

## Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Arts and Cultural Division Office, 200 South Center Street Building 3, on December 10, 2003.

### Members Present:

Randy Robinson  
Kimberly Grace  
Molly O'Dwyer  
Carmen de Novais  
Elizabeth Reeb

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart  
Jesus Hernandez  
Laurent Teichman

### Members Absent:

Ramona Tecumseh  
John Hohmann  
Elizabeth Good

### Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer  
Jerry Dillehay  
Tom Wilson  
Jean Kaminski  
Barbara Meyerson  
Laura Madson Brown  
Andrey Hernandez-Garcia

Randy Vogel  
Patty Haberman  
Wahid Alam

### Guests Present:

Tracy Wright-Wagner  
Teresa Brice-Heames  
Jim Davidson

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Jesus Hernandez made a motion, Carmen de Novais seconded, and the November 12 minutes were unanimously approved and posted on the Website.

### Public Comments

Teresa Brice-Heames, who is running for Mayor of Mesa in the up-coming election and has served as a Board member for Xicanindio Artes, Inc. for five years, and president of the Board for Friends of Mesa Arts Center (FoMAC) for three years, stated she was making the rounds to visit all the citizen Advisory Boards and Committees to stay on top of the issues that confront our community. Ms. Brice-Heames expressed her appreciation to the Board members for serving as representatives of the community.

Tracy Wright-Wagner, invited the Board members to the Mesa Historical Museum's up-coming events: "Quilts: Yesterday and Today," which opens December 13 through April 17, 2004; and the "4<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Home and Garden Tour" on Saturday, January 17, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval to Revise Hours for "Sue" Exhibit at Mesa Southwest Museum – Dr. Tom Wilson

Dr. Tom Wilson stated that with the coming of "Sue," the largest T. rex ever found, to the Mesa Southwest Museum on January 24, 2004, the Museum is expecting a larger than normal patron interest from throughout the Valley. Because of the anticipated interest in the "Sue" exhibit, the Museum is proposing to increase the opening hours by 10 hours per week. The new hours would be: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Expected generated revenue from the "Sue" exhibit is estimated at \$80,000 to \$135,000, and attendance is expected to increase from 29,500 to 50,500. The expected expense for the exhibit being opened the additional 10 hours is \$33,600, which will cover additional security officers, front desk staff, exhibit monitors and janitorial services. There is no additional cost to see the "Sue" exhibit, just the cost of admission to the Museum.

Dr. Wilson reported that he was told on Monday of this week that the exhibition would be completely bilingual. Linked with the upcoming "Chicano Art" show in January, two major Museum exhibits will be offered in the two languages, giving the Museum an outreach to the community for which they have been striving.

Jesus Hernandez posed the question of using volunteers for the additional positions required for the exhibit. Dr. Wilson stated that volunteers are being used throughout the extended hours, but some key positions need to have professional people who have experience and are dependable.

Carmen de Novais asked if there is any plan for the lower income schools to be able to attend. Dr. Wilson stated that the Arizona Republic has given the Museum a large grant to accommodate lower income schools. Money from the grant is used to fund the buses and Museum educators.

Carmen de Novais made a motion, and Laurent Teichman seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the increase of 10 hours per week at the Mesa Southwest Museum during the "Sue" exhibit.

### Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval to Revise Arizona Museum for Youth Hours – Barbara Meyerson

Barbara Meyerson reported that extensive planning and evaluation has revealed the need to readdress hours of operation for the Arizona Museum for Youth. Also, with the addition of ArtVille opening in late February of 2004 and its special audience of preschoolers, research has proven that an early morning public time is required in order to accommodate afternoon naptimes. In compliance with

the Museum's mission, Ms. Meyerson is requesting to be open an additional five hours per week. The additional hours are being covered primarily by the conversion of two point eight (2.8) part-time employees to full time.

Randy Robinson made a motion, and Carmen de Novais seconded, and the Board unanimously approved that the Arizona Museum for Youth hours be increased to five additional hours per week.

## **Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval to Increase Project Budget for Beth Galston's "Color Walk" – Wahid Alam**

Wahid Alam stated that since initiating the contracted services of artist Beth Galston, approved by the Board in 2000, fabrication costs relating to the glass panels being fabricated in Germany – as well as devaluation of the dollar against the euro and standard inflation – have impacted the original project estimates which were not to exceed \$123,600. Provisions within the artist's final design contract allowed for an adjustment (not to exceed 15% of the original estimate, or \$18,540) as long as the artist provides reasonable justification for such an increase. Because of the above stated reasons, the artist is requesting the additional 15% (\$18,540) to complete the panels as designed. Not approving the increase would send the project back for redesign or adjustments with the existing artist, or a new artist, which would cost additional dollars, if the original concept were compromised beyond the artist's scope. Not approving the increase would also set the project so far behind schedule that the artwork would not be in place for the opening of the new Mesa Arts Center. Gerry Fathauer stated that the Public Art project for Falcon Field has been terminated (the Falcon Field terminal project has been shelved at this time), and the money that was set aside for that project would cover the cost to continue with the "Color Walk," that will serve as a handrail to the open-air bridge connecting the north and south wings of the new Mesa Arts Center on the second and third floors.

