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**MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)**  
**Thursday, August 19, 2021, 4:00 PM**  
**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**MINUTES**

CITY CLERK DEPT  
2021 SEP 21 PM2:57

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:07 pm.

2. Roll Call.	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Adame, Rachel		X
	Diaz, Alfredo		X
	Edens Gary	X	
	Giangiulio, Anne	X	
	Glenn, Lucio		X
	Gorski, Kenneth	X	
	Harris, Jeff	X	
	Herrera, David		X
	Jaquez, Laura	X	
	Leffler, Beth	X	
	Leon, Vanessa	X	
	Loweree, Carlos III	X	
	Marshall, Adam	X	
	Nino, Ivan	X	
	Schmid-Falcon, Stephanie		X
	Valdez, Daniel	X	
	Valdez, Laura		X
	Winters, Darby	X	

Consecutive Absences: Alfredo Diaz (6) Laura Valdez (2)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Karla Munoz, Jeff Romney, Erica Marin, Rebecca Munoz, Bernadette Ramos, Daniela Quesada, Blanca Garcia, Rocio Rivas and Diana Cepeda

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Ken Gorski requested a motion to approve. Adam Marshall moved to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes. Gary Edens seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on FY 2022 Cultural Funding Program award recommendations.** Ben Fyffe, Managing Director, addressed the Board to introduce Rebecca Munoz and to remind the Board that the Museum and Cultural Affairs Department annually grants a portion of its budget to non-profit arts and cultural organizations as well as individual artist through a competitive grant making process. This funding will be available dependent on the passage of the budget by City Council next week. Rebecca Munoz, Cultural Development Coordinator addressed the Board to present the award recommendations. She presented a PowerPoint detailing the Cultural Funding Categories. She stated that this year the program ran three programs; the Operating Support, Arts Active, and Artists Incubator programs. She continued by providing overview information on FY 2022. The program received a total of 54 applicants, of those, 27 were funded and awarded a total of \$249,500. She displayed a list of all the funded applicants for the three programs with funding amounts. Ken Gorski requested a motion to approve. Vanessa Leon moved to approve. Gary Edens seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Accessions.** Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to introduce Bernadette Ramos. Bernadette Ramos, Museum Registrar for the El Paso Museum of Art, addressed

the Board to present two gift offers from Russell Tether Fine Arts Associates. The first gift is an *Alexandre Hogue* woodcut print in three colors on Japon paper. The second gift offer is also a piece from *Alexandre Hogue* that is also a lithograph. Bernadette Ramos continued by presenting the second gift offer from the estate of Lineaus Lorette, by Vilis Inde-Executor. The Jose Guadalupe Posada broadsides was approved by MCAAB on August 20, 2020, before being able to get Mr. Lineaus Lorette to sign the deed of gift before he passed the estate is willing to move forward with the gift of broadsides as well as four additional works by Abby Levine. Her work addresses Mexican Revolution and popular culture. Another work that the estate wants to gift is by James Evans, it's a photograph of Mr. Lorette and his dogs. This photo was included in the book *Big Bend Picture* published in 2003. Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to state that the estate is willing to donate a preliminary gift of \$10,000 to the museum as well as a more substantial gift when the estate is settled. Ken Gorski requested a motion to approve. Jeff Harris moved to approve. Vanessa Leon seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Deaccession.** Bernadette Ramos, addressed the Board to discuss the Museum of Art deaccession proposal. The Museum would like to formally deaccession a 20<sup>th</sup> Century chandelier from the decorative arts collection. Staff would like to transfer the Chandelier to the International Museum of Art, the Museum has already deaccessioned other chandeliers that were attached to the building in the past. A picture was shown of the current chandelier installed in the International Museum of Art. The chandelier is currently being used as a light fixture at the International Museum of Art. Staff is seeking approval to deaccession from the El Paso Museum of Art permanent collection so that they can gift it to them for continued use.. Ben Fyffe explained that a lot of the furniture and fixtures were accessioned by the Museum in the late 1950s. He proceeded to state a reminder that the City continues to own the building and is leased to the International Museum of Art. Anne Giangiulio made statements for clarification purposes over the process of the proposed deaccession. Ben Fyffe, stated that this is to formalize what has been going on via loans for twenty-two years. Anne Giangiulio asked if the item was original to the International Museum of Art. Bernadette Ramos stated that the deed of gift was gifted to an attorney home and was reinstalled at its current location. Ken Gorski requested a motion to approve. Anne Giangiulio moved to approve. Ivan Nino seconded; Jeff Harris abstained; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

