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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday, September 19, 2024, 4:00 PM
La Nube Steam Discovery Center, 201 W. Main Drive, El Paso, TX, 79901

MINUTES

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.

Roll Call.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Edens Gary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giangiulio, Anne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glenn, Lucio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gonzalez, Marlene	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hernandez- Cigarruista, Patrick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loweree, Carlos III	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Olivares, Christopher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prieto Montoya, Pamela (Vice-Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salas, Jose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tena, Vanessa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Valdez, Laura (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zampini, Maria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consecutive Absences: Carlos Loweree III (3)

Others Present: Ben Fyffe, Claudia Cardoza, Jesus Quintanilla, Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Edward Hayes, Michael Reyes, Erica Marin, Rocio Rivas, Rebecca Munoz, Michael Reyes, and Board Member's Child

Public Comment. None.

- Approval of Minutes.** A Motion made by Gary Edens, seconded by Lucio Glenn; and unanimously carried to APPROVE the August 15, 2024 minutes as written. None opposed. The Motion Passes.

AYES: G. Edens, L. Glenn, A. Giangiulio, P. Hernandez- Cigarruista, P. Prieto, J. Salas, and L. Valdez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: M. Gonzalez, C. Loweree, V. Tena, M. Zampini and C. Olivares

M. Zampini arrived at 4:11 p.m.

- Discussion and Action on FY25 Cultural Funding Program Award Recommendations.** Carolyn Yañez, Cultural Development Coordinator, addressed the Board to present the proposed FY2025 Cultural Funding Program Award Recommendations. Ms. Yañez provided an overview of the three main funding programs: the Operating Support Program, the Arts Activate Program, and the Artist Incubator Program. Ms. Yañez noted that the Cultural Funding Program has been recognized for its transparency and has provided substantial funding to the local creative sector over the years. Lastly, she outlined the overall funding recommendations for FY25. Members posed questions, which were addressed by Carolyn Yañez, Claudia Cardoza, Assistant Director, and Rebecca Muñoz, M.A.C.C Director.

A Motion made by Gary Edens, seconded by Pamela Montoya Prieto; and unanimously carried to APPROVE the FY25 Cultural Funding Program Award Recommendations. None opposed. The Motion Passes.

AYES: G. Edens, L. Glenn, A. Giangiulio, P. Hernandez- Cigarruista, P. Prieto, J. Salas, M. Zampini and L. Valdez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: M. Gonzalez, C. Loweree, V. Tena, and C. Olivares

- 3. Museum Reports.** Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Director of Archaeology, addressed the Board to present and began by highlighting the museum's attendance, noting a significant increase over the past fiscal year. He then reviewed past events, and upcoming events, and focused on an exciting new event, *Día de los Doggies*, scheduled for October 26th. The event will include the participation of an adoption van, and he shared that this is the museum's first-ever event featuring dogs. Lastly, Mr. Ribas-Normand outlined additional upcoming events and exhibits planned. Ben Fyffe, Managing Director, addressed the Board to further emphasize the significant achievement in attendance, noting a remarkable 35% increase in visitors for FY24 compared to the previous year and congratulated Mr. Ribas-Normand and his team for the museum's success. Eddie Hayes, Director of the Museum of Art, addressed the Board and began by highlighting a 10.5% increase in attendance for FY24. He then provided details on the museum's participation in the upcoming Chalk the Block event and mentioned a new exhibition that was added the day before, inviting the Board members to visit. Mr. Hayes also discussed the temporary closure of the museum's second-floor galleries due to a major HVAC system upgrade and outlined future plans for when the galleries reopen. Additionally, he shared a new partnership with EPISD, which will feature an exhibition of student artwork, which is an exciting new collaboration. Erica Marin, Director of the Museum of History, addressed the Board, she discussed the soft opening of Digie, a project that is now complete, and encouraged the Board to visit. She also provided an update on a recent MAP (Museums Assessment Program) assessment, noting that the visit went well. Lastly, Ms. Marin reviewed the museum's past events, shared details about upcoming events, and discussed future exhibits.
- 4. Discussion on Open Meetings Rules for the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board.** Jesus Quintanilla, City of El Paso Assistant Attorney, addressed the Board and provided general information regarding the Open Meetings Rules. He reminded the Board Members of the importance of adhering to these rules, particularly when encountering one another outside of formal meetings, such as during visits to museums or other cultural events. The discussion included scenarios where Members may unintentionally bump into each other and how to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act in such situations. Members shared comments and raised questions, which were addressed and clarified by Mr. Quintanilla and Ben Fyffe, Managing Director.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024.

Approved for content by:
Ben Fyffe, Managing Director
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

Respectfully submitted by:
Rocio Rivas, Research and Management Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

Attachments: None