



Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

CITY CLERK DEPT
2026 JAN 13 PM 2:33

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Museums & Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 4:00 PM

El Paso Museum of Archaeology

MINUTES

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District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

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Deanna M. Rocha

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Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM MST.

Roll Call: Done by Laura Valdez

- **Members Present:** Valeria Contreras, Bianca De Leon, Anne M. Giangiulio, Lucio Glenn, Marlene Gonzalez, Patrick Hernandez-Cigarruista, Carlos Loweree III, Pamela Prieto Montoya, Christopher Olivares, Jose Luis Salas, Vanessa Tena, and Laura Valdez.
- **Members Absent:** Isabel White and Maria Zampini.
- **Consecutive Absences:** Maria Zampini.
- **Others Present:** Ben Fyffe, Claudia Cardoza, Saul S. Flores, Jesus Quintanilla, Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Erica Marin, Lucero Duran, and Michael Reyes.

Public Comment: None at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Laura Valdez called for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2025, MCAAB meeting.
- Pamela Montoya Prieto made a motion to approve, and Patrick Hernandez-Cigarruista seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

2. Presentation and discussion on amendments to Chapter 2.40 (Department of Museums and Cultural Affairs) of the City Code and changes to the Museums and Cultural Affairs Board:

- Presentation by Jesus Quintanilla, Assistant City Attorney.
- Presentation covered upcoming changes to Chapter 2.40 of the City Code, which governs the Department of Museums and Cultural Affairs and the structure of the MCAAB.
- The City Council recently approved an ordinance and resolution amending the structure of boards and commissions to create uniform bylaws and improve quorum consistency.
- Key points included:
 - i. The MCAAB will transition from 18 members to 9 members to align with new citywide standards.

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- ii. Member terms will shift from four years to two years under the new structure.
- iii. Existing members will continue to serve out their current terms.
- iv. Changes will take effect November 2025.

- The resolution establishing the new MCAAB structure will replace the prior ordinance from 2010 that consolidated multiple museum boards into a single advisory board.
- The enabling resolution retains language emphasizing member expertise and interest in the arts, ensuring representation from diverse arts-related fields (performing, visual, literary, design, etc.).
- Discussion followed regarding:
 - i. Board accountability for follow-up on member recommendations.
 - ii. Upcoming training for board liaisons on the new uniform bylaws.
 - iii. Questions about term limits for current members.

3. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Archaeology:

- Presentation by Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Director.
- Proposal to accept a donation of 35 ceramic pieces, including pots and other regional works, from collector Lisa of Las Cruces.
- The donation completes a representative collection of Mesoamerican ceramics, ranging from late 19th to contemporary pieces.
- Christopher Olivares made motion to approve, and Pamela Montoya Prieto seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

4. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Accessions:

- Proposal to accept a donation of 32 photographs by Joseph Sterling, a native El Paso photographer whose works document regional and national scenes from the 1950s–60s.
- Donated by the artist’s widow.
- Lucio Glenn made motion to approve, and Marlene Gonzalez seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

5. Discussion and Update on Chalk the Block 2025:

- Presentation by Lucero Duran, Production and Marketing Coordinator.
- Overview of the upcoming 18th Annual Chalk the Block Festival, to be held October 11–12, 2025.

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- Expected attendance: 45,000+.
- Highlights include:
 - i. Two-day format (Saturday 10 AM–10 PM; Sunday 10 AM–6 PM)
 - ii. Over 100 artists, including 50 chalk artists.
 - iii. Major installations: *Banana for Scale* (40-ft sculpture), *Liar Seat* (LED seating installation), *Art on the Move* (live-painted ESD truck), and *Prism Bridge*.
 - iv. Continued focus on low-sensory hours and community inclusivity.

6. Museum Reports: Museum of Archaeology, Museum of Art, and Museum of History:

- **Museum of Archaeology:** Attendance has returned to pre-pandemic levels (over 26,000 visitors). Strong engagement on social media: 6,000+ Facebook and 4,000+ Instagram followers. Past events include *Ghost Stories* and on-going exhibits *Historic Inscriptions at Hueco Tanks*. Upcoming exhibit: *Unraveling Mimbres Culture* in partnership with West New Mexico University Museum.
- **Museum of Art:** Museum will close temporarily beginning October 1, 2025, for HVAC upgrades. Staff are planning off-site activations at community centers and schools. Current exhibition Roche Beavis Jewelry received national recognition and will host activities during Third Thursday event, September 18. Chalk the Block activation staff will be at sister sites. New mural on Main Street to debut during the festival, featuring artist Kristin Apodaca.
- **Museum of History:** Attendance increased by 17% year-over-year, reaching approximately 33,000 visitors. Instagram followers grew from 7,400 to over 10,000. Recent and upcoming programs: Mural Workshops *Muralito* with strong attendance. *Kermes de los Vecinos* in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate *Vivamos Mexico* community event drew 1,300 attendees. Upcoming exhibition *Mountain of Gold: East & Southeast Asian History in El Paso (1880–1980)* opens September 20, 2025.

Adjournment of Meeting: Marlene Gonzalez made motion to adjourn meeting and Jose Luis Salas seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM MST.

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Approved for content by:
Ben Fyffe, Managing Director
Respectfully submitted by:
Saul S. Flores, Administrative Assistant

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