

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 September 13, 2006.

Members Present:

John Hohmann
Hector Benitez
Amanda Buscas
Crista Cloutier
Lennee Eller

Daniel J. Harper
Andrea Soto
Ramona Tecumseh
Laurent Teichman

Members Absent:

Douglas Brimhall
Peter Cook

Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer Rob Schultz
Jerry Howard Carrie Brown
Jean Kaminski

John Hohmann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Hohmann, Chair, called for any changes/additions/deletions to the minutes of August 9. Daniel Harper requested that a sentence under "Committee Report – Report on Education Committee Meeting," be revised to read, ". . . which would contain the fact sheet, recent articles in support of arts and culture, a list of resources, and information on the role of the Advisory board." Crista Cloutier made a motion that the Board approve the August 9 minutes with the noted correction. Daniel Harper seconded, and the August 9 minutes were unanimously approved, corrected, and posted on the Web page.

Public Comments –

No public present

Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of Artist Selected for Third Temporary Installation at Mesa Arts Center – Carrie Brown

Carrie Brown presented slides from Mary Consie, a Mesa artist and the panel's recommended choice for the third Temporary Public Art Project at Mesa Arts Center. The panel enjoyed her work because it contains movement, playfulness, and whimsy. They found her work inviting, interactive, kid friendly, colorful, and it has a functional quality.

Daniel Harper made a motion to accept the panel's recommendation of Mary Consie as the artist for the third Temporary Public Art project at Mesa Arts Center. Laurent Teichman seconded, and all Board members present unanimously approved.

Her proposal for the project will be brought to the Board in October.

Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of Two Committees: Education Committee and Liaison Committee and Identify Members – John Hohmann

The focus of the Education Committee will be to gather factual information and share that information with the Board. The Board would then assist in the dissemination of that information to legislators and the community. The focus of the Liaison Committee is to implement action; coordinate and assist in the bridging mechanism of the information gathered by the Education Committee; and have a presence at public meetings, openings, and receptions.

Daniel Harper, Peter Cook, Ramona Tecumseh, Hector Benitez, and Amanda Buscas will serve on the Education Committee. Andrea Soto and Douglas Brimhall will serve on the Liaison Committee.

Daniel Harper made a motion to accept the Education Committee and the Liaison Committee for FY06-07. Crista Cloutier seconded, and all Board members present unanimously approved.

Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of No Free Sunday Admission – Arts and Cultural Division – Citywide – Rob Schultz

Staff is seeking a resolution to amend the 2006-2007 City of Mesa Arts and Cultural Division Fees and Charges Schedule that includes language that references the second Sunday of each month having free admission at Mesa Contemporary Arts, Arizona Museum for Youth, and Mesa Southwest Museum.

In November 2004, Council adopted Resolution 8354, which amended the City of Mesa's Fees and Charges Schedule to include, "Admission would be \$0 for all on every second Sunday as per museums."

Free admission was offered on the second Sunday of the month from September 2005 through June 2006. Typically, for all three Museums, attendance was approximately 376 visitors per Sunday. That totaled a revenue loss of approximately \$1,373 per Sunday, with a grand total of approximately \$16,136 for the time period of September 2005 through June 2006. The Museums consequently, as of July 1, stopped offering free admission on second Sundays simply because they could no longer

afford to do so due to the failure of the property tax measure. Since it is still on the books as \$0 for all on every second Sunday, contrary to the current practice, a new resolution amending the previous resolution is needed.

Lennee Eller made a motion to table a vote until next month to research options and discuss further before making a recommendation to Council. Ramona Tecumseh seconded, and all members present voted unanimously to table a vote until more information is obtained.

Discuss and Provide Direction – Present Talking Points and Questions – Daniel Harper

An updated copy of the Talking Points and Facts was distributed and adopted by all members present. The document will be part of a packet that will also include recent articles on arts and culture, informational brochures, resources, etc., to be used as a tool when speaking with legislators and the public. It is the responsibility of the Board members to familiarize themselves with the contents of the packet.

