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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – February 16, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

MINUTES

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

Roll Call	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Francesca Alonso	X	
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Tania Chozet	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Belinda Luna	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Susan Novick		X
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Gustavo Reveles	X	
	Abel Saucedo	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

Others present: Sean McGlynn, Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Ben Fyffe and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes.** Katherine Brennand assisted in carrying out the action items in the absence of the Chair, as he was running late to the meeting; and the Vice-Chair, as she was out of town. Carina Ramirez moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting on December 15, 2011, as presented. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action on Cultural Funding Guidelines.** Ben Fyffe began by explaining that MCAD grants out in a competitive process each year about a quarter of its budget to local artists and arts organizations for programs, outreach and operations. He stated there were minimal changes to the guidelines this year, and basically just an update of the listed deadlines and meetings, with a little more clarification on the role of the panel. Within the application itself, the request for the applicant's social security number has been removed for security reasons because this actually goes out to a panel. Each member was provided with a copy of the guidelines and Ben opened the floor up for questions. With the absence of any questions, Katherine Brennand requested a motion to approve the cultural funding guidelines. Jeannine Kennedy moved to approve; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on KickstArt Funding Guidelines.** Ben Fyffe began by explaining that the program is relatively new, and created to help fund recurring events downtown that have a demonstrated ability to draw tourism, or things that are helping to feed the hotel occupancy tax. Deadlines and meeting dates were updated within the guidelines. Katherine Brennand opened the floor for discussion or questions and asked whether this funding was only for downtown. Ben replied it was from the 2012 plan for downtown, using the same boundaries as the designated arts district. Carina Ramirez made a motion to approve; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed

unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on Approval of Summer Music Series Roster. Ben Fyffe began by explaining that the summer music series is comprised of Music Under The Stars and Dancing in the City. For both programs, the application process is opened for local and touring talent to apply to play both of these festivals, and there is a process in which a panel ranks each applicant. Ben explained that a roster of artists needs approval in order to move to contracting and provided a PowerPoint slide for members to view while he reviewed the lineup for the 2012 season of both Music Under The Stars and Dancing in the City. The floor was opened for questions. Jane Thomas asked where Music Under The Stars would be held at, and Ben replied that the program is looking to be back at the Chamizal and they are currently doing a solicitation for an alcohol vendor. Jeannine Kennedy inquired as to whether an attempt to include El Paso musicians was made and Ben replied affirmatively, adding that we love to feature local talent. He went on to explain that during an ordinary season, about 50% of the roster is local talent, but due to the steep decline in attendance last year, combined with a very well-publicized location issue, there was a record decline in applications from El Paso artists. With the Chair joining the meeting, Katherine Brennand moved to approve; Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Museum Reports. Julia Bussinger began by assuring members that the Archaeology Museum is in good hands, and being held to the best practices and standards set by the American Association of Museums. The museum's focus remains on collection management and a nationwide search for a new curator. The process of hiring a consultant has begun and all documents are now in the legal department for review. A full-time office assistant will be hired to deal solely with the inventory database. The appraisal of the collection is close to \$2M, and since collection management is 80% of the accreditation process, a clear picture of the research, accessioning and cataloguing of the collection is very important. The current exhibit being featured is 'Watercolor Paintings of Rock Art at Hueco Tanks', which are reproductions of the original paintings that are held at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory. This year's Poppy Festival is expected to draw more attendees than last year due to the fact that they are in bloom. A special Hueco Tanks tour will be offered, members are invited and Misty Castaneda will be sending out an invitation to board members. Julia continued with an update on the History Museum. She began by highlighting three new exhibits: 'Healing Hands & Healing Ways: Traditional Medicine in the Borderlands', a fabulous exhibit deeply rooted within the heritage of the borderland; 'Traces: A Visual Record of the Deconstruction of the Asarco Smelter', a 1975 Asarco time capsule will be unsealed during the opening reception; 'Neighborhoods and Shared Memories', this exhibit is about celebration and recognizing our community. It is currently in the installation process with a public opening scheduled for March 11th.

