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## Museums & Cultural Affairs

### The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 3:30 PM MCAD Board Room

#### MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:39 pm.
- 2. Roll Call: Members Present:** Melissa Barba, Kim Bauer, Robert Gonzalez, Ken Gorski, Jeannine Kennedy, Jane Thomas.  
**Members Absent:** Anna Aleman, Marina Monsisvais (Chair), Daniela Quesada Rivas.  
**Others Present:** Pat Dalbin, Misty Castaneda, Erik Gomez, Jimmie Bemont.
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approval of Minutes.** Vice-Chair Ken Gorski assisted in carrying out action items in the absence of the Chair. Vice-Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on October 8, 2013, as submitted. Kim Bauer so moved; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Discussion and Action on the Selection of Artist Michele Gutlove for the Irving Schwartz Library Renovation from the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool.** Pat Dalbin began by showing members the conceptual design for the Irving Schwartz library via a PowerPoint presentation. Architects are in preliminary design of a façade to give the building a more modern look. Robert Gonzalez asked who the architect was and Pat replied it was Fred Perez with ARTchitecture. Pat pointed out that the library director did not want the piece to take up any space within the footprint of the library as renovations will take up all available space. She noted that the atrium at the entrance was chosen as the location for the hanging piece after all location possibilities were explored, as a means to preserve the footprint. The artist, Michele Gutlove, will be selected from the pre-qualified artist pool. Pat continued to show images of Gutlove's works, noting that she hand makes her glass and does suspension, working in biological forms. She enjoys research and working with the community to bring everyone together in order to come up with a special site-specific piece. There was concern that the piece could only be seen by patrons of the library and not by members of the public outside the building. General discussion followed. Vice-Chair requested a motion to approve. Jeannine Kennedy moved to approve the selection of Michele Gutlove for the Irving Schwartz library renovation; Melissa Barba seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Discussion and Action on the Design Proposal of a Bronze Sculpture of a WWII Soldier by Jimmie Bemont for Veterans Park.** Pat Dalbin introduced Jimmie Bemont to members, noting that he is the artist for the Veterans Park project and will present his proposal. Jimmie began by providing his background in sculpture and explained that his biggest claim to fame is the life-size Buffalo Soldier sculpture on Ft. Bliss in 1998. He also did the life-size Conquistador for Del Valle High School in 2001. He provided images of his proposed drawings via a PowerPoint presentation and listed some of his previous works. He added that the WWII Soldier would also be life-sized at approximately 6 feet and 4 inches in height, approximately 4 feet and 6 inches in thickness, and positioned on a concrete slab because it is his belief that sculpture should be touched and available for interaction with the general public. The concrete slab will have a metal base, and the base will have four protruding bolts to secure the piece, with bronze fittings to cover the bolts. Pat inquired as to where the piece would be fabricated and Jimmie replied it would be at a foundry in Juarez because they are prompt and about half the price of foundries in the US. Robert Gonzalez asked where it would be located and Jimmie replied it would be at the corner of Salem and Rushing in the park. Robert asked which way it would face and Jimmie replied that decision hadn't been made yet, but he would suggest it face the most traffic. Robert asked if it was funded for lighting and Jimmie replied it would be included. Melissa Barba asked how it would be lit, and Jimmie replied his idea is to have four LED lights at ground level. Robert asked if what the soldier would

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be wearing is modeled on historical garb, and Jimmie replied that everything would be historically accurate. General discussion followed. Vice-Chair requested a motion to approve. Jane Thomas moved to approve; Melissa Barba seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment.** Vice-Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Kim Bauer so moved; Melissa Barba seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm. Next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2013.

Approved for content by:  
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:  
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant

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