

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Southwest Museum, 53 N. Macdonald, on February 11, 2004.

Members Present:

Elizabeth Good	Maureen Chaisson-Stewart
Kimberly Grace	Jesus Hernandez
Molly O'Dwyer	Laurent Teichman
Ramona Tecumseh	Carmen de Novais
John Hohmann	Randy Robinson

Member Absent:

Elizabeth Reeb

Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer	Randy Vogel
Rob Schultz	Nancy Wolter
Tom Wilson	Gerri Green
Jerry Dillehay	Angelica Docog
Jerry Howard	Gene Letson
Jean Kaminski	Barbara Meyerson
Sandra Williamson	

Guests Present:

Tracy Wright-Wagner
Dr. James Riding In

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Ms. Chaisson-Stewart expressed the Board's appreciation to Dr. Tom Wilson and the staff of the Mesa Southwest Museum for their invitation and hospitality. Ms. Chaisson-Stewart also thanked the Board members who attended the Arts Congress on Monday, February 9, at the state capital: Elizabeth Good, Randy Robinson, Jesus Hernandez, and Carmen de Novais. Ms. Chaisson-Stewart also attended.

Approval of Minutes

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, Chair, called for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being none, the January 14 minutes were unanimously approved and posted on the Website.

Information and Discussion – Review Work Program – Maureen Chaisson-Stewart

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart began by asking each committee to report. Ramona Tecumseh reported for the **Diversity Committee**. The committee has not had the opportunity to meet to date. Ms. Tecumseh has sent e-mails and informed the Board on several cultural events in the Valley. Laurent Teichman stated that he has witnessed more participation and cooperation from the downtown merchants in promoting City arts and cultural events than had occurred during the past, and he would be willing to meet with the committee to share ideas. Kimberly Grace spoke for the **Grants Committee**. The committee met to review Mini-Grants and plans to look at ways to streamline the application and the turn-around time from submission to reporting to the Board. The committee will meet again next week to look at the second round of Mini-Grant applications and make their recommendations to the Board in March. Ms. Grace stated that the Mini-Grant Guidelines and Application Form is available on-line and can be downloaded to complete and submit. Jesus Hernandez reported for the **Networking Committee**. The Networking Committee has not had the opportunity to meet to date; however, the members of the committee did meet with the state legislators at the Arts Congress on Monday, February 9. Mr. Hernandez stated that several legislators he spoke with were not aware of the issues arts and culture is facing, specifically budgeting issues. The Board was encouraged to continue their efforts to advocate for state funding. Several members of the Networking Committee spoke with Councilmember Claudia Walters and found her approachable and receptive to what they had to say. Ms. Chaisson-Stewart commented that each Councilmember she has encountered has received her in the same manner and encouraged the other Board members to get to know the members on the City Council.

Gerry Fathauer stated that Arizonians for Cultural Development has an informative Website that displays tools and instructions on how one can contact the Governor and state representatives to support the arts. The Website address is www.azcd.org and the link is "Advocacy."

Jerry Dillehay reported that there is an effort to eliminate the Heritage Fund (\$10M fund from lottery proceeds), which funds cultural venues (historical and otherwise) throughout the City. Information regarding this issue can be found on the Internet at www.arizonaheritagealliance.org under "Heritage Fund."

Liz Good commented that some of the item numbers assigned as part of the Work Program were given to staff, and she was inquiring whether staff had acted on any of them. The first item assigned to staff was number one under Networking Committee (provide one free admission day a month at the Arizona Museum for Youth and the Mesa Southwest Museum). Jerry Dillehay reported that he had an offer from Vice Mayor Kavanaugh to work with them to support this effort. Mr. Dillehay, along with Barbara Meyerson and Tom Wilson have met twice. The second time Tom Verploegen from Mesa Town Center joined the discussion. Mr. Verploegen is asking them to develop a request that will provide a free day and involve the downtown merchants in some manner. They are working to bring a recommendation to the Board in March. Another assignment to staff was number six (sponsor a cultural calendar of events). Ms. Fathauer reported that the City of Mesa does have a calendar program that lists events and activities throughout the City. Number four was also assigned to staff (pursue a news magazine on channel 11). Ms. Fathauer reported that there are no resources available to sponsor a magazine at this time. However, Channel 11 does show the latest video updates of the new Mesa Arts Center's progress. The next update will be bilingual. Even though an arts news magazine is not possible at this time, Ms. Fathauer informed the Board of the new non-profit organization Alliance for Audience. For information on the organization, go to www.allianceforaudience.org. To quote from their Website, "**Mission Statement** – The mission of Alliance for Audience is to promote arts and culture as the most entertaining and fulfilling leisure-time destination for residents and visitors in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Alliance for Audience is a collaborative venture of arts & cultural organizations, working for the mutual benefit of arts patrons and organizations to: Initiate the participation of new audiences; generate new sources of earned revenue, provide extraordinary access to arts event information; and