Kimberly Grace asked if the artist had looked into finding another source for the glass. Jerry Dillehay, Acting Cultural Director, replied that this option was discussed with the artist; however, in planning the initial design, Ms. Galston had made several trips to Germany to work with the glassmakers who have spent time researching how to fabricate the "sandwich" design (the artwork goes between two panels of glass and will be molded together). A deal was struck with the glassmakers in Germany, and to go elsewhere at this time would be costly, and the artist would have to begin from scratch. (Going with another glass company would also delay the progress of the artwork beyond the opening of the new Mesa Arts Center.)

Kimberly Grace requested an update on money in the Public Art fund to be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Elizabeth Reeb asked why the delay on this project that has caused an addition of funds. Gerry Fathauer stated that with a project time frame as long as the new Mesa Arts Center's (a six-year project), delays are unavoidable and price increases normal, and not the fault of the artist. The artwork is one of the last phases of the project to be installed and is dependent upon construction being close to completion.

Carmen de Novais made a motion, and Laurent Teichman seconded, and the Board approved the increase of 15% (\$18,540) to artist Beth Galston to complete the "Color Walk" Public Art project. Jesus Hernandez, being new to the Board, stated that he did not feel well enough informed on the issue and abstained.

## **Information – Mesa Contemporary Arts Collection – Patty Haberman**

Patty Haberman presented an in-depth report on the collections at the Mesa Contemporary Arts gallery. The report states the number of accessioned pieces; the criteria that artwork must meet to be accessioned; where the artwork is displayed; storage facilities and their conditions; and the current method of cataloguing the artwork. Please see "Attachment A" for the full report.

Ms. Haberman reported that the database being used by Mesa Contemporary Arts is rudimentary at best. She stated that new software programs are costly and they are looking to the future to acquire a more efficient program.

Kimberly Grace asked if it was possible to use the same system being used at the Mesa Southwest Museum or the Arizona Museum for Youth. Ms. Haberman stated that she was given a presentation on their programs, but found them to be more complicated and sophisticated than what Mesa Contemporary Arts requires. To use their programs would also require the purchase of an additional license, which would be expensive. Mesa Contemporary Arts staff is researching other organizations to gather information on what programs they are using. The long-term goal for Mesa Contemporary Arts is to have a database where the collections would be on-line and available to the public for research, and allow other institutions to see what is available to borrow for their exhibitions.

## **Staff Reports**

### Arizona Museum for Youth – Barbara Meyerson

- Media coverage on the grand reopening as well as attendance has been tremendous.
- In the midst of the grand reopening, staff was trained on the Rec-Trac software program, which is used for ticketing, in time for opening day.
- Following opening day, Ms. Meyerson gave a tour to 25 fifth-graders from Queen of Peace Catholic School, who are studying architecture. The students have had plans for the building and have been working with BPLW architects throughout the process.
- The Desert Pergola, one of Mesa's first pieces of Public Art, was successfully rehabbed.

- There were no funds for signage on the new facility; however, money has been acquired and signage has been ordered and will arrive in the next three to four weeks.
- Comments from the public have been positive stating that they now have a sense of place when they drive up to the Arizona Museum for Youth.
- Finish work continues and is progressing well.

### Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- The Museum has recently acquired two large billboards to publicize “Sue” – one donated by Viacom and the other by Clear Channel – which will be in prominent places along the freeways in Phoenix.
- In conjunction with the up-coming “Chicano Art” exhibit, a major book is being published by Arizona State University (owner of the collection). The book will be ready for the opening of the exhibit on April 30. The artists involved in the “Chicano Art” exhibit are from Mexican/American heritage and are primarily living and working in the United States.
- The Arab/American experience in Arizona exhibit “Crossing Boundaries” will be opening a year from now. A consortium of partners has been established to work in collaboration with this exhibit. The Museum is working with the Middle East Studies Association, which is a national and international association based at the University of Arizona; The Islamic Cultural Center in Tempe; the Bead Museum; and several Arab and Islamic organizations. By the end of this week, the Museum will have finished a grant requesting funds up to \$80,000 to the Islamic Arts Foundation to support this exhibit. The Museum has asked Saudi Aramco for \$15,000 and will be asking the Arizona Humanities Council for additional funds as well.
- Dr. Wilson reported previously that an \$8M capital project for Mesa Grande was taken off the bond issue. The Museum is looking at an alternative method of funding: federal funding. The City lobbyist, Mr. Huling, is discussing (with Mayor Hawker) the possibility of allowing Congressman J. D. Hayworth to try and acquire federal funding for the project (see the “Directors’ Report” section for more detail from Jerry Dillehay on this subject).
- Dr. Wilson and Jerry Dillehay received a memo in regard to the Federal Building from Real Estate this week pointing out some of the problems with the building before it could be inhabited. Environmental studies showed some mold problems, asbestos problems, and additional problems that complicate using the building. Along with those problems come costly repairs. This \$2.1M project to rehab the Federal Building was also taken off the bond issue.
- The History Gallery floor being built, which will be part of the “Sue” exhibition to allow ingress and egress and will eventually become the third exhibition gallery, will not be completed before “Sue” arrives on January 24. For “Sue,” the floor will be prepared, but will simply be painted. The hardwood floor will be installed around the first of May between the “Sue” and the “Chicano Art” exhibits. As part of the History Gallery project, a courtyard is also being created in the northeast corner of the Museum, which has previously been an enclosed area with a tree and some storage sheds. The Pima Waterfall, which was in the Museum, has been taken out and put in the courtyard. The patio will be used as a private patio area by volunteers and for use in conjunction with the Theater.

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart asked if the “Chicano Art” exhibit would have any educational opportunities connected with the exhibit. Dr. Wilson reported that the exhibit would open with a festival that will include notable speakers as well as a great number of artists from all over the country. Dr. Wilson expects to have film, lecture and education series throughout the exhibition. A low-rider festival is being planned for the Cinco de Mayo weekend.

### MAC/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz & new Mesa Arts Center – Randy Vogel

- Randy Vogel, Julia DeHesus, and Kristy Dewald have spent four 10-hour days over the past two weeks reviewing ticketing software programs.
- The second annual “MACStravaganza” was a huge success. This show of student and faculty work drew over 400 attendees and more than doubled sales totaling over \$8,500. Gerry Fathauer expressed her gratitude to Sandy Trant for her organization of this event.
- A new Customer Services Team, headed by Laura A. Madson Brown, had their kickoff meeting. The task of this team will be to create new, detailed customer service standards for the new Mesa Arts Center.
- Opening Festivities and Opening Weekend Festivities Sub-teams held meetings to begin discussing the opening of the new Mesa Arts Center in 2005. Ms. Fathauer reported that about 10 people from the community sit on these Sub-teams along with Mesa Arts Center staff. Ms. Fathauer stated that most of the Sub-teams are full; however, if a Board member had a strong interest, and missed the sign-up a few months ago, they should contact her or Jean Kaminski to see if there were any openings on the Sub-team of interest.
- Next Monday and Tuesday, December 15 and 16, Gerry Fathauer, Randy Vogel, Rob Schultz and Julia DeHesus will give the media tours of the Mesa Arts Center site.

### **Directors’ Report – Gerry Fathauer and Jerry Dillehay**

Gerry Fathauer thanked Randy Robinson, Ramona Tecumseh and Molly O’Dwyer for serving as judges for “Mesa’s Merry Main Street” Gingerbread House contest, and also thanked all those who took part in this event.

The first-ever joint meeting of the 501(c)(3) groups – Friends of Mesa Arts Center (FoMAC) and the Mesa Arts Alliance – was held in mid-November, and the decision was made to merge the two organizations and retain the name of Friends of Mesa Arts Center (FoMAC) for the merged groups. A steering committee is working out the particulars of the merger. The City will be working with the merged organization on a new agreement.

Ms. Fathauer reported that there is much interest in the adaptive re-use of the Irving School building. A report by Hunter Interest, Inc., for the purposes of determining the future of the City's Centennial Center and looking at creating a downtown campus for Mesa Community College (MCC), will go to City Council in January. There is considerable interest from people in the arts communities to have an opportunity to express their interest in the re-use of the building.

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart commented that the Networking Committee is also interested in the opportunity to have a voice in the re-use of the building.

Laurent Teichman asked if it was possible to have this issue as an agenda item for discussion. Ms. Chaisson-Stewart suggested that the Networking Committee would review the document and report to the Board, as an agenda item, on advocacy opportunities to keep the Irving School building focused on the arts.

Ms. Fathauer reminded the Board that there would be a regular Board meeting on January 14 at 3:30 p.m., as well as a tour of the new Mesa Arts Center site on January 28, also at 3:30 p.m., beginning at the Kitchell trailer (on site).