Michael Tomor began the Art Museum report by reminding members that there would be a tour of the three exhibits from Mexico City following the close of the meeting. The opening celebration for the Mexico exhibits was wonderful, both for the presenting sponsors and the membership, having been well-received and successful. There are many focus talks and lectures related to the Mexican exhibitions scheduled, and the Bach lunch series has concluded, averaging about 225 people in attendance every Thursday during the month of January. Michael briefly touched on upcoming events such as Free Senior Day, a focus talk on Diego Rivera, and the last of the Architecture Lecture Series on Mexico design architecture. Classes are doing well and the El Paso Museum of Art Endowment Campaign is also doing very well, having raised an additional \$245,000 in pledges and gifts since January 1st, bringing the total up to \$1.6M since the campaign began in June.

8. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Loans and Acquisitions. Michael Tomor began by explaining that he was requesting action on two separate items. The first item being a loan request from the McKinney Avenue Contemporary in Dallas for one of our paintings, an oil on linen by Roger Winter, called 'Devils Garden'. Exhibition dates are September 15-October 20, 2012 and loan dates are September 8-October 27, 2012. Their facility reports are in order, they meet all the standards that we require. Carina Ramirez inquired as to whether they pay for handling and shipping, and Michael replied that shipping is taken care of, and they are paying for retro-fitting of crating and any copyright release they need for illustration. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve; Belinda Luna seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Michael continued to explain that the second item is a work of art that came into the collection, but now needs to be reconsidered. The Tom Lea work in question, 'The Study of Juan Sanchez', is a 1969 ink wash that was gifted and accepted in to the City collection from the estate of Henry Taylor along with several other Tom Lea pieces. The piece was brought before the board in December. This work was exhibited at the Tom Lea institute along with 10 other works during the summer of 2010. When the exhibit closed, the works were transferred to us with a checklist from the Taylor family, and the long-term loan process would eventually lead to the extended gift of 11 works from Henry and Pay Taylor. In August, the works were retrieved by the museum and we engaged in a 4-month loan agreement that was renewed several times in 4-month increments. The gift was presented to our Accessions Committee on December 7th and the

recommendation was then approved by the board during the December 15th meeting. In mid-January, after contacting the legal representative for the Taylor estate to process the Deed of Gifts, several of the titles were listed differently in his records than what were listed in ours, and 'The Study of Juan Sanchez' did not show up at all in the Taylor family logbooks. The work was returned to Adair Margo, which was where it came from, along with her original list. The original Deed of Gifts was retracted, and new Deed of Gifts for the other pieces have been submitted. Michael went on to request recognition from the board that this had happened, for edification for the minutes that this piece did not come into the City, and that it be retracted as a potential gift even though the last phase in the process is the signing for the Deed of Gift, which never happened. Carina Ramirez made a motion to retract. Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Action on MCAD Priorities of 2012 Bond Issuance. Sean McGlynn began by bringing two priorities of the 2012 bond issuance to the board's attention. The first is an investment in a potential tourism driver for downtown, the touch city wall, which would be the first of its kind in this country. The second would be a series of curatorial and exhibition improvements at all three museum facilities, to include rethinking the footprint of the space at the Archaeology Museum, storage for upright paintings and how we engage with display at the Art Museum. There is an array of activities that would be covered under curatorial improvements. Sean asked that the body give Judge Moody a chance to concur that these things would be good for the City and to ask that these items be included in the solicitation for bond issuance via a formal letter that would come from the Chair and Vice-Chair as representatives of the body. Sean requested members bring forward for consideration the array of curatorial improvements at all three facilities and the touch city wall opportunity for the History Museum. Katherine Brennand inquired as to who would pen the letter and Sean replied that he would ghost-write a draft for Judge Moody and allow him to make his own mark upon the letter. Jeannine Kennedy asked if a good response was being received in regards to the bond issuance and Sean replied that it has been very favorable. Belinda Luna asked what the amount of the bond is and how much would be allocated. Sean replied that the City has not set a ceiling on that yet. Judge Moody requested a motion to approve. Carina Ramirez so moved; Gustavo Reveles seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed and motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Jeannine Kennedy moved to adjourn; Tania Chozet seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for March 15, 2012.

Approved for content by:
William Moody, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department