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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday, October 15, 2020, 4:00 PM
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

CITY CLERK DEPT
2021 FEB 22 AM 9:41

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm.

2. Roll Call.	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Adame, Rachel		X
	Arizpe, Raul	X	
	Diaz, Alfredo		X
	Giangiulio, Anne	X	
	Gorski, Kenneth		X
	Hamilton, Lloyd III		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 Laura		X

Consecutive Absences: Lloyd Hamilton III (9)

Other present: Ben Fyffe, Vladimir von Tsurikov, Jeff Romney, Rebecca Munoz, Stephanie Otero, Karla Salazar, Aidee Cosme and Rocio Rivas.

3. Public Comment. None.

4. Approval of Minutes. Vanessa Leon requested a motion to approve the September 17, 2020 minutes. Ivan Nino seconded. All members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action on Reappointment of Laura Jaquez to the Public Art Committee: Laura Jaquez addressed the board, happy to have served for the past two years and is excited for the opportunity to be reappointed. Ben Fyffe requested a motion to accept, Adam Marshall moved to approve, Jeff Harris seconded; all members in favor, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on Reappointment of Sarelah Aguilar to the Public Art Committee: Miriam Garcia, Public Art Supervisor addressed the board to discuss that Ms. Aguilar has been a member for two years and would like to be reappointed. The board did not have additional questions. Adam Marshall moved to approve, Laura Jaquez seconded; all members in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on Appointment of Floyd Johnson to the Public Art Committee: Ben Fyffe addressed the board, members should have received resume for review, also stated that Mr. Johnson has served on the Committee before. Mr. Fyffe added; Members are allowed to serve two consecutive terms, sit out and then allowed to return later. Miriam Garcia addressed the board, detailing that Mr. Johnson is an engineer and could help with any future design issues the committee may have. Ms. Garcia also stated that the appointment of Mr. Johnson will also contribute to a full committee: a total of 11 members if Mr. Johnson is

appointed. Adam Marshall asked if Mr. Johnson has experience with past City Projects. Miriam Garcia and Ben Fyffe were affirmative. Adam Marshall moved to approve, Ivan Nino seconded; all members in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Update on the El Paso Children's Museum: Ben Fyffe addressed the board to discuss the exciting new design of the El Paso Children's Museum facility that has been in design since late 2010 into 2011. This project was approved by voters in 2012 through the QoL bond. Stephanie Otero, Vice President of Operations for the El Paso Community foundation and acting Interim Executive Director for the El Paso Children's Museum, addressed the board discussing details of the national search for a New Director, however COVID-19 has created obstacles to fill the position. Karla Salazar opened the presentation. Ms. Otero began by discussing the details of the partnership between El Paso Community Foundation and the City of El Paso. The City and El Paso Community Foundation have a combined total budget of 70.2 million for this project. El Paso Community Foundation is raising a total of 30.2 million and have secured 26 million out of the 30.2 million as of today. Snohetta is the architect selected to design the facility. Locally Snohetta is connected through Elaine Molinar, local high school graduate and a founding partner. Through strategic planning Blue Sky theme was introduced, literal explanation: having a blue sky that connects the border region and no matter what anyone puts on the ground the sky is borderless. Blue sky in the science world explanation: takes them outside the box to future visionary which is wanted for the visitors of the museum. Snohetta created a cloud building, the vaulted ceilings and bottom floor are all glass windows to give the illusion that the building is floating, the night will transform the building into a starry night. The building is 70,000sqft, 4 stories, and exhibits are mostly on floors 2-4. On the 1st floor where the café and gift shop are, there will be an exciting shared exhibit with La Rodadora, the Children's Museum in Juarez, creating a real time experience between the two museums. This 1st floor exhibit will be kept secret and will be revealed the day the museum opens. Around November 12th the museum exhibit drawings will be shared publically with the community. Ms. Otero went through the slides giving a sneak peek of the experiences that each floor level will provide for each age group including children as young as birth. She highlighted the need of a science center which is becoming a best practice around the country. The 2nd floor will have experiences that include: Interactions with different types of weather including creating real time weather casting, natural energy experiences, a sustainable city to be built using legos that will teach engineering skills, and also innovation to the sky in relation to flight. The 3rd floor will include: animal and habitat experiences, learning to be a veterinarian, and the Desert Bloom exhibit for younger visitors, especially for non-walking babies. The 4th floor will include: Making Waves to learn about sounds, making spaces and a water exhibit. The outdoor terrace will include a water play experience that can be rented out by the public as well. It was very important that the Museum is not only bilingual but bicultural. Ms. Otero listed all the consultants involved in the project and she mentioned that there are four areas on which local artists will be engaged for designs. Jeff Harris asked if the museum was not a collecting institution. Ms. Otero affirmed that it was not. Raul Arizpe made a recommendation that the El Paso Community College architectural and planning programs be included, stating that this is a great learning opportunity for the students. Anne Giangulio asked if there be changing rooms in men's restrooms. Ms. Otero affirmed yes, also adding there will be family rooms that are not gender specific. Anne Giangulio asked about the logo, and if the City logo will it be added. Ms. Otero explained, the current logo is a place holder and they will reach out to the community to help with the official name and logo. Ms. Giangulio recommended to include UTEP's graphic design student as part of the project. Stephanie Schmid-Falcon asked if online components will be added to extend an educator's curriculum. Ms. Otero affirmed yes, they want everything to be very accessible and as soon as they have an Education Director on board this will be further addressed. The Museum goal for opening is Fall of 2022.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:54pm. Next meeting scheduled November 19, 2020.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Rocio Rivas, Administrative Assistant