**8. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Loan Requests.** Bernadette Ramos, addressed the Board to discuss the outgoing conservation loan proposal for four paintings to be examined, analyzed, and conserved by Kress Program in Paintings Conservation at the Conservation Center of the IFA, NYU. The program was founded in 1989 by the Kress Foundation for the purpose of providing treatment, research, assessment, and advice for the many museums that house the dispersed Kress Collection, which do not have a conservation department. Since the program's inception, they have studied and restored over 250 paintings from the Kress regional galleries. This is a service provided by a grant from the Kress foundation at no cost to the museums, who are responsible only for shipping and insurance. She continued by presenting the second outgoing loan proposal is to The Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas. They are requesting a loan of 15 artworks for a Tom Lea retrospective exhibition in conjunction with the Tom Lea Institute to be hosted by the Museum of the Southwest in September of 2022. The Museum was accredited by the AAM in June 1992 and again in 2002 and is governed by a Board of Trustees with around 20 staff. Ken Gorski requested a motion to approve. Daniel Valdez moved to approve. Beth Leffler seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**9. Update on Mexican American Cultural Center.** Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to introduce Daniela Quesada, Project Manager of the MACC and a City Architect. Daniela Quesada addressed the Board and presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation. She began with a brief history of the project and stating that this project is one of three signature projects of the 2012 Quality of Life Bond. She showed renderings of the location of the MACC site which is collocated with the Main Library. She highlighted some of the amenities around the area and she continued with discussing the MACC programming details showing renderings of the proposed types of programming that are to be expected. She then showed the building design layout floor plan detailing the proposed programming areas in the building. Next, she showed the layout of the Plaza site design at Cleveland Square, adding details over what the designers are hoping to create around the site and presented photos of the day and night that will a compliment the building. She also presented proposed programming opportunities and special events for the Plaza site. She continued by presenting details over the designers proposed landscaping design for the Plaza site which include a Botanical Garden. Lastly, Daniela presented and discussed the details over the architectural design discussing different architectural elements, cultural inspiration and presented renderings of the design. Jeff Harris asked if the Center would be used as a collection institution and Mr. Fyffe confirmed that the Center was not going to be used as a collection institute and it will rely on the collections from the sister institutions, Museum of Art, Museum of History, Museum of Archaeology, as well as the Border Heritage Center. Ben Fyffe also stated that they will be looking into Smithsonian affiliation project and also lease exhibitions throughout the year. Ken Gorski made statements over the exhibition area size and over the pedestrian transiting plan from site to site. Ben Fyffe answered with details over the exhibition area and stated that the City is currently working on pedestrians plans around the new facilities coming to the area. Anne Giangiulio had a question about the existing Children's Library space and how the space will be affected with the new facility. Ben Fyffe answered by stating details over the

proposed plan, which will expand the current Children's Library space. Ken Gorski thanked staff for the updates.

**10. Museum Reports.** Jeff Romney, Director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology addressed the Board to present the Museum report. He shared details of the closing of the El Paso Airport exhibit on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the current exhibit at El Paso Museum of Art. He also reported on past events and activities. He announced that due to the recent rains the trail at Wilderness Park was impacted and are closed until further notice. He shared the attendance numbers and the reach of virtual programming for the Archaeology Museum. Lastly, he shared that the Museum store is now open and has many new unique items for sale. Ben Fyffe addressed the Board to introduce the newly appointed Museum of History Director, Erica Marin. Erica Marin, addressed the Board to present the History Museum report. She discussed the details over past and current activities to include virtual events for the Museum and mentioned the success of the *Low & Slow* exhibit. She shared the attendance numbers and the reach of virtual programming for the History Museum. She announced that Digie is currently down and staff is currently troubleshooting and will be down until further notice. Lastly, she presented upcoming events and invited the Board to the new exhibit, *Luche Libre, Stories from the Ring* on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and *El Paso's Homegrown: WWII* exhibit in the fall. Ben Fyffe, Interim Director for El Paso Museum of Art addressed the Board to present the Museum report. He began by sharing details of the first in-person event that was held at the Museum of Art. He shared attendance numbers and the reach of virtual programming for the Art Museum. He announced the upcoming exhibition, *Retablos*, and mentioned the continuing exhibitions of *El Taller Grafica Popular* and *Michael Namingha*. Staff is also working on the first *Fashion Nirvana: Runway to Everyday* exhibition that will open in October. Lastly, he announced that the recruitment for the Art Museum is closed and will begin interviews soon.

**11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021.

Approved for content by:  
Kenneth Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:  
Rocio Rivas, Administrative Assistant