Ms. Fathauer distributed two handouts – the first was the guidelines for the "Upcoming Events" agenda item, and the second was a report form to be filled out after a meeting of the Board Committees (Networking, Grants, and Diversity) for the purpose of reporting to other Board members to track conversations and decisions made, and keeping the Board up-dated. Report forms can be turned in to Gerry Fathauer or Jean Kaminski, who will make copies for the Board.

Ms. Chaisson-Stewart, once again, requested that each Board member make an appointment to build a relationship with the Councilmember in their district.

Kimberly Grace suggested that a Board mission statement be printed at the top of the agenda each month.

Jerry Dillehay reported that he and Mesa Southwest Museum staff have been working with Jim Huling, City of Mesa Inter-governmental Relations Director, to keep Congressman J. D. Hayworth apprised of a potential federal appropriation opportunity at Mesa Grande archaeological site in Mesa. They have presented a one-sheet synopsis of a capital project to develop an on-site archaeological museum and visitors center. They have also developed potential operating budgets to demonstrate how it would be economically feasible for the City to operate the site, once open to the public, on a break-even basis utilizing admission fees, extensive volunteers, and collaborative management agreements with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Nation. Efforts are being made to secure the Congressman's support for a special appropriation of federal funding near \$4.1 million to construct the project in next year's Federal appropriation budget. Mr. Dillehay will continue to update the Board on the progress of their efforts and may ask the Board to help advocate on behalf of the project later in the process.

Jerry Dillehay reported the experimental Spanish class has finished with 12 graduates completing 20 hours of training. He stated that this "short" class was focused on helping City employees direct a non-English speaking patron to a bathroom, give them directions, register for a class, and relay a telephone number. The class has accomplished this and more. The class was part of an effort of reaching out to our diverse community and better serving our customers. Money permitting, the class will be expanded and offered to additional City of Mesa employees.

Mr. Dillehay reported that the Mesa Southwest Museum Foundation has a new Board member, Mr. Larry Chase, former CEO of the Bank of America.

### **Upcoming Events - Meetings and Events Attended – Board Members**

Jesus Hernandez distributed a flyer for a reception today, Wednesday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m. to honor and recognize the appointment of Judge Matt Tafoya to the Mesa Municipal Court and Chief Les Portee as Assistant Chief of Police in Mesa. The Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens is hosting the reception.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director  
Arts and Cultural Division

## Attachment A - Mesa Contemporary Arts Collection

Mesa Contemporary Arts Collection is comprised of 176 artworks. Of those, 170 are accessioned works and 6 are registered works (objects owned by the City of Mesa, but not accessioned into the permanent MCAC. These items primarily consist of artworks donated to the City that do not meet the criteria and standards of the collection. These objects may be used for educational purposes.) This total includes 72 prints, 52 other two-dimensional artworks and 52 three-dimensional artworks.

The seven criteria that an artwork must meet to be accessioned in the collection are the same criteria Tom Wilson identified in the MSWM report. The artwork 1) supports the mission of MCA, 2) is of a high aesthetic quality, 3) can be well cared for by MCA, 4) does not violate laws or ethical obligations of the museum, 5) does not require care beyond MCA's reasonable ability to provide, 6) has accompanying documentation that enhances its exhibition or educational significance, and 7) comes with clear title without encumbrances or restrictions.

38 artworks are currently on display throughout City facilities including: The City Plaza Building, Mesa Conference Center, MCC Business Institute and the Municipal Building. This situation is not ideal and not in keeping with the ethical standards required of a collecting institution. Artworks are placed in environments that do not have the proper security, lighting, temperature and humidity controls that are standard in Museum practices.

The remainder of the artworks are in storage. Current storage is in a 680 square foot room that is also used for the storage of loaned work, crates/boxes, packing /unpacking supplies, display pedestals, equipment, paint and cleaning supplies. This room is not temperature or humidity controlled. None of the collection is stored in conditions that meet requirements for a stable environment.

The current method of cataloguing is rudimentary at best. Artworks have a basic entry in two non-linked Word and Excel database programs.

When the collection is transferred into the new Mesa Contemporary Arts within the new Mesa Arts Center it will be housed in an 1100 square foot state-of-the-art storage facility. The room will have high security and stringent temperature and humidity controls. At that time all the artwork located in off-site City facilities will be retrieved, assessed for condition, provided conservation as necessary, and housed in the new facility. There will be a dedicated gallery in the new MCA that will be for rotating exhibits of the permanent collection. Following the move into the new MCA, staff will review the current Collection Management Policy and update where necessary. We also hope to acquire suitable collection software in order to catalog the collection.