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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday, November 18, 2021, 4:00 PM
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

CITY CLERK DEPT
2022 FEB 10 PM3:17

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm.

2. Roll Call. <u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Adame Anderson, Rachel	X	
Edens Gary	X	
Glenn, Lucio	X	
Herrera, David	X	
Leffler, Beth		X
Loweree, Carlos III		X
Marshall, Adam	X	
Nino, Ivan	X	
Schmid-Falcon, Stephanie	X	
Valdez, Daniel		X
Winters, Darby	X	

Consecutive Absences: None

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Karla Munoz, Jeff Romney, Erica Marin, Rocio Rivas, and Bernadette Ramos

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Ben Fyffe requested a motion to approve. Darby Winters moved to approve the October 21, 2021 minutes. Adam Marshall seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action for the El Paso Museum of Art Members Choice: Michael Namingha.** Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to provide a brief description over the Members Choice program. He began by stating that Members Choice is a long standing program at the Museum, which members convene annually and have an option to vote on a work to enter the museum's permanent collection. This program is annually presented to the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board which has oversight of accessions and acquisitions to preemptively ask for permission for the potential works that may enter the collection. Bernadette Ramos, Museum Registrar addressed the Board to present the proposal for the Members Choice proposal by Michael Namingha. There will be a selection of three different works. One will be a single work and the other two will be "pair" options for the members to vote on. The first outright purchase of a Native American artwork and the Museum has not accessioned a Native American artwork since 2015. Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to provide clarification. Ben Fyffe proceeded to state that although the Museum has a broad collection of works by Native American artists, however, they have all been donated over the years. This is the first time the Museum will actively purchase a work by a Contemporary Native American artist. The Museum is seeking approval to purchase the work by Michael Namingha, the artist that was selected by the Museums' members during the event. Adam Marshall motioned to approve, David Herrera seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions.** Bernadette Ramos, addressed the Board to present the first proposal of two photographs by Joel Salcido. She stated that he recently donated work from the same series called *The Spirit of Tequila*, which is a publication that is

documenting the process of how tequila is made. The Museum would like to pair the images with the other photograph donated from the series. She then presented the second photograph proposal by artists, Liz Cohen who had an exhibition at the Museum in 2009 called, *The Builder and the Bikini Model*. She proceeded to present the last proposal by artist, Julie Speed who had an exhibition at the Museum in 2018 and also had traveling exhibitions in 2021 and 2021. Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to ask if there were any question on the item. Board Members did not have questions and proceeded to vote. Adam Marshall motioned to approve, Rachel Anderson seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

7. **Museum Reports.** Jeff Romney, Director of the Museum of Archaeology addressed the Board to present the museum report. He began by sharing the attendance numbers and shared that the museum will have their annual Native American storytelling event in honor of Native American Heritage month. He proceeded by inviting the Board to the event that is free and starts at 5:30p.m. He then shared some of the activities hosted for the Day of the Dead event. He also mentioned the current exhibition: *The Chacoan Outliers*, which has been extended and will run through January 30, 2022. Lastly, he shared a tentative upcoming exhibition called *The Artistic Legacy of Lucy Lewis, Acoma Matriarch* and is anticipated to open end of January, 2022. Erica Marin, addressed the Board to present the History Museum report. She began by sharing the attendance numbers and shared past events. She also mentioned the upcoming exhibit: *El Paso's Homegrown: WWII*, which will open this Saturday and invited the Board to the exhibition. She highlighted Merienda Talk: *Latkes & Lights in Sunset Heights* that takes place on December 2nd which is a new lecture series. Lastly, she mentioned additional upcoming events and current exhibitions. Ben Fyffe, Interim Director for the Museum of Art addressed the Board to present the Museum report. He began by announcing, that the Art and History museums have new staff members on board. He proceeded by sharing the attendance numbers and shared past events, upcoming events, and current in-person art classes. He highlighted the success of the Dia De Los Muertos event which is a partnership between the three Museums and Farmers Market. He invited the Board to the current exhibition: *Fashion Nirvana: Runway to Everyday*, which is the first fashion exhibition for the Museum. He mentioned Saturday's event activity which is to work on ugly sweaters that are not so ugly, inspired by the incredible works of Fashion Nirvana. Lastly he highlighted an upcoming exhibition that will display works of individuals and students with different abilities that will run from December 1-6.

8. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2021.

Approved for content by:
Ben Fyffe, Managing Director
Cultural Affairs & Recreation

Respectfully submitted by:
Rocio Rivas, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department