

## 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 14, 2005.

### Members Present:

Kimberly Grace  
Douglas Brimhall  
Toni Brucato-Kobet  
Crista Cloutier

Lennee Eller  
Daniel J. Harper  
Andrea Soto  
Ramona Tecumseh

### Members Absent:

Peter Cook  
John Hohmann  
Laurent Teichman

### Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer  
Rob Schultz  
Carrie Brown  
Gerri Green  
Patty Haberman

Jerry Dillehay  
Tom Wilson  
Nancy Wolter  
Colette Pecenka  
Jean Kaminski

### Guests Present:

Lisa Anderson

Kimberly Grace, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Kimberly Grace, Chair, called for any corrections and/or additions to the minutes of August 10. There being none, Daniel Harper made a motion, Ramona Tecumseh seconded, and the August 10 minutes were unanimously approved by the Board members present and posted on the Web page.

### Public Comments

Lisa Anderson, Director of the Mesa Historical Museum, reported that the Museum survived the flooding caused by the monsoons as well as lightening damage to the A/C unit and some trees. The Museum is grateful to those who volunteered from the community and from neighboring museums. They are rebounding. Planning is underway for the annual quilt show in October/November, as well as preparations for the annual home show (January 21, 2006), this year in the West Second Street District.

Ms. Anderson distributed a copy of this year's lecture series brochure, "Doctor, Lawyer, Teacher, Coach: Professions in Mesa History," which begins September 15. She also distributed the Museum's Membership brochure.

Ms. Anderson invited the Board to attend a "sneak" tour of the Museum on Tuesday, October 18 at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p. m. (brown bag lunch) and at 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The Museum is now charging admission: \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Group rates are available. In conjunction with the other Museums in Mesa, the Mesa Historical Museum is offering a free second Saturday as the Museum is closed on Sundays. The Board was also welcomed to schedule a regular meeting at the Museum.

Mesa Historical Museum has partnered with the Scottsdale Public Library in creating an exhibit that will focus on what it was like living in Mesa in the 1930s. The exhibit will be on display at Mesa Community College (MCC) in February 2006.

Ramona Tecumseh distributed a flyer on the upcoming 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mesa Pow Wow at Pioneer Park. Ms. Tecumseh also distributed the ASU Art Museum's calendar for 2005-2006.

Kimberly Grace, Chair, asked if the Board felt it was necessary to receive individual staff reports as well as the Directors' Reports, which are a combined report of the Director's work and the staffs' reports. It was decided that the Directors' Reports would be sufficient.

### Discuss and Take Action – Consider for Approval the Mesa Contemporary Arts Acquisition Document – Patty Haberman

Staff is working to update/re-write the Collections Management Policy for Mesa Contemporary Arts. The Acquisitions Policy, brought before the Board today, is a component of the Collections Management Policy.

Mesa Contemporary Arts has several pending donations of artwork and would like to have this component of the Collections Management Policy approved so they can proceed in evaluating the donated pieces in a timely manner. The document includes policy on criteria and methods for accessioning artwork into the Permanent Collection or the Registered Works Collection and the creation of an Acquisitions Committee to make recommendations on potential donations, appraisals, care of artwork, and criteria and process for de-accessioning and disposing of artworks. The Acquisitions Committee would meet on an as needed basis depending on donation offers.

Patty Haberman, Curator of Mesa Contemporary Arts, stated that the gallery uses the Mesa Contemporary Arts Collection Mission statement as a guide to the types of media they exhibit. The statement reads, "To collect, exhibit and care for contemporary works of traditional media and works on paper."

Douglas Brimhall asked what qualifies as "traditional media and works on paper?" Ms. Haberman reported that they are not actively seeking video works, installation works, or computer-generated works – in other words, non-tangible works or sculptural types of artwork. Ms. Haberman further stated that Peter Cook has suggested she insert a line under "Clarification of Terms" describing what is meant by "contemporary works of art." Ms. Haberman has taken his suggestion to heart and is working on a definition.

Daniel Harper asked why this document was necessary. Ms. Haberman explained that the reason for approving this component of the Collections Management Policy now is to have a vehicle in which to accept donated works. Parameters exist for several reasons: 1) Mesa Contemporary Arts has a rather small collection storage space and at some point will be maxed out, 2) other institutions in the Valley collect other types of artwork, and Mesa Contemporary does not want to duplicate that, and 3) we want to capitalize on the expertise of the staff.

Crista Cloutier asked if any pieces from Mesa Contemporary Arts' collection would hang in public spaces. Ms. Haberman replied that some pieces from the Mesa Contemporary Arts' collection, Registered Works, are not truly accessioned into the collection. Those pieces would be available; however, problems exist regarding lighting, temperature control, and security. Mesa Contemporary Arts does have a gallery dedicated to showing pieces from the Permanent Collection and Registered Works that are rotated, and they do try to accommodate requests from Councilmembers and other areas within the City whenever possible.

