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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday, December 16, 2021, 4:00 PM
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

CITY CLERK DEPT
2022 MAR 10 AM 10:55

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm.

| 2. Roll Call. <u>Board Member</u> | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Adame Anderson, Rachel | | X |
| Edens Gary | X | |
| Giangiullo, Anne | 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 |
| Valdez, Laura | | X |
| Winters, Darby | | X |

Consecutive Absences: Daniel Valdez (2)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Karla Munoz, Jeff Romney, Erica Marin, Rocio Rivas, Bernadette Ramos, Claudia Preza, Stephanie Gardea, Josie Jimarez-Howard, Blanca Garcia, and Adrian Guzman

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Carlos Loweree III made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. Adam Marshall seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on the 2022 Public Art Plan.** Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to provide a brief description over the Public Art Plan. He began by stating that the Public Art Program is required by ordinance to bring before City Council any updates related to projects that are in process and it is also an opportunity for the Public Art Program to seek permission from Council to begin entering into contracts for projects that will be initiated. Part of the rollout for that process to get to City Council, is for the plan to be approved by the Public Art Committee (PAC). - If passed the next step is to bring it to the Museum and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board, and followed by City Council for final approval. Adrian Guzman addressed the Board to present up to date information about the Public Art Program. The Program has completed 77 projects, established the Art Purchase Program with 192 acquisitions, worked with 233 artists, provided 43 local artists with professional apprenticeships through Allied Artists Program, impacted over 150 local businesses with Public Art Projects, and received 10 National awards. He listed the projects completed and projects near completion in 2021. Mr. Guzman presented pictures and renderings of some of the projects that were mentioned. Ben Fyffe addressed the Board to highlight a piece called, *Desert in Bloom* by Olalekan Jeyifous. Mr. Fyffe stated that upon completion of the project, the artist was selected to be in a groundbreaking exhibition at MOMA in New York, related to African American Architecture and Architects. Mr. Guzman proceeded by listing all the completed projects, in progress projects, and the proposed changes. Mr. Guzman presented the 2022 Public Art Plan, which listed two new projects and new allocations. He proceeded by showing a list of all projects in progress and showing renderings of some of these projects. Anne Giangiullo asked if the design for the *Camino Real* piece were peacocks. Mr. Guzman acknowledged that the piece is indeed

of peacocks design. Carlos Loweree III motioned to approve, Adam Marshall seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisition.** Ben Fyffe addressed the Board to introduce Claudia Preza, the Art Museum new Assistant Curator. Claudia Preza, addressed the Board to present the gift offer from Amy Pettigrew. She stated that the artwork was received by Amy Pettigrew's grandmother, who lived in El Paso for sixty years. The sculpture is by Urbici Soler, completed in 1930, is bronze, and with a title of an *Unknown (woman from Araucania Temuco, Chile)*. Ms. Preza stated that Soler was a Spanish sculptor who was widely recognized for his commission for the *Mount Crist Rey* sculpture. The Museum currently owns five of his sculptures and this addition will enhance not only the holdings of his work, but also our El Paso artist collection and early Texas Art collection. Ben Fyffe, addressed the Board to ask if there were any questions on the item. Board Members did not have questions and proceeded to vote. Carlos Loweree III motioned to approve, Adam Marshall seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.
7. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of History Deaccessions.** Ben Fyffe addressed the Board to introduce Stephanie Gardea, the History Museums newly promoted Registrar. Stephanie Gardea, addressed the Board to present the Museum deaccession nominations. Ms. Gardea presented a list and showed 15 photographs of all items and proceeded to discuss the conditions of each of the items in detail. Anne Giangiullo asked for clarification about the El Paso Museum of Art Carriage House as stated under the provenance for some of these items. Ben Fyffe answered by stating it is the Art Museum's original location which was in the outskirts of El Paso, where staff would accept items that were dropped off in the middle of the night. Carlos Loweree III motioned to approve, Gary Edens seconded; all Members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.
8. **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 highlighted the Castner Range Project event that brought a busy week of attendance from EPISD school children and teachers. He also mentioned the current exhibition: *The Chacoan Outliers*, which will run through January 30, 2022. Lastly, he shared an upcoming exhibition called *The Artistic Legacy of Lucy Lewis, Acoma Matriarch*. Ben Fyffe, Interim Director for the Museum of Art addressed the Board to present the Museum report. He began sharing the attendance numbers and highlighted the success of the exhibition of art made by Children with different abilities. This exhibition was a partnership with a local nonprofit agency that works with children with different abilities as well as their siblings. The Museum is interested in formalizing and extending into multiple years to continue work with this unique population. He then proceeded by discussing the final phases of hiring a new Membership Coordinator and discussed the current request for opening up recruitment to seek an executive director. Lastly, Mr. Fyffe invited Board members to Members Choice event being held tonight, and discussed that it is the first in-person Members Choice since 2019. This is an event that gives members the opportunity to vote on work that will enter the Museum's collection this year. Erica Marin, addressed the Board to present the Museum report. She began by sharing the attendance numbers and invited the Board to visit the current exhibit: *El Paso's Homegrown: WWII*, Ms. Marin mentioned past events, ongoing series, and upcoming events. She highlighted the upcoming *Maletas Migrantes* exhibit that takes place in February, which is a collaboration with the Mexican Consulate. Lastly, she reported that the Museum is almost fully staffed and announced the recently hired new employees.
9. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2022.

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

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