

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 August 13, 2003.

Members Present:

Elizabeth Good
Kimberly Grace
Molly O'Dwyer
Ramona Tecumseh
Maureen Chaisson-Stewart
Jesus Hernandez
Laurent Teichman

Members Absent:

Carmen de Novais
John Hohmann
Elizabeth Reeb
Randy Robinson

Staff Present:

Gerry Fathauer
Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson
Barbara Meyerson
Jean Kaminski
Randy Vogel
Laura Brown
Gerri Green
Jerry Dillehay

Guests Present:

Tracy Wright-Wagner
Anthony Araza

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Ms. Chaisson-Stewart opened by welcoming Jerry Dillehay, Acting Cultural Director, and Tom Wilson, Mesa Southwest Museum Administrator. A biography on Dr. Wilson and Mr. Dillehay was distributed to members of the Board.

- Dr. Wilson's most recent experience included being Director of the Museum of New Mexico, which was a system of museums that included: State Fine Arts Museum; State History Museum; Palace of the Governor; Museum of Indian Art and Culture; and the Museum of International Folk Art, as well as the state monument system. He is most pleased to be working in Mesa and especially with the Arts and Cultural Division.
- Mr. Dillehay was present at the last Board meeting (his second day) and was introduced by Gerry Fathauer, Director. He is co-directing the Division with Ms. Fathauer. His responsibility is to oversee the Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona Museum for Youth and the Public Art program, leaving Ms. Fathauer time to focus on the new Mesa Arts Center.

Ms. Chaisson-Stewart asked the senior Board members present to tell a little about themselves for the new members of the Board.

- Laurent Teichman is the owner of Le Studio in downtown Mesa where he also resides. He and his wife are excited about the continuing growth of the downtown area and particularly pleased to see Mesa becoming a place of art and culture.
- Maureen Chaisson-Stewart is a retired nurse and therapist. She is married and has five children and eight grandchildren who occupy a great deal of her time. She became involved in the arts in Mesa by participating in classes at the Mesa Arts Center and gradually became involved with Friends of the Mesa Arts Center. She then took the Leadership Training Program and learned about the opportunity to serve as a Board member for the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board. She is enjoying her fourth year with the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart noted two items for correction: Under "Mentors," when stating who the mentor and new member are, use the word "for" rather than "and." Under "Strategic Agenda Update," on page 2, last sentence; use the wording "ongoing community input" rather than "further input." The corrections were made on August 18.

Laurent Teichman made a motion, Jesus Hernandez seconded, and the July 9 minutes were unanimously approved and posted on the web page with the corrections.

Discuss and Take Action – Election of Vice-Chair – Maureen Chaisson-Stewart

Elizabeth Good nominated Kimberly Grace, Laurent Teichman seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Kimberly Grace as Vice-Chair.

Information – 2004 Bond Election Update – Anthony Araza

Jerry Dillehay introduced invited guest Anthony Araza, who is the Capital Improvement Program Coordinator for the City of Mesa, to enlighten the Board on the processes of capital improvement and bonding.

All departments submit projects into the Capital Improvement office. The project goes through a City-wide priority process that is approved by the City Manager's office and all department heads. Once a project is scored, Capital Improvement works with Budget and Finance to apply financial restrictions. Each year, the City reviews what it can afford in regard to new capital projects, and also takes into consideration any possible maintenance and operation costs. A bond election normally happens every four years. However, this year, due to financial strains and through the direction of the Mayor and City Manager's office, the Capital Improvement office is proposing a two-year bond need for FY04-05 and FY05-06, rather than a four-year bond need. Thus, the capital improvement projects within the two-year horizon determine the bonding needs to be proposed to the Council. With Council's approval, the bond goes on the election ballot.

Mr. Araza stated that bonding is a common practice for capital improvement with all cities throughout the nation because capital costs are high making it necessary to bond (borrow money). One item of interest to the Arts and Cultural Division for the 2004 election is the Federal Building located at Macdonald and Pepper. It will appear in the Capital Improvement Program Bond (CIP Bond) package

for design and renovation, for a total of \$2.2M. Mr. Araza stated that this particular project made it through the scoring and approval process, because it is already an asset that the City has, and the operating and maintenance costs would be minimal compared to other projects.

Information and Discussion – Arts and Cultural Division Strategic Agenda – Laura Madson Brown

Laura Madson Brown led a Board discussion on the Arts and Cultural Division's draft Strategic Agenda. Key points of discussion included:

- Inviting Board members to accompany staff into neighborhoods for outreach on the Division's Strategic Agenda (KRA I, Goal 5).
- Bring in Ms. Tobias, author, to talk about the cost of discrimination (KRA I, Goal 6).
- Bring in a speaker to talk about the role of Indian Nations in the settlement/development of Mesa (KRA I, Goal 6).
- Provide input into the display of art held in the City's collection (KRA III, Goal 4).
- Work with AIMS guidelines when creating teachers' packets (KRA V, Goal 1).

Items that are missing and Board members would like to include in the Agenda are:

- Bringing the arts out into the community: mini-performances.
- Displaying arts that express and celebrate ethnic performances.
- Working with school groups.
- Creating a 30-minute show on the arts to be shown on Channel 11 for audience development.

Staff noted all corrections and suggestions and will make the necessary corrections and investigate the feasibility of suggested programming additions or changes.

