

## 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, on February 9, 2005.

### Members Present:

Kimberly Grace  
Elizabeth Good  
Daniel J. Harper  
Jesus Hernandez  
Lennee Eller  
John Hohmann  
Maureen Chaisson-Stewart  
Ramona Tecumseh  
Laurent Teichman

### Members Absent:

Toni Brucato  
Peter Cook

### Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer  
Rob Schultz  
Carrie Brown  
Gerri Green  
Barbara Meyerson  
Randy Vogel  
Tom Wilson  
Jean Kaminski  
Gerri Green

### Guests Present:

Lisa Anderson

Kimberly Grace, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Kimberly Grace, Chair, asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of January 12. Elizabeth Good noted that the closing line reads ". . . the meeting and retreat were adjourned at 6:23 p.m." The correct wording is ". . . the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m." Laurent Teichman made a motion, Elizabeth Good seconded, and the January 12 minutes were unanimously approved. The correction was made and posted on the Web page.

### Public Comments

Kimberly Grace, Chair, welcomed guest Lisa Anderson, new Director of the Mesa Historical Museum. Ms. Anderson has previously worked at both Mesa Museums. Ms. Grace invited her to attend and present a report at the monthly Board meetings. Ms. Anderson reported that the Historical Museum held their fifth Annual Home Tour, which had over 500 people in attendance. The Museum will hold a BBQ on March 26. A book written by the Museum's collection manager, Jared Smith, titled Making Water Flow Uphill: The History of Agriculture in Mesa will be launched on Thursday, February 24. A guest lecturer, Bill Dunmire, a biology professor from New Mexico, will also be speaking on the history of agriculture in the southwestern region on Thursday, February 24. Ron Peters, historic architect, is working with the Museum and the Historic Preservation Committee on a Heritage grant.

Ms. Anderson distributed a flyer on "Quilts: Legacies of Love," a newly released brochure "The Museums of Central Arizona," and the brochure "Politics as Unusual: Serving Mesa and Beyond." Maureen Chaisson-Stewart announced that the Honorable Joan Newth would be speaking at the Museum, Thursday, March 17 on the female presence on the City Council, which is highlighted in the "Politics as Unusual" brochure.

### Discuss and Take Action – Mesa Town Center Corporation's "Downtown Mesa Core Shared Use Parking Plan" – Ramona Tecumseh

Ramona Tecumseh reported that the Diversity Committee, Toni Brucato, Peter Cook, and she, met on Friday, January 28 to discuss parking at the new Mesa Arts Center. The Committee's main concerns were adequate parking (specifically for the disabled), funding, access to available parking, and public information regarding parking. Tom Verploegen, Director of Mesa Town Center Corporation, addressed the Diversity Committee and presented the Town Center's "Downtown Mesa Core Shared Use Parking Plan," which targeted the committee's concerns.

Peter Cook subsequently prepared a summary report of the Parking Plan and drafted a memo to City Council for the Board's review. Maureen Chaisson-Stewart pointed out a statement in Mr. Cook's report, which said that the public's perception of easy accessibility is crucial. The Board felt that the public's knowledge of where they can park, the cost of parking, and the safety of the parking lots were crucial. One suggestion was that a map locating parking and identifying the cost of parking within a four-block radius, be posted on the Mesa Arts Center's Website; similar to the map that Glendale has on their Website.

The Diversity Committee is recommending that the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board support the Town Center's "Downtown Mesa Core Shared Use Parking Plan" and forward the drafted memo to City Council. The Board agreed that parking is crucial to the success and continued growth of downtown Mesa, but felt the drafted memo was not warranted. As the new Mesa Arts Center will serve as a driving economic force in downtown Mesa, disabled parking, maintenance of

parking lots, and public knowledge of the City's parking lots are of the utmost importance. Town Center's Parking Plan covers and remedies the Board's concerns.

John Hohmann moved that the Board vote to support the "Downtown Mesa Core Shared Use Parking Plan" as reviewed and recommended by the Diversity Committee; Maureen Chaisson-Stewart seconded. With the motion on the floor, Kimberly Grace, Chair, called for discussion. Lennee Eller asked for an amendment to the motion stating that the Board supports the Parking Plan, but that a statement be added to qualify parking "as it pertains to the arts and cultural facilities." Kimberly Grace, Chair, called for a vote on the amendment. Three Board members voted for the amendment and six voted against – the amendment did not carry. Ms. Grace then called for a vote on John Hohmann's motion. The Board voted unanimously to support the Mesa Town Center's "Downtown Mesa Core Shared Use Parking Plan." The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board will add their name under the "consensus" section of the Council Report for the Parking Plan.

### **Information and Update – Re-use of Irving School Building – Gerry Fathauer**

Gerry Fathauer reported that there are on-going conversations between the City of Mesa and Mesa Community College (MCC) regarding the future use of the Irving School Building. MCC's interest stems from plans to create a downtown campus. \$10M of the Maricopa Community College District bond that passed for MCC in the November election was identified for downtown expansion. MCC is looking, with consultant Concord Eastridge, to develop a master plan for a downtown presence including possible facilities for instruction of nursing, paramedics, technology, and the arts. At this time, the Irving School building is part of that plan. Deb Duval, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools (MPS), has expressed a strong interest in resurrecting an idea for an arts magnet high school in downtown Mesa. Mesa arts groups have expressed an interest in the building as well. MCC held a meeting in November for arts groups to discuss their space needs and their ability to pay. Attendance by the arts groups was low.