Daniel Harper also distributed a suggested pairing of Board members who will visit the Mayor and Councilmembers that John Hohmann, Chair, prepared. The members were paired so that at least one of the two is in that Councilmember's district. Board members were instructed to bring their calendars to the Board meeting in October to coordinate dates. Once the packet is complete and dates are selected, Jean Kaminski will begin to make arrangements for the visits. Several Councilmembers have stated that they are looking forward to meeting the Board members and having a discussion.

Committee Report – Report on Education Committee Meeting – Daniel Harper

The Education Committee did not meet in September.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth – Rob Schultz

- Sunnee Spencer met with Robin Trick, owner of House of Tricks in Tempe, who does a periodic wine tasting event as a fundraiser, which typically raises \$3,000 - \$5,000. Arizona Museum for Youth Friends was selected as the recipient of the next event.
- Sunnee Spencer submitted a grant to the Nina Mason Pulliam Trust to support the gallery educators positions through the Arizona Museum for Youth Friends.
- Revenue was up 55% compared to August 2005: \$13,952 in '05 versus \$21,470 in '06; attendance was up as well: 5,618 in '05 versus 6,495 in '06.
- With the retirement of Rebecca Akins, Jeffery Morris, who was Curator for Mesa Contemporary Arts years ago, is back in town and has come on board as guest Curator while the Museum recruits for a permanent replacement to fill the position.
- The large tile inlays at the front of the Museum, has been removed due to safety concerns and the concrete replaced. Facilities Maintenance assumed the cost of the repair.

Mesa Southwest Museum – Jerry Howard

- Current exhibits include "From Above: Images of A Storied Land" by Adriel Heisey, aerial shots taken from an ultra-light aircraft of ancestral Native American sites in Arizona; "Searching for Mesa," the history of Mesa curated in-house in conjunction with the Mesa Historical Museum; and closing soon, "Desconse en Paz," by Dick George, photographs of Hispanic-style, handmade headstones.
- As a result of the Museum's collaboration with Northern Arizona University and the International Wildlife Museum, the upcoming exhibit, "Crocodiles: Ancient Survivors," will open in October at no cost to the City.
- The Banner Mesa exhibit on Mesa Grande is installed and will be open to the public soon.
- An exhibit that was expected to open in December, "The Healer Within," has been cancelled by the people who were providing it free of charge. Staff has immediately responded to the crisis by taking a smaller exhibit, "Tuskers," which was named in a contest for the mammoth that Bob McCord excavated in Gilbert, and is turning it into a larger exhibit in the main gallery.
- Dr. Paul Minnis, University of Oklahoma, in conjunction with the Adriel Heisy exhibit, gave a lecture on his work at the site of Paquime (also known as Casas Grandes) in northern Mexico.
- Ron Peters and Victor Linoff, in conjunction with the "Searching for Mesa" exhibit, gave a lecture billed as "This Old House Meets Car Talk," that explored the fate of historic buildings in Mesa.
- Jared Smith, Mesa Historical Museum, gave a talk on the history of agriculture and agricultural development in Mesa.
- The Education area of the Museum presented a program for 60 Mesa Public Schools art liaison teachers at their annual meeting.
- The Bureau of Land Management donated \$3,000 for specimen cabinets for the paleontological collections.

- The Mesa Southwest Museum Foundation has funded a new Volunteer Coordinator, Yvonne Petersen, who is on board half time and is working to develop volunteer programs.
- Attendance was down last month, which is normal at the Museum for August. Attendance was 6,171 with revenue of \$25,902.
- The \$600,000 grant requested for the Mesa Grande project was rejected. The news was delivered Tuesday, September 12, and the Museum has not been given an explanation at this time.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- Community education class registration continues. We are seeing a higher per-student revenue than last session, averaging approximately \$43 per student vs. approximately \$33 per student.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts has their first opening reception Friday, September 15, with three new exhibits: Sandow Birk, James Cook, and Joseph Ostraff. Members preview begins at 6:00 p.m. with a talk by Sandow Birk and book signing at 6:30. The public reception will begin at 7:00 with food, refreshments, and live music.
- The new series, "Sound in the Ground," located in the Mesa Contemporary Arts courtyard, kicks off Thursday, October 12, 9:00 p.m. to midnight with "Visual/Audio." The series targets a younger demographic, 18 – 35 year olds. Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$8 at the door. The first event will feature experimental and electronic music, a cooking demo, and other activities. Other "Sound in the Ground" events will be in November, February, March, and May, each having a different theme.

