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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)

Thursday – August 15th 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

El Paso Museum of Art

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

CITY CLERK DEPT
2019 SEP 12 AM 9:11

Roll call:	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Adame, Rachel	X	
	Bulos, Elizabeth		X
	Diaz, Alfredo	X	
	Giangiulio, Anne	X	
	Gorski, Kenneth	X	
	Hamilton, Lloyd III		X
	Harris, Jeff	X	
	Herrera, David		X
	Jaquez, Laura		X
	Leon, Vanessa	X	
	Longoria, Daniel		X
	Loweree, Carlos III	X	
	Luna, Frank	X	
	Marshall, Adam	X	
	Nino, Ivan	X	
	Ramirez, Carina	X	
	Steadman, Ida	X	
	Valdez, Laura	X	

Consecutive Absences: Lloyd Hamilton III (4th), David Herrera (4th), Laura Jaquez (4th), Daniel Longoria (7th)
Elizabeth Bulos (1st)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Jeff Romney, Vladimir VonTsurikov, Russell Abeln, Adrian Guzman, Luz Ibarra, and Courtney Kurtzrock

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Kenneth Gorski allowed members a few minutes to review the minutes of the last meeting on December 20th, 2018. Dr. Carina Ramirez motioned to approve the minutes; Adam Marshall seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action of Fiscal Year 2020 Cultural Funding Program Award Allocations:** Assistant Director of MCAD Ben Fyffe began by asking Frank Luna to recuse himself until the next action item since he is affiliated with one of the organizations applying for funding. Ben introduced Rebecca Munoz that Cultural Funding Coordinator for The Museum and Cultural Affairs department, and explained that annually a quarter of the Cultural Affairs department budget is granted to local artists and organizations, also the past she was an awardee of the program. Rebecca Munoz then presented a slide show which gave an overview of 6 programs that are granted funding. This slide show gave an overview for applicants and awards for FY19-FY20, there was a total of 73 applicants, the awards totaled to \$401,867.84 with a total of 61 awardees. Last year 75 applications

were submitted with a total of 58 awardees with a total of \$385,000. Ben Fyffe that the process has been refined over the years and also mentioned that these items do sometimes goes to council. The applicants go to a workshop in which they are walked through the application process, and Rebecca also meets with individuals and organizations on her own time for one-on-one sessions for clarity of the application process. Ken Gorski questioned the funding recommendation amounts, in regards to a pre-set structure that applicants are aware of. Rebecca explained that all organizations can apply for up to \$25,000, and that funding is very competitive because of two new organizations who were able to keep their budgets at around \$100,000 El Paso Arts Association, and El Paso Quorum Society. Ben interjected that the number of applications have grown in concurrence with the budget increase. The presentation continued with a project support program and Rebecca mentioned that there were a couple of new applicants, Mariachi Prazar and El Paso Del Norte Foundation and are mid-range smaller nonprofit organizations. Artist incubator program was the next slide, five artists were able to be funded who represented a range of artistic disciplines for a total of \$4000. The local filmmakers program was shown next and is in its third cycle of funding, three artists were selected one in documentary and two in drama. The most requests for funding comes from the Art's program and the field is saturated with artists with 25 requests, and out of them 24 were approved, 44% were new to the program because of program outreach which gives new mediums and artists a chance for spotlight. The Kick Start program was the last program discussed, which provides funding to new and returning events in downtown El Paso to spur economic development and tourism. Anne Giangiulio had a question about El Paso Fest Fest and what it entails, Rebecca explained that it was new project that showcases different types of festival genres, such as the mariachi genre, and the international food genre, Adam Marshall asked if it was a free event or a ticketed event, and Rebecca stated that she would have to check the application for an answer and for a start date. Ben added that the event organizer is the founder of the El Paso Beer Festival, and has the capacity to do large scale events. Ben requested approval for funding recommendations, the next step of the approval process is contingent on City Council passing a finalized budget, at this point notifications would go out to all applications, approval and denial. Every applicant who was not selected does get constructive feedback about what to do in the next funding cycle. Carina Ramirez motioned to approve, Vanessa Leon seconded. All members voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on appointment of Cathy Chen to the Public Art Committee:** Ken Gorski began by explaining the process for appointment for the Public Art Committee, and asked how many vacancies were present. Ben Fyffe explained that there were five vacancies that were available to fill, and that there would be more possible appointees next meeting. Ben began with background information, by resolution Public art committee appointees needs to have backgrounds in specific fields such as Art, Design, Engineering, and Architecture. The first name is Cathy Chen, all members were given copies of her resume to look over, Cathy has an extensive background in design, she is the founder and co-director of Fablab El Paso which is in Art Space building, and they do 3-D fabrication and coating. Ben explained that there needs to be a balance of female and male perspectives on the committee. The members were given a moment to review Cathy Chen's resume. Adam Marshall motioned to Approve, Carina Ramirez seconded, all members voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion and Action on appointment of Jesus E. Carillo to the Public Art Committee:** Ben Fyffe introduced Jesus Carillo, who is currently at UTEP at facilities. There are a lot of members in the Art background, but mentioned that the committee needed someone who had the expertise in structural components, and art installations. The members were each given Mr. Carillo's resume and were given a moment to review it. Adam Marshall asked if this was a two year or three year term, it was confirmed that it was a two year term. Ben asked if there were questions, there were no questions from the members. Vanessa Leon motioned to approve, Adam Marshall seconded, and all members voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.
7. **Discussion and Action on Accessioning Proposed Gifts to the El Paso Museum of History:** Ben Fyffe introduced Dr. Vladimir VonTsurikov who is the Director of The El Paso Museum of History, and Dr. VonTsurikov gave a presentation in which introduced the Accessioning and Deaccessioning Process for the El Paso Museum of History. The presentation went over general policies and mentioned that this had not been brought to the board in 2 years, also the El Paso Museum of History will be bringing forth items to the next meeting for deaccessioning. The first gift that is being recommended for Accessioning into The El Paso Museum of History's permanent collection are four vessels of regional pottery from Carlie Hooten that fit the museums 3D Objects-First People's collection. The second item is from Philip White-One which is an original invitation to the Taft Diaz reception from 1909 that fits the Manuscripts/Mixed Materials-Nation State collection. The last gift is Thirty-three framed etchings by the late artists Steve Edwards, gifted by Maureen and Jim Singleton, these etchings fit in the museums Photos, Prints, and Drawing-Folk Life Collection. Dr. VonTsurikov explained that this is a time where the museum is reexamining its collection, and that it is important to start tracking the collections that it already has. Ken asked if there were any questions about the collections, Adam Marshall asked why there was such a lapse in time for the Museum to not have this process in place, Ben answered by stating that