facilitate new methods of arts commerce.” Ideally, Alliance for Audience would like to provide information and the capability of purchasing tickets all on this one site. The cost to operate could be shared by the cities involved.

The last item in question on the Work Program was number five (to have a role in allocating adaptive re-use of the Irving School building). Ms. Fathauer reported that Debra Dollar punctuated Ms. Chaisson-Stewart’s letter to City Council, on behalf of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board requesting to be involved in recommending and/or the decision making of the re-use of the Irving School building, during the Council’s review of the Hunter Interest, Inc. Report. Ms. Fathauer reported that the City Council unanimously agreed to move forward on the recommendations of the report.

Information and Discussion – Re-Visit Liaison Assignments – Andreyra Hernandez-Garcia

As Andreyra Hernandez-Garcia was detained, Nancy Wolter reported that two former Community Aid Grants organizations have dropped out – Arizona Jazz and Mesa City Band. Three new organizations have emerged – Ensemble Theatre, Spotlight Performing Arts, and Women in Film, Arizona. It was decided that Elizabeth Good would be the liaison to Ensemble Theatre; Maureen Chaisson-Stewart would be the liaison to Spotlight Performing Arts; and Carmen de Novais would be the liaison to Women in Film, Arizona.

Information and Discussion – Review of Showcase – Andreyra Hernandez-Garcia

Andreyra Hernandez-Garcia reported that presentations were made by 13 arts organizations. One suggestion for the future was that the arts organizations invite City Council. Everyone involved would like to see the audience for future showcases expanded. There was a discussion of some arts organizations merely presenting, either in a vignette or video, what their organization does, while others presented more of a request for funds and an explanation on how those funds would be used. After discussion, the Board saw value in both presentations. The decision of the Board is to continue “tweaking” the showcase, re-visit the goals, provide an opportunity for the arts groups and the audience to interface, and look at the length of the program. Randy Vogel stated that once we are in the new Mesa Arts Center the opportunity for the arts organizations to “showcase” their talent would be more conducive to their needs. Ms. Hernandez-Garcia distributed the Community Aid Grants packets and reminded the Board of the meeting to review the applicants’ requests on Wednesday, March 3.

Information – Update on Beth Galston’s “Color Walk” – Gerry Fathauer

Gerry Fathauer reported that Debra Dollar administratively approved an additional installation cost required for this project. Several Board members expressed discontent that this additional cost is coming so late in the project and just under the amount required for Board approval; however, one Board member did express satisfaction with the way in which it was handled. Ms. Fathauer explained that the additional expense was due to the project being on the second and third level, requiring additional equipment for installation. She further explained that when the artist is chosen, they are selected for their body of work. The medium of the artwork is not always known until later. Ms. Galston does have experience in the glass medium; however, it was not known until later that the glass would be integrated with metal and used as a bridge connecting the north and south wing. This idea evolved over a period of time working with architects and designers. Board members felt that as a result of the resignation of Kate O’Mara, Public Art Coordinator, administration issues will flare up until the vacant position is filled and there is someone overseeing fabrication and installation issues that arise.