It is probable that the City will retain ownership of the land, but may convey the building to MCC and/or MPS. Ms. Fathauer has requested that any intergovernmental agreement between the City of Mesa and MCC or MPS include language suggesting the building owner consider how they might collaborate to support arts groups as a community service.

Those interested in the historical value of the building would like to see the future use of the building consistent with its historical use, that being for education and arts and cultural. The Irving School building is on the state and federal register of historical places.

### **Information and Discussion – Hosting Arts and Cultural Advisory Boards from Valley Communities in the New Center – Kimberly Grace**

At the Southwest Arts Congress, February 7, Elizabeth Good spoke with a gentleman who asked if the Mesa Arts Center would consider hosting other arts boards in the Valley. Ms. Good's vision is to host a tour with a small reception or tea following, free of charge, to arts and cultural boards throughout the Valley. Board members felt this was an excellent opportunity to network with peers, create a buzz about Mesa, and highlight Mesa's programming and facilities. A reminder on the invitation to the Boards to post the event is necessary, as more than likely a quorum would be present. A listing of the Boards can be obtained from Arizona's Commission on the Arts to create an invite list. The Networking Committee will take the lead on planning the event and work with staff to select a day and time.

### **Information and Update – Public Art Projects – Carrie Brown**

Carrie Brown distributed an updated "Public Art Projects Status Report."

- Downtown Pedestrian Connection Project: reinstated and approved by City Council. Jerry Dillehay and Ms. Brown will meet with the project managers on February 14 to discuss the possibility of art opportunities along the pedestrian pathway.
- Mesa Arts Center Projects: Beth Galston – "Color Walk" – installation will begin the third or fourth week in February; Catherine Widgery – "Light Storm" – due to delays in receipt of lobby stone from China, installation will not begin until late June or July; Ned Kahn – "Fragmented Landscapes" – assistant has been in town to double-check framework and prepare for installation in March; Becky Ross – special project passenger shelter – Ms. Brown distributed a narrative of Becky Ross's project and a blown-up visual of the transit shelter with her photo images. Ms. Ross stated in her narrative "I have come to think of the work as an extended portfolio of images that embodies Mesa's distinctive sense of place, as seen through the people and elements of the natural world found within this area." ". . . the images have come together to create an intimate corner of time and place in part of this new spectacular space in the heart of Mesa." Dedication of Public Art at the Mesa Arts Center, originally scheduled for April, has been delayed and will take place in September.

- “Mesa Oasis”: In partnership with Mesa Community College (MCC) and the Rose Garden Society, the dedication of the MCC transit shelter and pergola will take place on Tuesday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Vice-Mayor Claudia Walters, the president of Mesa Community College, a national representative from the Rose Garden Society, and artist Joe Tyler will speak at the dedication.
- Temporary Projects: Carrie Brown is working on two small budget projects that are in conjunction with the Public Art Master Plan for the Mesa Arts Center. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released in late February with installation to coincide with the September opening of the Theaters. Ms. Brown is looking for local artists for these two projects.

## **Committee Reports – Board Members**

Lennee Eller reported on behalf of the Networking Committee on the Arts Congress held Monday, February 7, at the state Capital. Ms. Eller brought a “talking point card” distributed by Arizonans for Cultural Development as a reference when speaking with legislators. Ms. Eller took a red flower to John Allen and Russell Pearce and gave each of them a packet. She also extended an invitation to them to tour the Mesa Arts Center. Ms. Eller will follow-up with an e-mail.

Elizabeth Good stated that the Board could sign up for advocacy alerts on Arizonans for Cultural Development’s Website: [www.azcd.org](http://www.azcd.org). Daniel Harper also attended the Arts Congress and reported that President Bennett, in his remarks on behalf of the senate, stated that he does not foresee any increases in funding to the Arizona Commission on the Arts, but does not foresee any decreases either.

## **Staff Reports**

### Arizona Museum for Youth – Barbara Meyerson

- “Jeepers Creepers: Bugs in Art” opens in the Art Gallery on February 18. The exhibit includes a nectar bar where the young visitors will be donning wings, bumblebee suits, and antennae, in black light. Since the exhibit has been announced, every tour spot has been filled before it opens. ArtVille is adjusting to tie into the Art Gallery exhibit.
- Main problem with ArtVille on weekends – long waiting lines. Staff is looking at ways to remedy the situation. Even though it has only been opened one year, ArtVille is already in desperate need of expansion.
- Larry Warner, exhibit designer, has resigned. There are over 40 applications to review to fill the position.
- Friends of the Museum have hired a new manager for the Gallery Shop.
- Barbara Meyerson has begun teaching a class in Museum Administration at Arizona State University (ASU).

