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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB) Thursday,
March 20, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

CITY CLERK DEPT
2025 MAY 6 AM 11:44

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 4:07 pm.

Roll Call.

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

Consecutive Absences:

Others Present: Ben Fyffe, Claudia Cardoza, Erica Marin, Edward Hayes, Jesus Quintanilla, Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Naomi Castro,

Public Comment. None.

1. Approval of Minutes. A Motion made by Pamela Montoya Prieto, seconded by Vanessa Tena and unanimously carried to APPROVE the December 19, 2024 minutes as written. None opposed. The Motion Passes.

AYES: L. Glenn, M. Gonzalez, P. Prieto, C. Olivares, C. Loweree, J. Salas, V. Tena and, L. Valdez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: A. Giangiulio, P. Cigarruista-Hernandez, and M. Zampini

2. Discussion on Museums & Cultural Affairs Department Piloting Efforts – Inclusion & Accessibility. Nora Rose of the El Paso Museum of History went into a detailed presentation of the Museums & Cultural Affairs Department efforts to have all of its facilities, exhibits and events be inclusive and accessible by everyone. Ben Fyffe, Managing Director, Quality of Life, added how Museums & Cultural Affairs Department is working on getting national certifications for all its facilities and is training staff to work with the needs of families.

3. **Museum Reports.** Sebastian Ribas-Normand, Director of the Museum of Archaeology, reported attendance of 12,600 visitors. He highlighted some main events that the museum has been offering, they are: Discovering Nature, Homeschool Days, and Castner Range 101. Past events include Tours and Lectures, Lunar New Year, and Chinese Archaeology in Downtown El Paso. Upcoming events include the Poppy's Fest, Spring Break Camps, Homeschool Days, and Full Moon Fiesta. Exhibits he highlighted were, Sun Sparkle, Water and Wildlife in the Chihuahuan Desert, and a wagon from 1901 that is displayed on the grounds.

Edward Hayes, Director of the Museum of Art, shared that their digital engagements have had an incredible amount of growth. He shared how the museum has a new façade which is tied to the new Star Ceiling, thanks to the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation. He shared the opening of the Star Ceiling which was sponsored by El Paso Electric. He highlighted Leo Villareal artist of the Star Ceiling who had a presentation with members and students to engage with him on a one-on-one presentation. He shared how it has been a task having the second floor of the museum closed due to maintenance, but recently opened with a new solo exhibit from Artist Judith Hernandez. The exhibit will be open through April 20th. He shared how the Museum of Art participated in the Lunar New Year with the Museum of History and how artifacts that had been stored for many years had been brought out for this particular occasion. He wrapped up with sharing how the El Paso Museum of Art was mentioned in AFAR Travel Magazine, and highlighting that the museum will hosting the Mellon Foundation's Frontera Culture Fund, and the museum is raising funds for a Frida Kahlo photography exhibition in September.

Erica Marin, Director of the Museum of History, announced that attendance for Lunar New Year was a record of 3400 attendees, which was 1200 more than the previous year. She shared how the attendance at the El Paso Museum of History has had a 35% increase over last year. She highlighted the success of the Museum's Lunar New Year and how the event was successful with the opening of Cleveland Square and participation from the Museum of Archaeology, Museum of Art, La Nube, El Paso Public Library, and Sun Metro Streetcar. She shared how the museum is hosting free Yoga and Readings and Lecture Series. She shared how the museum hosted Historian Studio with Dr. Miguel Juarez and also featured Rosa Guerrero, and the museum Co-hosted with UTEP's Creative Writing Department. Upcoming book reading and panel with Chuco Punk Sonic Insurgency in El Paso which is tied to the museum's Musica Sin Fronteras exhibition. She shared upcoming exhibition on April 10th, Neighborhoods and Shared Memories exhibition featuring Hacienda Heights, and also upcoming is Escaramuzas.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

Approved for content by:
Claudia Cardoza, Assistant Director
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

Respectfully submitted by:
Naomi Castro
Administrative Support Associate
Museums and Cultural Affairs Department

Attachments: None