



Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

MAYOR

Renard U. Johnson

Museums & Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)

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

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Alejandra Chávez

District 2

Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3

Deanna M. Rocha

District 4

Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5

Ivan Niño

District 6

Art Fierro

District 7

Lily Limón

District 8

Chris Canales

CITY MANAGER

Dionne Mack

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:04 PM MST.

Roll Call: Done by Saul S. Flores

- **Members Present:** Valeria Contreras, Bianca De Leon, Lucio Glenn, Christopher Olivares, Vanessa Tena, and Isabel White.
- **Members Absent:** Maria Zampini.
- **Consecutive Absences:** Maria Zampini.
- **Others Present:** Claudia Cardoza, Saul S. Flores, Jesus Quintanilla, Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Erica Marin, Rebecca Munoz, Edward Hayes, Bernadette Ramos, Michael Reyes, Adrian Guzman and Miriam Garcia.

Public Comment: None at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Saul S. Flores presented the September 18, 2025, MCAAB meeting for approval.
- Valeria Contreras made a motion to approve, and Bianca De Leon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

2. Discussion and Action on Election of Officer: Chair:

- Saul S. Flores provided a brief description on the role and purpose of the Chair.
- Valeria Contreras expressed interest in serving as Chair.
- Lucio Glenn made a motion to approve, and Bianca De Leon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

3. Discussion and Action on Election of Officer: Vice Chair:

- Saul S. Flores provided a brief description on the role and purpose of the Vice Chair.
- Lucio Glenn volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.
- Valeria Contreras made a motion to approve, and Vanessa Tena seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

4. Discussion and Action on the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board 2025-2027 Meeting Schedule:

- Saul S. Flores presented the proposed hybrid meeting schedule with rotating museum locations.

MCAD | 400 W San Antonio Ave., Suite A | El Paso, Texas 79901 | (915) 212-0110



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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- Bianca De Leon made motion to approve, and Lucio Glenn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.
- **Additional Note:** Staff announced that a special meeting would be scheduled to discuss the Public Art Master Plan.

5. Discussion and Action on 2026 Public Art Plan:

- Adrian Guzman presented the 2026 Annual Public Art Plan, including completed projects, upcoming projects, program statistics, and outreach efforts.
- Bianca De Leon made motion to approve, and Vanessa Tena seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

6. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Deaccessions:

- Michael Reyes and Bernadette Ramos presented proposed deaccessions of items in poor condition and lacking relevance to the museum's mission.
- Board discussion included disposal methods, potential transfers, and City auction options.
- Lucio Glenn made motion to approve, and Chris Olivares seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

7. Discussion and Action for loans to the ASU Art Museum for the Carmen Lomas Garza exhibition:

- Michael Reyes requested approval to loan two works from the EPMA collection for a traveling exhibition.
- Chris Olivares made motion to approve, and Bianca De Leon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

8. Discussion and Action of El Paso Museum of Art gift offer by Rachelle Thiewes:

- Michael Reyes presented highlights of a significant multi-phase gift of contemporary jewelry and artworks.
- Board discussion focused on long-term collection strategy and alignment with museum mission.
- Chris Olivares made motion to approve, and Bianca De Leon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

9. Discussion and Action of El Paso Museum of Art Purchase of artwork by Jose Villalobos:

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- Michale Reyes presented a proposed purchase of two photographic works by Jose Villalobos using foundation funds.
- Lucio Glenn made motion to approve, and Chris Olivares seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed.

10. Museum Reports: Museum of Archaeology, Museum of Art, Museum of History and Mexican American Cultural Center:

- **Museum of Archaeology:** Attendance is nearing 8,000 visitors, with increased social media engagement. Recent highlights included a successful biennial conference, Día de los Muertos activities, and a Native American Heritage Month program. Upcoming programs include a January lecture closing the Hueco Tanks exhibit, Archaeology After Dark, and Puppies Fest in March.
- **Museum of Art:** Staff reported continued off-site programming during the museum's closure, with 45 programs planned across the city. A new exterior mural was completed, and fundraising efforts exceeded goals through grants and community giving campaigns. Planning continues for a February reopening, pending completion of HVAC upgrades, with a Frida Kahlo photography exhibition scheduled to open.
- **Museum of History:** Staff reported approximately 10,000 visitors for the fiscal year to date, with all galleries open. A \$500,000 IMLS grant was awarded for a three-year refresh of the permanent exhibition. Current exhibitions were highlighted, along with continued community programming. The annual Lunar New Year celebration is scheduled for February 28, with attendance expected to exceed prior years.
- **Mexican American Cultural Center:** The MACC reported approximately 37,000 visitors since start of fiscal year, including 13,000 visitors in November. Highlights included the first Día de los Muertos celebration at the facility, strong school tour participation, expanded workshops, and the launch of an oral history program. Upcoming programming includes a Son Jarocho artists gathering in April and Cinco de Mayo celebrations in May.

Adjournment of Meeting: Lucio Glenn made motion to adjourn meeting and Bianca De Leon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; no one opposed. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM MST.



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Approved for content by:
Claudia Cardoza, Assistant Director
Respectfully submitted by:
Saul S. Flores, Administrative Assistant

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Chair

Date