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart congratulated Ms. Meyerson on her election as a member to the joint board of the American Association of Museums and the International Council on Museums. The board looks at museums around the world; currently looking at the museums in Iraq.

### Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- Archeology at the Riverview and Dobson project continues. Two more large prehistoric Hohokam canals have been discovered. The Museum received the “go-ahead” for Phase II after meeting with the City Manager and speaking with the developer. Phase II involves trenching within a systematic grid of the 250-acre site.
- The Federal Building study is to be completed in February.
- The Museum met with the Transportation Department regarding the parking lot associated with the Federal Building to have the lot lined. The Museum will open 25 spots at the Federal Building lot for Museum parking only.
- “Hatching the Past” closes February 13.
- “Tusks! Ice Age Mammoths and Mastodons” opens March 5. The Mastodon for the exhibit is being created in-house with the help of volunteers. To quote Dr. Wilson, “It is really cool!”

Daniel Harper asked a question regarding the previous potential of Federal funding for the development of the Mesa Grande Ruins and where that stood. Dr. Wilson replied that J. D. Hayworth was looking at carrying some funding forward on an appropriations bill. There was some discussion, but the bill was put on hold. With the Banner hospital and possibly doctors’ offices closing near the Mesa Grande site, the City may decide to re-assess its priority. If that were to be the case, the Museum would be looking at funding options at that time, which would include Federal, private, and City funding.

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

- Packing continues for moving on March 1 and March 2 to the new Center. Files, phones, computers, etc. will be moved on the first day, followed by equipment.
- Office and cubical furniture has been delivered to the site.
- Janice Gennevois, Volunteer Coordinator, has resigned. Her last day will be February 18. Discussion continues as to whether or not the position will be filled.
- Andrey Hernandez-Garcia, Community Arts Coordinator, will be on Family and Medical Leave Assistance (FMLA) as of February 18.
- The City of Mesa has arranged for the Census Bureau to use a classroom in the old Mesa Arts Center building.
- Staff is knee-deep in the budgeting process working to balance the two-year budget, the forecast budget, and the current FY04-05 budget, making sure the end projections are accurate.
- The Mini-Grant panel will meet at the Arts and Cultural Division Office on February 17 at 9:00 a.m.
- The Community Aid Grant panel will meet at the Arts and Cultural Division Office on February 23 at 2:00 p.m.
- The Mesa Arts Center Website goes live in mid-March.
- Booking of the inaugural season is nearing completion.
- Announcing Performing Live season the end of April or first of May.
- City Council has approved drapery, gas kiln, Package 5 furnishings, fabricated furnishings, pianos, and MATV upgrade.
- Theater League will be presenting a Broadway series; Arizona Theater Company has committed to several performances; Phoenix Symphony has committed to performing in Mesa; dates are being held for the Phoenix Boys Choir; and Randy Vogel is working with a new Senior Series that will perform on Wednesdays. If successful, they may expand to evening performances.
- Randy Vogel and Gerry Fathauer will be picking out pianos next week at the Steinway factory in New York. They continue on to Philadelphia for a conference the following day.
- Currently in the process of configuring the ACD telephone system for the ticket office. The system will be able to track how calls can be routed, timed, stacked, etc.
- Finished interviews for the Front-of-House Manager position. Hoping to hire within the next two weeks.
- Hired the two Assistant Theater Technical Service positions; they will be starting in the next few weeks.
- Positions will open soon for Head Audio, Electrician, and Carpenter for the theaters.

## **Director's Report – Gerry Fathauer**

Gerry Fathauer reported that the Financing the Future Citizens Committee would be meeting at 5:30, Wednesday, February 9, specifically to hear public comments. Citizens can e-mail Councilmember Kyle Jones, Chair, at [kyle.jones@cityofmesa.org](mailto:kyle.jones@cityofmesa.org) with any input. The committee has received presentations from all City Departments and will begin discussing options for increasing revenue to fund City government. The Committee will make a recommendation to City Council. Discussion will include what amenities to support. The meeting will be aired on Mesa's Channel 11.

On February 22, City Council will vote to hold a public hearing on March 7 regarding cultural impact fees. **Note:** Since the Board meeting, Council changed the public hearing date to **March 22**. The cultural impact fee is now \$128 per new single-family home construction. The increase would apply to residential homes only, not businesses. Council is considering increasing impact fees for culture, public safety, and fire. When Council votes, there will be three separate votes. The assessed value of the arts and cultural facilities now includes collections at the Mesa Southwest Museum, which increases the proposed impact fee by 132%, bringing the cultural impact fee for a new single-family home to \$297.

Cultural impact fees are used for expansion of facilities to meet increased population. The Arizona Museum for Youth used impact fees for their expansion. Because of the popularity of ArtVille, which opened last spring, there is already talk of expansion to meet the demands of patrons. Impact fees could also be used to help develop the Mesa Grande Ruins, refurbish the Federal Building, and expand the Mesa Southwest Museum. Ms. Fathauer encouraged Board members to attend the public hearing.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director  
Arts and Cultural Division