

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 June 8, 2005.

Members Present:

Toni Brucato
John Hohmann
Daniel J. Harper

Lennee Eller
Ramona Tecumseh
Maureen Chaisson-Stewart

Members Absent:

Kimberly Grace
Peter Cook
Laurent Teichman

Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer
Rob Schultz
Marie Raymond

Jerry Dillehay
Gerry Green
Jean Kaminski

Guests Present:

Lisa Anderson

Kimberly Grace, Chair, was not able to attend the Board Meeting. John Hohmann served as Chair in her absence and called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

John Hohmann asked for any corrections to the minutes of May 11. There being none, he tabled the vote to approve the May 11 minutes, as a quorum was not present, until the July 13 Board meeting.

Public Comments

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart commented that the Performing Live Inaugural Season brochure was well done. She encouraged Board members to take a supply with them to distribute at other meetings and around their neighborhoods to assist in promoting the Mesa Arts Center.

Lisa Anderson, Mesa Historical Museum, reported that the Museum is now operating under summer hours: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The Museum continues planning the annual Home Tour scheduled for January 21. The tour will be in the West Second District; eight homes have committed to the tour thus far. Speakers Bureau for the upcoming year is set. The focus will be on the different professions in Mesa and how they have changed over the years. A featured speaker will be Willie Pete, former NFL coach and the first African American coach in the Phoenix area, and he will speak on how coaching has changed over the years in Arizona. Work on the Heritage grant continues with hopes of having construction completed by the end of summer.

Jerry Dillehay introduced Marie Raymond. Ms. Raymond, known as the "Mayor" of ArtVille, will be reporting on behalf of the Arizona Museum for Youth until the new Youth Museum Administrator is hired.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth – Marie Raymond

- The Museum is in fabrication for the upcoming exhibit, "Dreaming Tomorrow: The Art of Robert McCall." The opening reception will be Thursday, August 25, and artist Robert McCall will be in attendance.
- Attendance at the Museum continues to be the highest ever, even as summer season begins.
- Classes in ArtVille are at capacity. Additional classes have been added. Other classes offered are close to capacity as well.
- The search for a new Administrator to replace Barbara Meyerson continues. In the interim, Marie Raymond and Beth Bartholow are serving as co-Acting Youth Museum Administrators; Ms. Raymond is overseeing exhibits and education while Beth Bartholow is overseeing the operations of the Museum.

Mesa Southwest Museum – Gerri Green

- The Museum has been working on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) burial agreement between the regional tribes and the City of Mesa. The Historic Preservation Commission has approved the agreement. It will go to City Council for approval in June. Jerry Dillehay commented that it is thanks to the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board's nudge last year (through Ramona Tecumseh) that this has taken place. Dr. Tom Wilson has spearheaded the effort. The agreement focuses on the importance of collaboration between our elected officials and the local tribes and pays homage to the tribes' beliefs that they have a right to discoveries of any human remains.
- Jerry Howard has completed the salvage archaeology for the Review at Dobson project in the north and east sections. Work on the west section has begun.
- Ms. Green distributed a copy of an ad that was placed in the *Arizona Republic* for "Summer of the Giants," the latest exhibits the Museum is promoting. Featured are: "Tusks! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons" and "Whales: The Inside Story."

- Work has begun on an exhibit that will be mounted on the eighth floor of the Banner Mesa Medical Center overlooking the Mesa Grande Ruins archaeological site. Banner Mesa is donating the space and Salt River Project (SRP) will donate \$10,000 of printing, design work, and other services to the project. The exhibit has been engineered to be mobile and storable, as the Banner Mesa Medical Center is due to close in a few years.
- Recently opened is the "Navajo Saddle Blankets: Textiles to Ride in the American West" exhibit. After seeing the exhibit, visitors have been coming back with their personal Navajo blankets asking for information from the curators.
- *Newsweek* magazine featured an ad on the Museum's summer promotion, "Summer of the Giants," in their May 23 issue, which has generated a lot of interest in the Museum.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- The Volunteer Coordinator position has been filled. Courtney Tjaden will begin June 27. Thanks were extended to Jenny Akridge for a fine job of filling in during the interim.
- Andrey Hernandez-Garcia, Community Arts Coordinator, has resigned. Staff is looking to morph her position to Education Coordinator. The Education Coordinator would coordinate all educational programming at the Mesa Arts Center. After creating a job description, recruitment for the position will begin in late August – early September. The hope is to have someone in place by October.
- Classes began Monday, June 3. The first days are going well. Performing arts did test classes the week prior bringing in parents and children to proactively solve questions/problems. A few issues arose and staff is making the adjustments. Registration for the summer is strong. Registrants are up over 400 as compared to last year at this time. There are 175 on a waiting list. Staff is discussing whether classes can be added.
- A welcome table was set up and manned by staff to direct patrons, as the kiosk signage has not been delivered yet. Feedback from visitors has been very positive. Patrons are pleased, excited, and impressed.
- Staff has been working hard gathering research on fees for arts programs around the Valley both from municipal and private sources. Research includes: their costs, what they include in their cost of fees, how much revenue they generate from their arts programs, how they measure revenue, how many students they serve, how many classes offered, etc. Laura A. Madson Brown is compiling a draft of the benchmark data. The compiled data will be presented to Council at their Study Session on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 a.m., showing what the Mesa Arts Center is doing today at 50% cost recovery and what is going on around us. Staff will also present to Council what will happen if class prices are hiked from 50% cost recovery to 60%, 80%, and 100% cost recovery.
- The Mesa Arts Center has gotten a great deal of publicity with classes beginning June 6. The *East Valley Tribune* had a three-page article in the Sunday, June 5, issue. A reporter and photographer from *The Arizona Republic* were on campus today, Wednesday, June 8, and the article will appear in this weekend's issue.

