

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, third floor, south Studios conference room, on July 22, 2010.

Members Present:

Douglas Brimhall
Joe Cooper
Keiko Dilbeck
Vince DiBella

Merlin Ellis
Dr. D. Kent Layton
Lars Nielson, Jr.

Members Absent:

Amanda Buscas
Rebecca Nolan
Dr. Robbi Venditti
Pamela Williams

Staff Present:

Cindy Ornstein
Tom Wilson

Rob Schultz
Sunnee Spencer

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called for any corrections/additions/deletions to the meeting of June 9. There being none, Dr. D. Kent Layton made a motion, Keiko Dilbeck seconded, and the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of June 9. They will be posted on the City's web page.

Items from Citizens Present:

There were no citizens present.

Introduction of New Board Members Merlin Ellis and Joe Cooper— Douglas Brimhall

Merlin Ellis is an architect and holds a B.A. of Fine Arts from Brigham Young University and a Masters of Architecture from ASU. He has always had an interest in the arts and is happy to be on the Board.

Joe Cooper is a CAD Operator for Farnsworth Homes, Inc. He has a B.A. of Fine Arts and Art History from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He is also happy to be appointed to the Board.

Welcome!

Discuss and Take Action – Elect a Chair for FY10-11 – Douglas Brimhall

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called for nominations to chair the Board for FY10-11. Dr. D. Kent Layton nominated Douglas Brimhall; Mr. Brimhall accepted. Dr. Layton made a motion to elect Douglas Brimhall, Lars Neilson, Jr. seconded, and the Board members present unanimously elected Mr. Brimhall chair for a second year; Mr. Brimhall recused himself from the vote.

Discuss and Take Action – Elect a Vice-Chair for FY10-11 – Douglas Brimhall

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called for nominations for a vice-chair in FY10-11. Mr. Brimhall reported that he had been in contact with Rebecca Nolan, who was not able to attend the meeting, and she stated that she would be willing to serve another year as vice-chair. There being no other nominations, Keiko Dilbeck made a motion to elect Rebecca Nolan as vice-chair, Dr. Kent D. Layton seconded, and the Board members present unanimously elected Rebecca Nolan as vice-chair for a second year.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth – Sunnee Spencer

- Attendance for FY09-10 was 64,000; 16% above FY08-09.
- The "Jump to Japan" exhibition, on loan from Minnesota Children's Museum, opening reception saw 167 attendees.
- Volunteers donated 6,528 hours in FY09-10, for a value of \$132,197 to the Museum; equivalent to 3.1 FTEs.
- Laura Matzer, Education Curator, resigned to move to Abu Dhabi and create arts education programs for two new museums there. Dena Cruz was put on special assignment and will assume duties as Acting Education Curator.

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Despite the economy, the Museum experienced a good year, with over 129,000 visitors and \$616,000 in revenue; the best revenue year ever for the Museum.
- July is going well with \$45,000 in revenue to-date, which includes the two "Free Sundays" in July.
- The "Pronghorn" exhibit ends in July. Staff will then install Western paintings exhibit by Lon Megargee.
- The Origins Gallery is close to completion with new paint and pictures ready for installation.
- The Paleo dig pit in the courtyard is nearly completed; kids are sure to find fossil replicas in this area during their visit.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) opening reception for the "50th Anniversary Designer Craftsmen" exhibition drew over 400 visitors; exceptional turn-out for summer.

- Shawn Lawson, Volunteer/Events Coordinator, is leading the planning for three Mesa Arts Center (MAC) fall festivals: campus opening on September 10; El Dia de los Muertos on October 30 and 31; and Mesa Arts Festival on December 11 and 12.
- Summer class registration continues to be 13% above last summer totaling approximately \$108,000 in revenue to-date.

Director's Report – Cindy Ornstein

This being her first Board meeting as the new Arts and Culture Director, Cindy Ornstein took the opportunity to thank the Board members for volunteering.

Ms. Ornstein reported that Box Office sales are going well.

Ms. Ornstein listed several areas she will be focusing on this coming year:

- ❖ Enhance and expand community engagement/accessibility
- ❖ Partner with community organizations
- ❖ Support downtown revitalization
- ❖ Create the greatest arts and cultural value for the community
- ❖ Partner on a regional level with other Valley arts organizations to develop the Valley as a regional tourist destination

Joe Cooper asked about the potential of MAC offering class discounts for multiple family members, and Keiko Dilbeck asked about the possibility of taking MAC classes "on the road" to east Mesa to serve residents there who may not be able to travel downtown. Staff will follow-up on the suggestions.

Report on Conferences and/or Meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information Only

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, reported he and his family thoroughly enjoyed the Celebration of Freedom event.

Mr. Brimhall also reported that he, Cindy Ornstein, and Deputy City Manager Kari Kent had a meeting with Mayor Smith to discuss the "Arts Impact Award" concept.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department