

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 East Main Street, third floor, south Studios conference room, on April 12, 2006.

Members Present:

Douglas Brimhall John Hohmann
Crista Cloutier Daniel J. Harper
Lennee Eller Laurent Teichman
 Ramona Tecumseh

Members Absent:

Kimberly Grace
Toni Brucato-Kobet
Peter Cook
Andrea Soto

Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson Sunnee Spencer
Carrie Brown Jean Kaminski

Guests Present:

Debbie Spinner
Mary Lucking

John Hohmann, in the absence of Kimberly Grace, Chair, and Peter Cook, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Hohmann asked for any corrections/additions/deletions to the March 8 minutes. Daniel Harper requested that under "Upcoming Events" on page 5, the word "disturbing" be removed from the statement "3) saw a disturbing sign at the public library . . ." The statement should read: "3) saw a sign at the public library . . ." Mr. Harper found the sign innovative not disturbing.

Daniel Harper made a motion to accept the minutes of March 8 with the correction as noted on page 5. Laurent Teichman seconded the motion, and all members present unanimously approved the March 8 minutes, which are posted on the Website.

Information and Discussion – Role of Board Members in Public Context – Debbie Spinner

Debbie Spinner, City Attorney, addressed some questions posed at last month's Board meeting.

1. **Question:** Can we speak as an individual in a social setting (Museum opening/reception, City event, etc.) regarding the election while wearing our badge that identifies us as a Board member of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board member?

Answer: The constraint comes from a state statute that states the City cannot use its resources to influence the outcome of an election. Speaking as an individual while wearing your badge does not violate that statute. The recommendation is, when speaking in a social setting, to qualify that you are speaking as an individual representing yourself.

2. **Question:** When speaking as a private citizen at a public meeting, such as the recent town hall meetings, can we state that we are a member of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board?

Answer: Yes, it is okay to state that you are a member of a Board; however, to avoid any confusion, if you announce you are a member of a Board, qualify that you are speaking as an individual representing yourself.

3. **New Question:** Can the Board ask staff for information pertaining to their role as a Board member, such as requesting a copy of the budget for a specific program? Can the requested information supplied be used to influence the election?

Answer: Yes, as long as the information requested of staff is public information. A Board member has the same rights as any other citizen to request information from any City Department, and can use that information in a capacity that the individual deems appropriate. Standard City practice is to have the request in writing.

The key is not to use City resources - equipment, supplies, e-mail, etc. Ms. Spinner invited the Board to contact her at any time if they have further questions. Ms. Spinner can be reached at 480-644-2343.

Information and Discussion – Report on Grants Committee Meeting – Kimberly Grace

Rob Schultz reported in Kimberly Grace's absence. The Grants Committee met on March 30 to consider the eligibility of Arizona Theatre Company, the potential funding levels for approved applicants, and to discuss issues raised by Mesa Historical Museum staff regarding the process and their concerns in what they felt was a low ranking by the panel and why that occurred. The results of the meeting are discussed in the next agenda item.

Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of Grants Committee Recommendation to Not Grant Funding to Arizona Theatre Company, and Consider Approval of Recommendations for Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grant Awards – Rob Schultz

Staff consulted with the City Attorney's Office as to Arizona Theatre Company's eligibility to receive a grant. The City Attorney's Office subsequently rendered an opinion, based on the eligibility criteria in the Community Aid Grant application, that Arizona Theatre Company does not meet the Mesa residency eligibility requirement that states, "Applicant organizations must reside in Mesa. Mesa residency is defined as having an established place or residence in a home or office building in Mesa." Being a "resident" of the Mesa Arts Center by virtue of performing in the theaters, does not meet that requirement.

Eliminating Arizona Theatre Company leaves nine qualified organizations that submitted grant requests totaling \$277,800, with a Community Aid Grants budget of \$233,668. The nine organizations served an estimated audience of 124,374 youth and adults in FY05-06. The combined budgets totaled \$1,583,776. The Grant requests represent 14.75 percent (%) of the combined budgets.

Staff reworked the formula for the nine qualified applicants, which is reflected in Option 2 of the matrix, i.e., Southwest Shakespeare Company, \$37,970; Metropolitan Youth Symphony, \$18,970; Sonoran Desert Chorale, \$8,970; Xicanindio Artes, Inc., \$17,970; Mesa Symphony Orchestra, \$42,470; East Valley Children's Theatre, \$10,170; Mesa Historical Museum, \$62,210; Ballet Etudes, \$13,969; and Mesa Encore Theatre, \$20,969, which totals \$233,668.

Daniel Harper suggested two things for discussion for next year's process: 1) he would like to see something built into the process that deincentivizes requesting more money than needed as the organizations know they will not receive the full amount (some type of check to make sure the amount requested is in line with the project), and 2) he is disappointed that Arizona Theatre Company is reputable guest, arts organizations across the Valley are not eligible for a grant. He would like to see groups outside of Mesa, who do special programming in Mesa that targets Mesa residents, be allowed to participate and apply for a Community Aid Grant. It was agreed that the Grants Committee would revisit the eligibility criteria for next year.