Information – Hear Presentation on Repatriation – Dr. James Riding In, ASU Justice Studies Professor

Ramona Tecumseh invited Dr. James Riding In to educate and address the Board regarding repatriation. James Riding In, Ph.D. (Pawnee) is an associate professor of Justice Studies and American Indian Studies at Arizona State University. He is the editor of the *Wicazo Sa Review: A Journal of Native American Studies*. His publications regarding repatriation appear in various books and journals, and he has served as a repatriation consultant for the Panwee Nation in OK. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a Federal law passed in 1990. NAGPRA provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items (human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony) to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian Tribes. NAGPRA includes provisions for unclaimed and culturally unidentifiable Native American cultural items, international and inadvertent discovery of Native American cultural items on Federal and tribal lands, and penalties for noncompliance and illegal trafficking. Dr. Riding In reported that this country has a legacy of disrupting the graves of indigenous people. This began with the arrival of the first European settlers. There was a curiosity over graves, and over time people began to disrupt graves for profit. From an indigenous perspective it is considered “grave looting,” whether done in the name of science and/or profit. Dr. Riding In stated that indigenous people placed these remains in the ground for the intent of remaining there, not to become the property of others for future scientific discussion. Dr. Riding In reported that many horrendous acts were committed in the acquisition of these collections. In the 1860’s, the Army Medical Museum began collecting skulls of Natives for study. The purpose was to do cranium studies to prove that the “white” people were superior to the “Native” people. Native Americans believe they have an obligation to their ancestors to protect the rights of their dead. This is what prompted the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Since 1990, Museums must identify cultural items in their collections that are subject to NAGPRA, and prepare inventories and summaries of the items. Remains are divided into two categories: culturally affiliated and culturally unidentifiable. Culturally affiliated are those remains that can be linked to present day Indian tribes. Culturally unidentifiable are those remains that cannot be linked to any present day Indians. According to Dr. Riding In, Native Americans feel that none of these remains are culturally unidentifiable. Their belief is that these remains are from their ancestors, and they share a lineal connection as well as a cultural connection.

Jesus Hernandez asked how many Museums do not comply with the Act. Dr. Riding In replied there are hundreds who have remains that they have not inventoried or reported. Mr. Hernandez also asked how far back the practice of "grave looting" goes? Dr. Riding In replied that it was first practiced as a gentleman's enterprise to collect Indian skulls and put them on display in their homes. As time progressed, remains began to be displayed in museums. Another question posed by Mr. Hernandez was whether the collections provided any valuable information to those who have them stored? Dr. Riding In replied, "We think not," . . . "which is more important, research or human rights?"

Ramona Tecumseh stated that in October she attended a conference at Arizona State University. At the conference she learned that the City of Phoenix, Tempe, and Scottsdale have signed an intergovernmental agreement ("good-faith" agreement) with the Native tribes in this area. The City of Mesa has not signed the agreement.

Dr. Tom Wilson thanked Dr. Riding In for addressing the Board, and assured the Board that historically the Mesa Southwest Museum has been in complete compliance with state and federal laws regarding repatriation. Dr. Wilson continued to say that as Dr. Riding In suggested, there are more than just legal issues involved, there are also issues of ethics and morality. Dr. Wilson further stated that the Mesa Southwest Museum has attempted to live up to the spirit of NAGPRA, Arizona state laws as well as the letter of the law. The Mesa Southwest Museum repatriated objects to American Indian groups before NAGPRA required museums to do so, and the Museum continues in that vein. Dr. Wilson further stated that Mesa Southwest Museum was instrumental in getting the Arizona State burial laws passed.

Ms. Tecumseh stated that she would like to bring a copy of the intergovernmental agreement to the Board next month, and discuss ways the Board might advocate for the City of Mesa to sign the agreement.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth -- Barbara Meyerson

- The Humane Society has come to the Arizona Museum for Youth for the second time, and four puppies found a home as a result of being in the parking lot at the Museum.
- Freckles, a small, white dog found abandoned in the desert, visited the Museum. His owner has trained him to do "dog therapy." He will be returning to the Museum, and a book written about Freckles is available at the Museum gift shop.
- "Words, Wags, and Wickers," a program created by the Humane Society that began in UT and was adopted by AZ, is being sponsored by the Museum beginning this Sunday, February 15, and will continue each Sunday throughout the "Bow! WOW" exhibit. The program is to assist children who have difficulty reading. These are specially trained dogs who place their paw on the book as the children read to them, which enables the child to practice reading and at the same time have a good listener.

Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- City employees were invited to a special day to view "Sue."
- The T. rex skull placed at Fiesta Mall will be moved to the Superstition Springs Mall, Thursday, February 12.
- In the first 18 days of "Sue" on exhibit at the Museum, there have been close to 16,000 visitors – an average of 882 per day. That compares to 19,500 visitors for January and February combined in 2003. Dr. Wilson accredited this turn-out to publicity: four billboards, newspaper articles and ads, advertising with McDonald's, TV channels 3, 10, 11, 12, and Cox Cable coverage, three radio stations coverage, and banners on Main Street.
- On Friday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m., Ron Schmidting, "The Dino Guy," will entertain, educate and enlighten through his performance of original dinosaur songs.
- In the "Dino Lab" are approximately 500 replicas of prehistoric creatures manufactured in many countries, in many scales. These replicas vary from tiny sea creatures to prehistoric mammals; however, dinosaurs predominate.
- From February 6 to May 9, the Mesa Southwest Museum will display the works of Charles R. Knight, often called the "father of paleo art." One of his most well known works is entitled "*T. rex Facing Triceratops*." His granddaughter, Rhoda Knight Kalt, spoke of her grandfather's works at the Museum the night of February 6 at a public reception. Ms. Kalt was acknowledged for the donation of her grandfather's painting "*Mastodon, Horses and Glyptodon*" to the Mesa Southwest Museum.
- The Museum is experiencing a large number of visitors who had never heard of the Mesa Southwest Museum or had never visited the Museum prior to "Sue." The Museum staff is working to do all they can to encourage return visits and capture names of visitors interested in supporting and/or knowing about future happenings at the Museum.
- Schools as far away as Sedona are arranging visits to the Mesa Southwest Museum.
- Staff has been visiting Native American Reservations throughout the Valley to educate and encourage visits to the Mesa Southwest Museum through a public grant program.

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

- Rob Schultz reported that the Southwest Arts Conference had over 425 attendees – highest ever.
- Friday, February 20, Mesa Youtheatre's performance of "Somebody Catch My Homework" opens and runs through March 7. Performances are Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
- The "Out to Lunch" concert series at the Mesa Arts Center has begun at Superstition Springs Mall Amphitheatre. This is a new location for "Out to Lunch." The first concert was rained out, but the second drew 150 people, which for a new venue, was a good turnout.
- Rolando Ramirez, a 20-year Ballet Folklorico dancer from Guaymas, Mexico, has come forward and has taken over as instructor for Ballet Folklorico at the Mesa Arts Center. The classes are full, and they had two performances that drew 175 people to the theater. This has been a boost for the program.

- Beginning this January, Mesa Arts Center has offered a new Creative Arts Preschool class. This class runs from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Children who range three – five years of age are shepherded to four, 45-minute classes – dance, drama, creative movement, and music. Rob Schultz expressed kudos to Gordon Hensley, Shalynn Reynolds, the full-time arts instructors, and Jenny Akridge who all were instrumental in putting this program together.
- Randy Vogel reported that Louise Stevens of ArtsMarket met with the Mesa Affiliate groups to present the results of their findings. Approximately 70 representatives from the Alliance for Audience also met with Ms. Stevens at the Arts and Cultural Division Office for her presentation of ArtsMarket’s study. Both meetings were positive in that the arts organizations, and their representatives, are beginning to interface, and we are beginning to see collaboration within the arts organizations.

Public Art Program – Jerry Dillehay

- The new “Mesa Permanent Sculpture Guidelines” were distributed to Board members for review.

Directors’ Report – Gerry Fathauer and Jerry Dillehay

Gerry Fathauer reported that, following the meetings with Louise Stevens, Theater staff is working on rental fees and will bring their recommendations to the Board for review at a later date. Ms. Fathauer announced that the newly formed Mesa 2025-Financing the future Citizen Committee meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are broadcast at 6:30 p.m. on channel 11. Ms. Fathauer stated that there are 2,000 BAR’s for the committee to review, and each Department has the opportunity to appear before the committee. The committee will also look at how the City is currently financing itself and how they can improve revenue strategy.

Ms. Fathauer reported that there would be at least one opening on the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board this July. Applications are being accepted through March. She encouraged everyone to inform persons who express an interest in being on the Board to go on-line for the application.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director
Arts and Cultural Division

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