when he was Interim Director at the Museum he put a stop to accessioning any further items because the museum was not aware of what they had in their inventory. Dozens of boxes were unopened from 10 years before the East location to Downtown, there was no catalog system in place, and the policy was that unless the item was of such significance then it would be accessioned. Now there is professional staff in place to ensure proper cataloging. Adam Marshall asked that since there is a system now, do they think that the museum can take care of the items brought forth today and future items, Ben answered with yes since there is a system in place for new collections to be cared for and areas for growth and as mentioned before the next meeting the board will be presented with items for deaccessioning. In 2017 it was brought to City Council an update to the collections policy, which expressed how items were taken in, deaccession and displaying them. The collections policy before this had not been updated in roughly 15 years. The process to take items into collections were no longer valid over disbanded committees, which left no vehicle for the items to be taken in. Anne Giangliulo asked in terms of housing these items, what is in place to house them and what the museum has in mind on how to house the items. Dr. VonTurikov answered with in regards to housing the items would depend on the exhibition schedule and that they will take in the example of how the art museum is housed and the new process of cataloging. Ken Gorski asked for a motion to accept, Adam Marshall motioned to accept the items proposed to the Museum of History, Frank Luna seconded. All members voted in favor, motion passed unanimously.

8. **Museum Reports:** Jeff Romney the director the El Paso Museum of Archeology began by explaining that the museum will begin bringing in items to be considered for accession in further meetings. The museum had a very busy summer and had good turnouts throughout the summer, from July 19-August 8th. There was a free public open house in July to introduce the museum to the population in El Paso that do not know about the museum. He explained how important memberships were to the museum and how it benefits both the member and the museum. There were art classes presented in the latter half of July that had a total of ten participants and on July 27th Mr. Romney gave a Lecture on *Beauty from the Earth: An Introduction to Pueblo Pottery*. Archeology family day was on August 3rd, due to the tragic event that occurred with an abundance of caution the City granted permission for the safety of all to close the event. There were also 6 school tours during the summer with a total of 140 students and 79 adults. Upcoming events throughout August include a Post-Pecos Archeology Conference Tour of Museum, Free movie night, and *The Macaws of Paquime, Chihuahua, Mexico* by Michael E. Whalen, Ph.D. Members were given the museums new handouts. Next Ben announced that Dr. Victoria Ramirez has accepted a position as the Director of the Arkansas Art Center, in Little Rock Arkansas. Ben introduced Dr. Vladimir VonTsurikov as the Interim Director of the El Paso Museum of Art, Dr. VonTsurikov began with the El Paso Museum of Art's report which included a YTD attendance from September 1st 2018 at 105,957. There were multiple events that happened in the summer, and he shared upcoming events to include a Film Series: Border Crossings and Artful Preludes. He went over the current museum exhibitions and upcoming exhibitions to include Tom Lea and World War II, and Leo Villarreal: Early Light. He also mentioned that the EPMA Art School is still ongoing and will continue until late October. Dr. VonTsurikov then began the report for the El Paso Museum of History, the first topic was the permanent history exhibition Changing Pass: People, Land & Memory-El Paso Del Norte Revisited will be moved downstairs to allow more people to view it. All texts and labels have been re-written throughout the museum for the collections. The exhibition opening for Bases Loaded: El Paso and Beyond had a great turnout and will be available for viewing until the first week of January. The attendance went up 45% from last year totaling 87,376. Dr. VonTsurikov explained about previous events that included the Changing Pass exhibit opening, and the Economic Development Streetcar Tour with Mayor Margo, also upcoming events including an El Paso Historical tour series with First Lady Adair Margo throughout September and October.

9. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday September 19th 2019.

Approved for content by:
Kenneth Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Courtney Kurtzrock, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department