Information – Arts Groups Liaisons – Andrey Hernandez-Garcia

Andrey Hernandez-Garcia, Community Arts Coordinator, is the staff member responsible for Community Aid Grants and Mini-Grants. She is currently working on Mini-Grants, which are given twice a year, and the current due date for Mini-Grants is September 15. The next deadline is February 2, 2004. Ms. Hernandez-Garcia asked the Board members to serve as liaison to one of the Community Aid Grant recipients. As liaison, the Board member's responsibility is to attend at least one of the organization's programs/events and report on that one (or more) programs/event/s at the Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grant meeting in March. A sign-up sheet was passed among the Board members with contact information for the 12 arts organizations. Ms. Hernandez-Garcia stated that she would notify the arts organizations of their liaison and the arts organizations, in turn, would place them on their mailing list and notify them of up-coming programs/events. She also distributed a "Checklist For Performances/Events" form (report) and the "Ethics Disclosure Form." Ms. Hernandez-Garcia announced the application deadline for a Community Aid Grant is January 29, 2004.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth -- Barbara Meyerson

- Barbara Meyerson happily announced the grand re-opening of the Arizona Museum for Youth to be November 22. Construction meetings indicate that work is on schedule. Millwork is being installed; flooring will be in by the end of next week; A/C work will begin on Monday; and the last minute details are being finished. The move-in date for staff is slated for September 16. Ms. Meyerson stated that having a marketing person on staff has allowed them to realize that they need two separate openings to accommodate two separate markets. Opening the Museum for Youth first will assist the Museum in helping patrons understand that the Museum closes its doors three times a year to prepare for new exhibits. Artville, on the other hand, will remain the same throughout the year and will not close. Artville is slated for grand opening in February 2004. Ms. Meyerson was quoted as saying "It is amazing...what has been done to a 1951 grocery store."
- There has been an excellent response from local, and well-known artists, for the up-coming exhibit "BowWOW! Dogs in Art." Roy Deforest will have two pieces; William Wegner will present two pieces; Ron Burns, who has work on display in Scottsdale, will be represented; and the Native American artist Joe Baker, who is employed at the Heard Museum, will display some of his work.
- Two positions for Artville have been filled. The "Youth Museum Specialist" is Marie Andruet, who will be coming from Rhode Island. She has an extensive background in music and early education and development, and she will be guiding the educational piece of Artville. Her starting date is September 15. The "Museum Programming Coordinator" is Dena Cruz, who is currently working with the City of Mesa at the Multigenerational Center. Born in Arizona, Ms. Cruz will bring a wealth of skills to the programmatic piece of Artville. Her starting date is September 2.

Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- The Museum has initiated a program for strategic planning. The first meeting was to look at vision, mission and to identify concrete action items like goals and strategies that will complement the Division Strategic Planning document.
- Museum staff is reviewing and rewriting policies covering collections management, ethics and repatriation.
- Dr. Tom Wilson, Museum Administrator, has visited and assessed the facilities of the Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa Grande, Sirrine House, Crismon property, Federal Building, and offsite storage.
- Museum administration is examining the organizational structure of the Museum to determine whether it can become more efficient.
- Dr. Wilson has been undergoing new manager orientation that has included visits to meet the directors and relevant staff at the major City departments interacting with the Museum.

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

- In the future, Rob Schultz and Randy Vogel will tag-team their report in regard to the Mesa Arts Center. Each month they will identify a topic for reporting. This month is purchasing. They are looking at purchasing approximately \$1.2M in "FF&E" for new equipment in the Theaters, Studios and the Mesa Contemporary Arts building. It is a major feat to identify the need, choose the item from catalogs, price the items, and then turn the choices over to purchasing to acquire bids on the items. The visual arts side has been tackled first, as Mr. Vogel is waiting to hire some of his key personnel on the Theater side for their input. Once the equipment process is complete, they will begin to look at furniture. Purchasing staff will group like items and then take bids on the items, hoping for some cost reduction.

Public Art Program – Jerry Dillehay

- The Public Art Program, even though it is non-funded in this fiscal year, continues to move forward with existing projects as scheduled. Kate O'Mara will serve as a contractor for a finite period. Staff is investigating having a City employee "job share" to oversee the administration of the Public Art Program on a part-time basis.

Director's Report – Gerry Fathauer

Gerry Fathauer announced that the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board annual retreat is set for September 10 at the Mesa Southwest Museum Theatre beginning at 3:30 p.m. (regular meeting date and time). Laura Madson Brown will facilitate the retreat. There will be a hands-on activity; an hour set aside to work on revising the "work program" (the Board will discuss what they would like to accomplish in this fiscal year between now and June 30, 2004); and a light supper will be provided.

Ms. Fathauer, through a suggestion from Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, asked for a show of hands from the Board members as to who would be interested in a site tour of the new Mesa Arts Center. All members present expressed an interest. Ms. Fathauer stated that she would look into making arrangements for a tour in the fall.

Jerry Dillehay reported the hands-on activity for the retreat would be a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to open an exhibit, in the gallery, to the public. The Board will see how an exhibit, curated totally in-house, is researched, created and displayed from start to finish.

Kimberly Grace posed the question whether the turtle exhibit would include live turtles. The answer was "yes, it does." Her concern was the commitment required to keep turtles as pets. Many times a turtle will outlive its owner. Tom Wilson stated that they are providing education on how to care for pet turtles, and he assured Ms. Grace that they would stress the importance of a long-term commitment before purchasing a turtle.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Fathauer, Director
Arts and Cultural Division

GF/jk