Kimberly Grace, Chair, inquired if it would be a responsibility of the Acquisition Committee to determine if a piece of artwork would be accepted into the Permanent Collection or become a part of the Registered Works. Ms. Haberman said that based on staff's recommendations, "sure."

Toni Brucato-Kobet made a motion, Daniel Harper seconded, and the Board members present unanimously approved the Acquisitions Policy portion of the Collections Management Policy.

### **Information and Discussion – October Retreat – Kimberly Grace**

It was decided that the Board retreat would take place on Wednesday, October 12, beginning with a regular meeting at 3:00 p.m. followed by the retreat at approximately 3:30 p.m. in the Mesa Contemporary Arts classroom space. Gerry Fathauer reported that Nancy Wolter has agreed to facilitate the retreat. Debbie Spinner, City Attorney, has agreed to come and speak at the retreat regarding issues on the Sunshine Law and the advocacy rules and regulations for Boards and Committees. The topics for the retreat, along with the Work Program, are: revisit the role, expectations, and responsibilities of the Board; tactics to accomplish those expectations; the Board's role in advocacy; what a Board member can do as a private citizen; and public/private partnership opportunities to promote and support the Mesa Arts Center, Arizona Museum for Youth, Mesa Southwest Museum, and the Public Art Program. The Board also would like to hear the top five priorities for the upcoming year from the Mesa Southwest Museum, the Arizona Museum for Youth, the Mesa Arts Center, and the Public Art Program and discuss how the Board might assist them in reaching those goals.

Gerry Fathauer commented that if the Board had any specific questions they would like Debbie Spinner, City Attorney, to address, to e-mail them to her or Jean Kaminski ([gerry.Fathauer@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:gerry.Fathauer@mesaartscenter.com), [jean.Kaminski@cityofmesa.org](mailto:jean.Kaminski@cityofmesa.org)) before October 10.

### **Committee Reports**

The Grants Committee, Kimberly Grace, Ramona Tecumseh, Doug Brimhall, and Rob Schultz, met to discuss the current process for Mini-Grants and the Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grants.

It was decided that there would be one round for Mini-Grant applications rather than the previous two rounds a year (September and February). The sole application deadline for Mini-Grants will be Thursday, November 10, no later than 5:00 p.m. The Grants Committee will review the applications on November 18 and present their recommendations to the Board at the December 14 regular meeting.

For the Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grants, new applicants must submit a letter of intent to apply by December 18. The application deadline is Friday, February 3, 2006, no later than 5:00 p.m. A Grants Review Panel will meet on Wednesday, February 15. Members of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board Grants Committee will sit in on the panel review and bring their observations to the full Board, along with the Panel's recommendations, at the regular March 8, Board meeting. The Grants Review Panel uses a ranking system to determine who will receive funding (ranking 1 – 10, 10 being the highest

possible). There was some discussion by the committee as to whether everyone would receive funding based on their ranked average, or if there should be a cutoff, i.e., if an organization receives an averaged rank of three or below, should they still receive funding. Since we are emulating the Arizona Commission on the Arts and how they fund their program, Rob Schultz is checking to see if they enforce a cutoff. Mr. Schultz is also checking on how other organizations base their funding formula.

Information regarding Mini-Grants and the Community Aid Grants has been posted to the City's Website under "Arts and Cultural."

## **Staff Reports**

### Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- The "Whales" and "Tusks" exhibits are down. The new exhibit "When Crocodiles Ruled," this fall's blockbuster, opens Saturday, October 1. All are invited to the reception on Friday, September 30 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- "Dia de Los Muertos," the Day of the Dead, opens October 8. Following will be "The Fabric of Jazz" opening November 12.
- The mammoth that the Museum was excavating in Gilbert produced two large tusks and portions of a horse and tortoises.
- The archeology team at the Riverview project is nearly completed on the west side, making rapid progress on the south side, and wrapping up work on the canals.
- The Museum received 70 applications for the Curator of Education position, and has narrowed the field to three finalists. Interviews will occur by the end of September, first of October.
- The International Conference of the Society of Vertebrata Paleontology will take place in Mesa on October 19 – October 22. Approximately 1,100 – 1,200 paleontologists will attend from all over the world. The Museum is seeking volunteers.
- Dr. Tom Wilson and Jerry Dillehay will be making a presentation on the Federal Building at the bond hearing this evening, Wednesday, September 14. The bond will go before the public next spring. The hope is to use the Federal Building as a museum/public educational complex with multi-use facilities that include classrooms, public meeting space, public interface with some of the collections, photo archives, archeological laboratory, and spaces for exhibition use.

The question was raised as to whether or not the Museum has a library. Dr. Wilson replied, "Yes, but it is non-circulating."