Public Art Program – Carrie Brown

- Ned Kahn's "Fragmented Landscape" has been selected as a finalist for the Valley Forward Environmental Excellent Art in Public Places award. The banquet will be held on October 13 at the Phoenix Convention Center.
- The prototype bus passenger shelter project with Mary Lucking has been shelved. Gerry Fathauer stated that she would speak with Jack Friedline and report to the Board next month as to why it is not moving forward.

Director's Report – Gerry Fathauer

Gerry Fathauer reported that staff is planning to bring a revised draft of the Business Plan for the Mesa Arts Center to the Board soon.

Staff had made a decision that the Mesa Arts Center will discontinue the Affiliate program in terms of accepting any new applicants. One eligibility criteria to become an Affiliate was that the arts organization had received grant funding through the Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grant program, which is no longer available. Mesa Arts Center will continue to honor the three-year commitment made to the nine current Affiliates.

On Tuesday, September 26, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Arizona Citizens for the Arts will be thanking legislators at the Arizona Arts Action Summit. All Board members are invited and are reminded to wear their badge if planning to attend.

The Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Community College (MCC) classes partnership is at approximately 90 percent (%) cost recovery for the first semester. Staff is working to add intersession classes and workshops to reach the 100% goal. Partnering with MCC has been successful and a win/win for all concerned. The Mesa Arts Center classes will first appear in MCC's hard copy, summer catalogue. Classes at the Mesa Arts Center do appear on MCC's on-line Class Schedule Web page, as well as on the Mesa Arts Center Website. Rob Schultz acknowledged Jenny Akridge, Billy Jones, Walter Morlock, Jenise Dick, and members of the education classes team for the assistance they lent in launching September classes.

Friday night, September 15, will be the first performance of the season for Mesa Arts Center's, Off the Cuff, an improve troupe, at 7:30 in the Anita Cox Farnsworth Studio theater. Tickets are \$10.

The Performing Live season opened Tuesday, September 19, with Jungle Jack Hanna. There will be a BBQ in advance, free activities, and live animals. The activities begin at 6:30.

Kenny Loggins is performing Friday, October 6 at 8:00 p.m.; Kenny Rogers will perform on October 8 at 7:30 p.m.; and Tango Fire is performing on October 11 at 8:00 p.m. Some events this year will offer dinner prior to the show. Patrons can purchase their dinner tickets in advance. There is limited space (80), and dinner will be catered by Mesa Arts Center's concessionaire, Sodexo. Dinners will be served on the terrace level. Tango Fire dinner tickets are sold out; dinner tickets for Kenny Rogers are still available.

Daniel Harper commended Ms. Fathauer on the inaugural season letter that was mailed to members, sponsors, stakeholders, etc.

Ms. Fathauer shared that the Mesa Arts Center is in full color on the August cover of *Urban Land* magazine; a tremendous honor from this international organization. The title on the page is "Sharing Space: In pursuit of great places." A colored copy of the front cover was distributed.

Upcoming Events – Board Members

Daniel Harper encouraged everyone to let all people in the 21 – 35 age group know about "Sound in the Ground." This is the first time the Mesa Arts Center has had an offering for that demographic and staff would love to see the courtyard filled that evening.

John Hohmann, Chair, reminded Board members that as part of their Board duties they are to attend openings, receptions, new exhibits, etc. at the Mesa Arts Center, Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona Museum for Youth, and Public Art dedications and again reminded them to wear their badges to these events.

Amanda Buscas distributed the Mesa Historical Museum's brochure on "Connect with Culture, A Historical Look at Arts and Cultural Organizations in Mesa," lecture series.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director
Arts and Cultural Division