Lennee Eller made a motion, Crista Cloutier seconded, and of the seven members present, six voted to accept staff's and the Grants Committee's recommendation to concur with the City Attorney's opinion that Arizona Theatre Company is not eligible for a FY06-07 Community Aid Grant. Ramona Tecumseh abstained.

Daniel Harper made a motion, Lennee Eller seconded, and all members present voted unanimously to accept staff's and the Grants Committee's proposal that City Council use Option 2 as the recommended funding level for FY06-07 Community Aid Grant applicants.

Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of Public Art Policies – Carrie Brown

The Board reviewed the Public Art Policies at the March 8 meeting. Carrie Brown made the suggested changes to the Policies, which are as follows: 1) Section "II. Funding," add the word "not" so the sentence reads, "Monies designated for public art may **not** be used for the following;" 2) Under item "D," change the wording to state "Art objects which are **not designed by an artist that** are mass-produced . . .;" and 3) Section "III. Objectives and Goals," item "D" has been moved to item "E" and a new sentence has been added for item "D," which now reads, "Provide opportunities for artists to participate in the design of various civic amenities.

Lennee Eller made a motion to accept the Public Art Policies with the changes. Daniel Harper seconded, and all members present voted unanimously to accept the updated Public Art Policies and Guidelines.

Information and Discussion – Presentation of Prototype Designs for Mass-Produced Transit Shelters – Mary Lucking

Mary Lucking, design team artist, has been working with City staff and local fabricators to re-design the standard transit shelters for the City of Mesa. The Transportation Department requested that the team develop a new, smaller, less expensive prototype, that has seating for two or more persons and provides shade, a bike rack, a trash receptacle, fits in a 5 x 8 foot space, and is ADA compliant. Ms. Lucking distributed a picture of three designs and asked that the Board rank them from one – three, one being the first choice, and return for her analysis. The three designs are: a) FORM, this design has a curved roof for shade and a rather square look to the design; b) BANDS, this design has a rounded roof with a slight dome and an "S" look. BANDS provides the most shade and is the most complex design; and c) LEAVES, this design has a slanted roof with two angled seating elements. The design plans will be finalized by the end of May. Ms. Brown will bring the final designs back to the Board. The City is planning to install toward the end of the year.

Laurent Teichman asked if there would be an opportunity to incorporate a shadow/window box to promote art and art events in the City at the shelters. Ms. Lucking agreed that it would be nice, and the team did look at various other materials other

than perforated steel where a shadow box might be incorporated into the shelter, but cost and maintenance issues were problematic.

Doug Brimhall asked if the City of Mesa is doing anything to prevent other cities from copying the two designs that are chosen. Mary Lucking stated that she has the rights to the designs.

Mr. Teichman asked if the City's logo or anything would be on the shelter to identify it as an art project in the community. Ms. Brown reported that the design team is looking at a type of plaque and/or a cement stamp that would identify the project.

Information and Discussion – Report on Financial Stability Committee Meeting – John Hohmann

Rob Schultz, staff liaison, recapped the update on the City's budget and the Town Hall meetings presented at the prior Committee meeting. An important issue recognized by the Committee was the propositions of the taxes. The Financial Stability Committee is proposing that an action item be added to the Board agenda for May to discuss making a recommendation to City Council that, if both taxes pass, the entire arts and cultural program be put back into the budget as initially proposed by staff.

Also discussed at the meeting was the appropriateness of Board members going in pairs to visit with Councilmembers throughout the year to share the vision of the Board and staff as it relates to arts and culture, information on the value of arts and culture in the community, and answer any questions or reservations they may have regarding arts and cultural issues. It was decided that the Financial Stability Committee would attend the Education Committee at their April 27 meeting to pair Board members and develop a schedule for visiting Councilmembers.

Note: Not reported - The Financial Stability Committee elected John Hohmann as Chair.

Arizona Museum for Youth – Sunnee Spencer

- 495 attended the free Sunday in April. On that day, the Museum, along with the Mesa Southwest Museum, celebrated family day, or day of the children. Staff had special activities between the Museums and KAET was there as well.
- The Museum participated at the Pioneer Park "Spring Fling" on April 10. Staff felt they reached the Spanish and Latino audience that they have not reached in the past through this event.
- Susan Sherrard and Sunnee Spencer met with Deb Duval, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, to discuss ways the Museum can be more available and a better resource to the schools.
- Staff is working on the next exhibit, "PurrrFection: Cats in Art," which opens July 1.
- Transportation will be the theme following "PurrrFection."
- An ocean theme was to follow "PurrrFection," but has been moved to spring to connect with the schools.
- A fundraising packet was created and distributed to the Museum's Friends Board. Ms. Spencer distributed a piece of the packet to the Board members that provided information on the Museum's mission, vision, history, faculty, the Art Gallery, ArtVille, the classroom, the Gallery Shop, general information on admission and public hours, and awards and accolades the Museum has received from 1987 to 2006. A few excerpts from the accolades are: "I love this Museum so much that I drive 45 minutes twice a week from Glendale." "We plan to move to Mesa just because of the Arizona Museum for Youth. My son loves this place." "We have been a member since the beginning. It's a fantastic place for the whole family."

Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- Governor Napolitano proclaimed May as Museum month in the state of Arizona, at the Museum's suggestion.
- Dino Lab exhibit, "Arizona's Ancient Ocean" just opened on March 31 and will run through August 25. The exhibit has received good press and TV coverage.
- Staff is working on three upcoming exhibitions: "The Art of Handmade Grave Markers," by artist Dick George, opens April 15 and runs through September 19; "Searching for Mesa: Finding Ourselves in Our History," presented in association with Mesa Historical Museum, opens May 6; "From Above: Images of a Storied Land (Adriel Heisey)," in collaboration with Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix, opens May 12. The "Searching for Mesa" exhibition is "the" major exhibition that looks comprehensively at the history of Mesa from its early days to the present.
- Dr. Bob McCord found another "cool" fossil. Working east of the Safford area, Dr. McCord found an early elephant that is over two million years old. The elephant fossil appears to be a complete skeleton.
- The Museum is still on track for the release of their first publication, *Southwest Quest*, on June 1.
- The new membership brochure is at press.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- Mesa Contemporary Arts has the following exhibits: “Weaving Tradition: Carol Cassidy and the Woven Silks of Laos;” Michael Eastman’s large scale photographs of “Cuba – Havana Interiors;” Rebecca Bluestone has a series of woven pieces in the north Gallery; and Darrell Tousley, a Mesa Arts Center instructor, has a kinetic exhibit that incorporates movement, sound and light – all a must see!
- Summer session begins June 5; registration begins April 21. Approximately 380 classes are being offered in youth and adult visual and performing arts, intergenerational classes, and a series of dance intensives.
- Stageworks’ final play of the season, “Sarah, Plain and Tall,” opens Friday, April 21 and will run through May 7.
- Currently, from September through March 31, volunteers have contributed approximately 40,000 hours at a value of approximately \$707,000. The Mesa Arts Center has approximately 600 active volunteers in the program. Kudos to Courtney Tjaden who is running the program and doing a fabulous job.

Director’s Report – Gerry Fathauer

- Mesa Contemporary Arts kicks off its Courtyard series, Thursday, April 13 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The series runs every Thursday evening for six weeks. Admission to Mesa Contemporary Arts is free on Thursday evenings.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts celebrated their one-year anniversary with entertainment, cake, and a chalk mural artist creating an art piece during the day.
- There will be a Members preview of the season on May 3 in the theaters.
- Upcoming performances include: Lila Downs on April 13; “It’s Magic 50th Anniversary” show on April 15 in the Ikeda Theater; Mark Morris Dance Group, who is celebrating their 25th anniversary, will perform in the Ikeda Theater on April 21; and Arizona Opera will be testing the waters in Mesa with “A Night of Opera Favorites,” featuring Dolora Zajick, on April 28 in the Ikeda Theater.
- Discussion continues with Mesa Community College (MCC) regarding a partnership. MCC is thrilled to have an opportunity to bring students into our facility. Both parties feel they would be able to offer for-credit and not-for-credit classes to a greater number of students ages 16 and older, possibly creating a nation-wide model in terms of community colleges partnering with city programs.
- City Council’s Study Session for Thursday, April 13, has an agenda item to discuss follow-up of their March 29 meeting when they met to look at the cut list. The list will be discussed again at this Study Session.
- The Arts and Cultural Division has been asked to prepare some follow-up Council Reports. Mesa Southwest Museum was asked to report on the cost of closing the Museum and the cost of maintaining collections. Arizona Museum for Youth was asked by the Mayor, “what if” the Museum would go from being open to the public 40 hours a week rather than 48 hours a week – what cost would be involved in that scenario?
- Mesa Arts Center was asked for more follow-up information regarding cuts in the visual and performing arts for youth and adults respectively. Staff has been working on these numbers.
- Staff is looking at the BAR’s that will be directly affected if one or the other, or both, tax measures do not pass. There is a RIWF policy in place, and staff is looking at placing those in danger of being RIWF’ed into City vacancies. Where there is no vacancy, bumping will be an option for those who have more points than another person in that job family. An employee can take the severance package if there is no vacancy or bumping option for them. There are approximately 12 vacant positions in the Arts and Cultural Division. Of 105 full time employees in danger of being RIWF’ed, 59 are within the Arts and Cultural Division if both tax measures fail.

Update Events – Board Members

Daniel Harper had three comments: 1) he loves the Olmec heads in the grassy area on the south side of campus and the masks in the arroyo; 2) he attended Southwest Shakespeare’s “~~The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)~~” “Much Ado About Nothing” and found it phenomenal; and 3) he suggested that Mesa Arts Center marketing staff come to a Board meeting and present an update on marketing strategies. The last time the Board heard from marketing, the Center was not open yet.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director
Arts and Cultural Division