Daniel Harper asked whether staff has approached the League of Cities to develop a caucus or committee to deal with organizations offering arts education programs throughout the Valley? Mr. Schultz replied they have not, but certainly will look into it. Mr. Harper asked what the total capacity would be if all the classes filled up? Mr. Schultz replied that the maximum number is 12,000 registrants in a full year, if all classes were filled to capacity. In the old facility the highest number of registrants in a full year was approximately 6,500. Mr. Harper's last question was whether the Mesa Arts Center would pick up the Summer Arts Camp again next year? Mr. Schultz said, "Yes," it would start up again June 2006.

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart commented she was pleased that the Summer Concert Series were featured in the evening as well as in the daytime this year.

Public Art – Jerry Dillehay

- Jerry Dillehay reported that Carrie Brown, Public Art Specialist, was at a conference in Austin. Photos of the recently completed transit shelter by artists Damion Charette and Martin Moreno, were distributed. The artists collaborated with school children and designed an exquisite tile inlay. The shelter is located at Broadway and Macdonald. A dedication of the Broadway transit shelter and the new Mesa Arts Center transit shelter (still in progress) will be delayed for cooler weather.

Director's Report – Gerry Fathauer

Monday night, June 6, was the preliminary budget hearing for the FY05-06 budget. The final adoption will be on Monday, June 20. The session will be aired on channel 11. This has been a difficult budget year. The Arts and Cultural Division has lost staff that still has not been regained; but overall, given the current budget situation, the Arts and Cultural Division is doing okay. Ms. Fathauer, again, encouraged the Board to watch the Financing the Future Citizens Committee meetings on Mesa's Channel 11. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25. The committee is now discussing what potential revenue mechanisms they will recommend to City Council.

City Manager, Mike Hutchinson, has announced his retirement as of December 31, 2005. Council is looking at the process for a national search to refill the position.

Gerry Fathauer will be presenting a video of the inaugural season at Council's Study Session Thursday, June 9, at the end of the meeting. The meeting airs on Mesa's Channel 11.

At the formal City Council meeting on June 20, Council will be considering the RFQ for concessions/catering as well as the burial agreement that Gerri Green referred to earlier. Staff will be recommending Sodexo for concessions/catering for the theaters.

Board member Laurent Teichman, Design Committee member Dennis Kavanaugh, and Performing Arts Center Administrator Randy Vogel, sat on a committee that looked at two proposals for the 51-55 East Main properties. The committee's recommendation to Council will be to accept the proposal of Avalon, a developer out of Albuquerque. The developer's proposal is that the buildings be torn down and a two-story structure be built with a restaurant on two levels. There would be a terrace on the backside that would look out at the Mesa Arts Center. Offices and retail would also be there.

The City is deeding the Irving School property to Mesa Public Schools (MPS). MPS is planning a magnet school at the facility that will offer arts and technology classes, which will continue the historic use of the building. Mesa Community College (MCC) will also be doing their "Life Options" program at the facility. Great collaborative opportunities for Mesa Arts Center exist with both MPS and MCC's presence in Downtown Mesa.

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board will elect a new chair next month. A chair can serve two consecutive years. New Board members serve a three-year term unless filling a vacated term. New Board members for FY05-06 are: Douglas Brimhall, a local architect; Crista Cloutier, with Segura Arts; and Andrea Soto, from the Mesa Leadership program, and she is involved with choral groups that tour internationally. Reappointed are: John Hohmann, Daniel Harper, and Lennee Eller.

The "Summer Spotlight Concerts," scheduled for Wednesday's at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. had to be cancelled, as the theaters are still under construction. Mesa Arts Center will receive a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the theaters on Monday, June 13, and staff will begin moving into their offices.

Ms. Fathauer thanked Maureen Chaisson-Stewart for her dedication and devotion for two terms served as a Board member, serving two of those years as Chair. During her years on the Board, Ms. Chaisson-Stewart accomplished creating an advocacy committee within the Board; was involved in several Public Art selection panels; was the driver behind several Board retreats; and spoke before City Council in opposition of Council's intended 30% cut to Community Aid Grants and reducing it to 20%. Ms. Fathauer presented a gift as a thank you and farewell to Ms. Chaisson-Stewart.

Jerry Dillehay

Staff at the Arizona Museum for Youth prepared 17 packets of information for the City's contracted Management Consultants for the Arts as they continue their search to find a replacement for the Administrator position. A preliminary report on candidates is expected in the next week. Management Consultants for the Arts will recommend how to proceed with the process. A committee, consisting of staff, a member from the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board, a member from the Arizona Museum for Youth Friends, Inc. Board, and some managers, will be developed to do an initial screening of candidates. Ultimately, candidates will be selected for the interview phase.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director
Arts and Cultural Division