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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – August 18, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of History, Seminar Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Angel Cabrales	X	
	Elvira Carrizal-Dukes	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Kenneth Gorski	X	
	Teresa Hernandez		X
	Ann F. Kruzich		X
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Steve Lujan		X
	M. Erica Marin	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno	X	
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Ida Mae Steadman	X	

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2016 NOV -3 AM 9:32

Consecutive absences: None

Others present: Tracey Jerome, Ben Fyffe, Misty Monteros, Christian Gerstheimer, Jeff Romney, Rebecca Munoz and Omar De La Rosa.

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

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for June 16, 2016.** Chair provided members time to review the minutes. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve as submitted; Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action on FY17 Cultural Funding Awards.** Rebecca Munoz introduced herself before going forward with the cultural funding recommendations for the Cultural Funding program, which includes KickstArt. A total amount of \$218,256 was awarded this year to 73 awardees, 65 of which are new awards for FY17. Ben Fyffe added that this year was the first time in 7-8 years the amount of funding awarded was increased, noting that the bulk of funding awarded comes from HOT tax, with less than 10% coming from the general fund, and TCA makes up the remainder. Awardees and amounts recommended for funding were provided for review via a PowerPoint presentation. Rebecca continued to review the recommended awards for the Operating Support Program (OSP), mentioning that the OSP funds non-profit organizations with a budget of \$100,000 or more. There are 8 OSP applicants and all had increased funding this year. The Project Support Program (PSP) funds non-profit organizations or organizations that have arts and cultural programming, but do not have a non-profit status, so they are eligible for funding a fiscal sponsor. This program had 19 applicants with 18 awards and the ability to apply for up to \$10,000. Funding levels are awarded based on budget and the score received in the panel review process, based on a 100-point scale. Awards are commensurate with their requests but also contingent on their score, fiscal health and budget, availability of funds and the previous year's

performance in terms of contract compliance for returning organizations. The Community Arts Program (CAP) funds individual artists and non-profit organizations to provide workshops or performances in community spaces such as schools and other places that are accessible to the public. This program had 27 applicants with 26 awards and the ability to apply for up to \$10,000 to design their own services. The Artist Incubator Program (AIP) funds individual artists who create a new body of work; there were 9 applicants with 6 awards and the ability to apply for up to \$3,500. The KickstArt Downtown Program funds the support of events that are situated downtown; there were 5 applicants with 5 awards this year. Ben noted a special circumstance this year due to a health issue that involves a contract in its third year. The organization will very likely not be able to fulfill its service, so Ben requested that members approve the funding recommendation along with an alternate funding recommendation for all awardees that will allow the flexibility to bump more money into the remaining applicants awards should the organization not be able to continue. Members expressed their agreement with this special situation. General discussion followed. Carina Ramirez moved to approve; Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. Museum Reports. Christian Gerstheimer gave the Art Museum report, briefly discussing attendance, summer education camps and ongoing exhibitions such as *Celebrating Picasso: Photographs by David Douglas Duncan*, *Posting Picasso* and *Intimate Figures: French and American Prints from the Goodman Gift*. He continued with event programming and upcoming exhibits such as *James Drake: Anatomy of Drawing and Space (Brain Trash)* and *Wayne Hilton's Hermosos Huesos*. Christian closed his report and opened the floor for questions. General discussion followed.

Ben Fyffe gave the History Museum report, briefly reviewing attendance before discussing the *Giant* exhibition in collaboration with the Plaza Classic Film Festival, which has been really fun and had a lot of great programming. Staff worked with the office of Representative Emma Acosta to organize an exhibition of memorabilia for Vietnam Veterans from El Paso, which opened two weekends ago to a huge turnout that has been consistent. Policies on community-driven exhibitions have been formalized in an effort towards transparency to allow people a better understanding of what they need to have available in order to bring a story in to the Museum of History. Staff has applied for a \$140,000 IMLS grant for an overall project of \$300,000 that will allow a move of the upstairs gallery, the linear history of El Paso, to the downstairs space in an effort to augment the visitor experience. The grant will allow expansion on ideas in the original exhibit and increase more diverse viewpoints. Ben noted that the list for Museum Director has been created and the hope is to engage in interviews very shortly. With that, he closed his report and opened the floor for questions; there were none.

Ben introduced Jeff Romney, the new director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. Jeff began with a brief review of attendance, scheduled tours and events. Volunteer Appreciation Day was a success, Family Day had 692 people in attendance and will be planned regularly going forward, discussions are being had on updating didactics and photographs in galleries and a new photographic exhibit has been secured. A community meeting will be held on August 22nd regarding the proposed gazebo structure and overall improvements at the museum facility; the full-time Secretary position for the museum has been posted on the HR website and the hiring process will be completed as soon as possible; October is Texas Archaeology month and there will be activities planned around that. November is Native American Heritage Month and it will be honored with appropriate activities on the 12th and 26th, which are both Saturdays. In October of 2017, the Jornada Mogollon conference will be held and the Museum of Archaeology will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Planning is underway for both, along with applying for grant funding after identifying approximately 15 foundations and grant sources for this year and next year. Ben added that in the last 2-3 years at the Archaeology Museum, there have been 1 or 2 grants applied for and Jeff is now working aggressively to start augmenting the museum budget. Jeff noted his focus is on grants, membership and marketing. General discussion on museum signage and making the relationship with Parks and Recreation more codified followed.

6. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Carina Ramirez so moved; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for September 15, 2016.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

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