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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 3:30 PM City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:36pm.

2. Roll Call: Members Present: Jesus Alvarado, Rida Asfahani, Melissa Barba-Espinosa, David Berchermann, Kate Bonansinga, Ken Gorski, Floyd Johnson, and Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengston. **Members Absent:** R. Katherine Brennand, Martina Lorey and Ray Parish. **Others Present:** Patricia Dalbin, Marisol Lopez, Sean McGlynn, Maria Aragon, and Ray Telles.

3. Public Comment: None. Chair introduced new PAC member Melissa Barba-Espinosa, attending her first meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes. Patricia Dalbin asked for a motion to approve the minutes for meeting held on May 25, 2010. Rida Asfahani moved to approve the minutes as presented; David Berchermann seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action on finalist for the Stanton Street project. Patricia Dalbin mentioned that artist selection panel process was completed. Provided presentation with two proposed designs from finalist Jari Rene Alvarez for review and consideration. General discussion about installation, timeline for completion, private sector feedback, and expected deliverables. Kate Bonansinga motioned to approve the selection of artist Jari Rene Alvarez as presented; Ken Gorski seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and action on finalist for the City Hall Entryway project. Patricia Dalbin mentioned City Hall improvement project is not complete renovation but redesign of entry ways to avoid wind tunnel effect. Presentation provided with proposed design from finalist Joshua Stein. Mentioned that City Manager called for public art component to be included in redesign. Mentioned artist agreement to work with architects from inception to design improvements; a committee formed by the City Manager's office will review final design; MCAD is simply providing assistance for appointment of artist to design team. Rida Asfahani motioned to approve selection of artist Joshua Stein as presented; Floyd Johnson seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and action on the Downtown Train Way Bridge reconstruction. Patricia Dalbin mentioned an opportunity for funding to redo train way overpasses located downtown from Campbell St. to Santa Fe St. Mentioned all overpasses in downtown will be repaired, calling for the removal of chain link fences and integration of public art. Discussion about including project into Public Art Plan FY11 and moving forward with artist selection process. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengston motioned to approve the addition of the Downtown Train Way Bridge project to the Public Art Plan FY11 and to move forward with the artist selection process; Kate Bonansinga seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and action on the direct selection of artist Vicki Scuri for the I-10 Aesthetic Plan. Patricia Dalbin mentioned that CITY and TXDOT are collaborating on a project to aesthetically improve the corridor between Hawkins and Executive Center Blvd. Mentioned direct selection of artist Vicki Scuri to work on project is recommended based on her extensive experience with numerous mobility projects throughout the U.S. Presentation of previous installations and ongoing projects provided for review and

consideration. Mentioned that contract would include component to pilot an apprenticeship program engaging local artists for building skill sets. Raymond Telles with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) elaborated on the scale and vision of proposed project. Mentioned TXDOT is investing their own money into the project. General discussion about cost effective methods of installation; including landscaping into design concept; continuation of existing visual; color palette remaining true to El Paso; additional feedback from stake holders needed; and including day and night life component to each zone across the proposed corridor. David Berchermann motioned to approve the direct selection of Vick Scuri for the I-10 Aesthetic project; Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. Next meeting scheduled for July 27, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted by:
Maria Aragon, Administrative Assistant