the kids. The Carolina Bridge project has a budget of \$100,000 and will be placed along the bridge. The program takes into consideration all the legalities and the longevity involved in the project. They preferably work with metal and they work with the community to design a concept that fits best. The program will present ideas to this Committee once they revise all the logistics of the project. Adrian Guzman went over the details of this project that were discussed on a previous meeting. Mr. Marshall suggested a piece of art that would utilize all the available space at the Bridge and asked if staff researched other options. Ms. Cosme emphasized the design will be presented for approval to this Committee and she explained there is no other group locally that has done so much outreach and work with school kids at the level Creative Kids has. Public Art staff identified the opportunity for the art piece to be along the fence so it can be visible along with low maintenance costs and it can be extended as much as possible over both sides of the bridge if the budget allows. Lighting would not be included due to the low budget for the project. Mr. Munoz requested a motion to approve Creative Kids as the artist selection for the Carolina Bridge project. Mr. Marshall moved to approve. Lloyd Hamilton III seconded. Eddie Castle abstained to vote. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Action on final design for Chamizal Recreation Center/Library project.** The selected artist, Jesus "Cimi" Alvarado presented the final design for the project. His works are mainly about El Paso local history, the community and the Segundo barrio because is where he grew up. He displayed a small version of the mural he designed for the project and gave a brief explanation of the history behind the concept. The concept is about the Chamizal history. Adrian Guzman showed pictures of the site project. Mr. Munoz asked if there will be a plaque that explains the concept behind the mural and Ms. Cosme answered the Public Art program is exploring some options to add more narrative into the art pieces. Cimi added the form and placement of the mural was given by the architects of the project. He is using new techniques of acrylic and

spray painting. Mr. Guzman added that in the community meeting held, Cimi's work style and ideas were well received. The one quarter scale mural will be transferred into polycarbonate and then mounted on the site. Abel Saucedo mentioned the Mountains design that are placed next to the mural take some visibility away from the mural. The Committee directed staff to make recommendation to the project manager about reducing the color of the Mountains. Derek Caulfield moved to approve. Mr. Marshall seconded. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion and action on final design for Lomaland Recreation Center project.** Blessing Hancock presented her final proposal via skype. She provided an update of the art work and the design process. She showed a picture of the Lomaland recreation center and stated that in collaboration with the project's team they decided for the artwork to be a shade canopy that covers an exterior area along the building. The entire canopy is about 1600 sq. feet and it will be made out of 4X10 corten steel sheet panels. The project team is providing all the infrastructure and framework of the project. She showed a plan view and added they are still reviewing the structural engineering work for the canopy. The canopy is 16 feet high and the lights will be placed at 12 feet below the frame work. The lights will be shining up and the colors can be adjusted. Ms. Hancock worked with the community on the panels. She provided a template and a questionnaire to the community for their input. The design includes text and describe the local story collected directly from the community. As people look up, they will be able to read the text on the panels. There are a lot of themes in the overall design and she offered to provide more details if the Committee requested. Mr. Saucedo suggested for the lighting to be on top the canopy and shining down so it can cast the shadows. Ms. Hancock responded that at this height the shadows will be legible on ground level. Mr. Castle recused himself from any comments because he is the construction engineer for this project. The canopy comes out 22 feet from the building. Sarelah Aguilar expressed her concern about the word shadows being cast backwards on the ground with the sunlight and Ms. Hancock responded that at this height the shadows will not be clear. The corten steel will be water cut and pre-treated for moisture. Mr. Munoz requested motion to approve the final design for the Lomaland recreation center project. Ms. Turon moved to approve. Ms. Aguilar seconded. Eddie Castle abstained to vote. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**9. Discussion and action on final design for Alameda Recreation Center/Library project.** Adrian Guzman explained the piece will be inside a new building. The artist Osman Akan presented his final design via skype. His brainstorming process started with a research about the area. He based his design on the topography of El Paso and he generated a few models including the erosion and flow direction. He came out with optical fiber systems with cross-sectional volumes and an overlapping effect. The piece will be located in a linear surface. Mr. Akan showed pictures and explained the proposed design, fabrication and installation. The pieces will be using optical fibers with nearly 1200 strings of lights that can be adjusted with a DMX controller. He provided alternative designs to discuss with the Committee. Mr. Munoz expressed his concerns regarding the material being used for the piece and Mr. Akan provided further explanation. Mr. Akan recommended no more than 6 pieces due to the limited space. The Committee would like for the shape to be modified. Mr. Munoz requested a motion to approve the concept on the condition of improving the form. Ms. Turon moved to approve. Ms. Munoz second. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**10. Discussion and action on final design for Bartlett Park project.** Michael Stutz presented his final design via skype. He is proposing a Jack rabbit that will be 8 feet long and 6 feet tall. The rabbit is depicted jumping through the playground. He will be using his woven strips signature technique because they can show motion, energy, and light. He showed pictures of his other pieces made of bronze and added that all of his pieces are fabricated and not casted. He has never had any issues with any of his pieces about getting damaged or hurting others. The pieces will be fabricated out of sheared and laser cut strips of silicone bonze sheets. He had a site visit with members of the community and the jack rabbit was brought up by the community as a frequent visitor to the park. The piece will have a concrete base and it will be surrounded by herb gardens. The star holding the rabbit will be made out of stainless steel to support the arms and legs. Mr. Castle suggested the rabbit to be 2 feet from the ground, but Mr. Stutz said the public won't get the visual impact if it is on the ground. The balance will be better if it is supported by the metal. The Committee agreed the star is a distraction for the piece and asked for another option. Mr. Marshall moved to approve the concept on the condition of adjusting the base of the design. Mr. Castle seconded. Al members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Diana Cepeda,