### MAC/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- Louis Jimenez's exhibition opened at Mesa Contemporary Arts on September 13. The sculptural piece outside (Sodbuster) is one of his most famous pieces and complements his exhibition of drawings and prints in the gallery. Also appearing as of September 13, are works by Ellen Wagener and prints from the Armstrong/Prior collection.
- Admission to Mesa Contemporary Arts is now \$3.50. except for free Thursday and the second Sunday of each month.
- The reception for the new exhibitions will be October 14 to avoid conflict with the dedication and opening weekend at the Mesa Arts Center.
- Kristin Fruen, Store Manager, has been preparing the Mesa Arts Center Store to open Friday, September 16 and has hired a part-time assistant manager.
- Courtney Tjaden, Volunteer Coordinator, began in June and is doing a marvelous job. To date we have over 400 ushers who have been through the training program with 50 more waiting for the next training session. Altogether the Mesa Arts Center has approximately 800 volunteers working in various aspects of the Center.
- Frank DeCurtis, Associate Curator at Mesa Contemporary Arts, has resigned. Recruitment will begin in early October.
- Kristy Dewald, Event Services Supervisor, has resigned. Recruitment for her position is underway.
- The Arts Education Coordinator position will be opened beginning September 26.
- Auditions are ongoing for the up-coming "La Rosa Still Grows Beyond the Wall," Stageworks first play of the season, which opens October 7 in the Nesbitt/Elliott Playhouse Theater.
- The Ceramics Studio is undertaking the task of building a new wood-burning kiln. There is no other place in the Valley that has a wood-burning kiln for students making the Mesa Arts Center unique, in yet another way. Staff has gotten the "okay" from Risk Management and is working with Building Safety and the Fire Department.

### Public Art Program – Carrie Brown

- The short-term project by Ted Troxel (five javelina) is in place by the Box Office.
- Becky Ross has completed her work on the transit shelter on the corner of Center and First Avenue.
- Catherine Widger's medallions are complete – some have had to be re-glued and/or replaced.

- A meet and greet with the artists will take place prior to the dedication, Friday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m. A tour of the Public Art on campus will begin at 6 p.m. All five artists will be present. Lectures by the artists will take place on Saturday, September 24 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

## **Directors' Reports – Gerry Fathauer and Jerry Dillehay**

### Gerry Fathauer

Reporting for Randy Vogel on Theaters and Operations, Ms. Fathauer reminded the Board of the Michael Crawford Inaugural Concert Saturday, September 17. The Inaugural event had great coverage on the local TV stations. Gerry Fathauer did a taping for the Pat McMahan program that will air Thursday, September 15, at 7 a.m.

The Mesa Arts Center Foundation and the Mesa Arts and Entertainment Alliance nominated the Mesa Arts Center for two Crescordia awards in the categories of Public Plazas and Buildings and Structures. The Mesa Arts Center did win a Crescordia for Public Plazas (The Shadow Walk) and a Merit award for Buildings and Structures. Former Mayor Wayne Brown accepted the awards on behalf of the Mesa Arts Center at Valley Forward's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

The Arts and Cultural Division (Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona Museum for Youth, and the Mesa Arts Center) was well represented in the new Mesa Visitor's Guide created and distributed by the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mesa's Channel 11 created, along with Walter Morlock, Marketing/Communications Specialist, a new arts magazine show that will be airing soon. At this time, the magazine show is only covering the Mesa Arts Center, but staff is hoping to expand the show to incorporate the Museums as well.

Following is the link to the Mesa 2025: Financing the Future Citizen Committee:

<http://www.cityofmesa.org/finance/committee.asp>. On the site you can view the Committee's final report.

Ms. Fathauer reported that she is a new member of Arizona Citizens for the Arts/Arizona Action for the Arts Board. This organization exists to support cities that need assistance. They see themselves as a resource to help educate Councils on arts and cultural issues.

Ms. Fathauer reminded the Board of the dedication and the open house weekend at the Mesa Arts Center. The dedication ceremony is Friday, September 23, beginning at 7 p.m. Open house is Saturday, September 24, beginning at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sunday September 25, beginning at noon until 5 p.m. Mesa Contemporary Arts galleries will be open free all weekend. There will be demos by the instructors in the Studios, entertainment and an activity room for children in the theaters, and entertainment in the Shadow Walk throughout the day.

### Jerry Dillehay

Reporting for Marie Raymond and the Arizona Museum for Youth, Mr. Dillehay thanked everyone who came to the opening of the Robert McCall exhibit, "Dreaming Tomorrow: The Art of Robert McCall" on August 25. It was the largest attended opening the Museum has seen to date. New exhibit designer Rex Witte's (who comes from the private sector) creative ideas have enhanced the layout of the gallery and given it a fresh look. This month's "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Free" saw 906 visitors at the Arizona Museum for Youth and 1,256 at the Mesa Southwest Museum; totaling over 2,200 coming through as compared to 1,300 in August.

Sunnee Spencer has been hired as the new Arizona Museum for Youth Administrator. Ms. Spencer is from the Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, MA, where she serves as the Deputy Director. Ms. Spencer will begin her position at the Museum on October 31. She was, hands-down, the first choice of the selection committee, exhibiting strong leadership and community building skills.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director  
Arts and Cultural Division