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**MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2021, 4:00 PM**  
**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:11pm.

2. Roll Call.	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	Adame, Rachel		X
	Diaz, Alfredo		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, Laura		X
	Valdez, Daniel	X	

Consecutive Absences: Alfredo Diaz (2), Stephanie Schmid-Falcon (2)

Other present: Ben Fyffe, Russell Abeln, Karla Munoz, Vladimir von Tsurikov, Jeff Romney, Miriam Garcia, Adrian Guzman and Diana Cepeda.

3. **Public Comment.** None.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Jeff Harris moved to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes. Anne Giangiulio seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Accessions.** Vladimir von Tsurikov addressed the Board to present several gift offers. He proceeded to present a gift offered by Maria and Barry King which includes over 100 Mata Ortiz pottery by various artists. The gift offer includes 5 archaic pots that will be presented separately after Museum staff determines if they can be legally accessioned. Dr. von Tsurikov explained that the collection is currently at the Museum on a loan agreement and would be accessed over the course of three years with three batches of equally appraised value. He presented two additional gift offers from Sydney Collier, *Fence Rider* a painting by Peter Hurd, and *Dos Mujeres Santadas* by Francisco Zuniga. Adam Marshall moved to approve, Jeff Harris seconded; all members in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of History Deaccessions.** Dr. von Tsurikov addressed the Board to explain how Museum staff has revised the Museum's permanent collection to reflect the Museum educational mission and conservation needs. He presented the first list of items for deaccession which includes 38 poster prints of *The History of Pharmacy*, of fair condition. He proceeded with the second list of items which includes 46 antique dolls in poor to fair condition and which are outside the Museum's focus. If approved, these items will be offered to institutions that may have an interest in them. Adam Marshall moved to approve, Lucio

Glen seconded, Jeff Harris abstained; all members in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Action on Reappointment of Edgar Lopez to the Public Art Committee.** Ken Gorski requested a motion to accept the reappointment of Edgar Lopez to the Public Art Committee. Adam Marshall moved to approve, Vanessa Leon seconded; all members in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

**9. Museum Reports.** Jeff Romney, Director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology addressed the Board to present the Archaeology Museum report. He listed the Museum's virtual programming over the past months and the number of engaged people. He highlighted the Museum's staff participation in a professional development hosted by Crow Canyon Archaeology Center. He ended his presentation by sharing details of the installation of a temporary mini-exhibition at the El Paso International Airport hosted by the Archeology Museum, which will feature El Paso's regional prehistory. Dr. von Tsurikov addressed the Board to present the El Paso Museum of Art report. He listed all of the current and upcoming exhibitions. He discussed virtual programming and mentioned that some of the exhibitions can be found virtually on the Museum's page. He added that the Museum's staff was able to digitize some of the catalogs from previous exhibitions. Mr. Gorski inquired about the status of the three Museums' memberships. Dr. von Tsurikov responded that membership numbers were low even before the pandemic, confirming that membership numbers have been affected by COVID-19. He added that the Art Museum received a grant through the Art Museum Foundation for \$100,000 to re-hire two positions that were terminated after closing the Art Museum due to the pandemic, the funds will cover a membership assistant position. Mr. Glenn asked if there is a plan for the reopening of the Museums, and Mr. Fyffe confirmed the projections were presented in April of 2020. He added that phase 1 would be limited operations at two of the facilities without any tours and major events. Phase 2 will include the Downtown Arts and Farmers Market, potentially tours and events on a case by case basis. Phase 3 will continue to expand the operations of the Department. He mentioned that there have been preliminary discussions on how to potentially bring festivals and major events in the fall. Anne Giangiulio asked about the Art Museum's first floor being converted into a visitor center. Mr. Fyffe responded there was a discussion to move the welcome center to a more prominent location and the Museum's retail store space was mentioned as an option. Mr. Gorski requested to add the Museum Store discussion as an agenda item in the next 90 days to look at the different options. Mr. Fyffe explained the space will be more engaging on a variety of levels that fit the Museum's goals and vision.

**10. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm. Next meeting scheduled March 18, 2021.

Approved for content by:  
Ken Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:  
Diana Cepeda, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator