

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Revised Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Arts Center, third floor, south Studios conference room on November 17, 2016.

Members Present:

Nancy Aposhian
Dilworth Brinton, Jr.
Jocelyn Condon
Gladys Contreras

Dr. David Dean
Melissa Sue Johnson
Benjamin Rundall
Robert Valverde

Members Absent:

Michael Darr
Michelle Streeter
Karina Wilhelm

Staff Present:

Rob Schultz Jean Kaminski

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2016, Meeting: Dilworth Brinton, Jr.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, called for any corrections/additions to the minutes of July 21. There being none, Dr. David Dean made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21 as written, and Melissa Sue Johnson seconded the motion. The Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of July 21, 2016; they will be posted on the City's website.

Staff Reports

i.d.e.a. Museum – Rob Schultz Reporting for Sunnee O'Rork

- The September 3 Free Sunday, supported by the i.d.e.a. Museum's Access for All Fund and the Gila River Indian Community Grant Program, had 1,450 in attendance.
- The exhibition design team installed and opened "It's a Dog's Life" exhibition with a reception held on September 29 from 5 – 7 p.m. with approximately 150 in attendance. The exhibition continues through January 22, 2017.
- The Museum completed an application for the nomination of the Museum for a 2017 Institute of Museum and Library Service National Medal of Honor award and are in the process of collecting support letters for the application.
- The Museum is collaborating with Katie Lambert of Mom's National to support the Movies on Main that will take place in the Museum's outdoor Atrium space on the second Thursday of the month for eight months of the year.
- Board and staff members attended the annual i.d.e.a. Museum Board Retreat at Mesa Community College. The President and CEO of Gyroscope led a brainstorming session on the future possibilities for Museum expansion.
- Jeffory Morris, i.d.e.a. Museum Curator, traveled to Minneapolis, MN, for his Virginal G. Piper Fellowship. After completing his final class, he received a certificate in Fund Raising Management from Indiana University.
- Sunnee O'Rork, Museum Director, attended the annual "Cultural Think Tank" in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. on October 12 – 14.
- The i.d.e.a. Museum has been accepted into the Virginal G. Piper Trust new AGILE program, a two year grant for increasing sustainability and resilience.

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Dr. Wilson was involved in a conference call and unable to make the meeting.

Mesa Arts Center (MAC)/Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCA) – Rob Schultz

- Rob Schultz attended a Creative Aging Conference in Washington, D.C. several months ago. There is a National Center on Creative Aging that acts as a clearing house for Creative Aging programs around the country. Creative Aging uses the arts to improve the health and wellbeing of people 55 and older. Mr. Schultz attended several sessions and learned that Mesa Arts Center is already doing the equivalent to what is happening around the country. The conference was held at the Newseum and he was able to also visit the National Portrait Gallery, The National Gallery of Art, The Smithsonian Natural History Museum, the National Geographic Museum, and the National Museum of American Art.
- MAC received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); being one of six organizations nation-wide to receive a \$72,500 Creativity Connects grant written for MAC's Creative Aging Program. The NEA grant program goes to each state and each state's arts commission is able to nominate one entity in their state – MAC was nominated by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

MAC created the Arts & Mind Program related to the Creative Aging Program that focuses on people with mild to moderate dementia and their caregivers; the grant term ends in mid-summer 2017. Since this is a one year grant, MAC will look for other means to supplement the program, so it can continue.

Out-to-Lunch, fall's free noon-time lunch series, started on November 3. Attendance has been increasing each week – today there were approximately 470 in attendance. Typically fall has less people attending than spring, as more winter visitors arrive after the holidays.

The annual Mesa Arts Festival will be held on December 10 and 11 – artisan tents are placed up and down the Shadow Walk with hand crafted items; 12–14,000 are expected.

This year's Day of the Dead Festival in October drew approximately 18,000.

spark! After Dark series will occur on the third Saturday of each month on the north end of MAC campus for nine months from 6 – 11 p.m. This year MAC are asking local arts/cultural people to serve as curators who will plan the event and MAC will create the space and assist financially. This is a Council driven effort to draw more people to downtown. There were two spark! After Dark events toward the end of last spring that ran as a pilot and were successful. The last one in October drew approximately 400 people.

Assistant Director's Report – Rob Schultz

Rob Schultz distributed a document regarding the Mesa Artspace Lofts – see exhibit A. Artspace is hoping to break ground on the lofts in February or early March with a one-year time frame for the construction process. The facility is set to open in March/April of 2018. Right now, Artspace is conducting information sessions with artists regarding the process on how to apply to become a resident at Mesa Artspace Lofts. Artspace will conduct the sessions and will provide a panel who will review the applications and choose the residents. There will be approximately 50 spaces when completed.

Nancy Aposhian asked how long an artist will be allowed to live in one of the lofts. Mr. Schultz replied that as long as they are able to pay the rent, then can be there. Artspace will remain the landlord of the facility.

Report on Conferences and/or meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information only

Dr. David Dean reported that he was in Palm Springs that traditionally has had an established art space in their downtown, which seems to be reinventing itself in a modernist sort of way. He was not impressed with the art scene there. He said that the artwork was not something you would purchase for your home. He felt the craftsmanship, from paintings to ceramics, were lacking quality. He also took a tram to the top of the mountain and on the backside of the mountain there was an enormous wilderness area where you can hike and camp, etc.; that was cool.

Benjamin Rundall stated that he finds the National Geographic Live events amazing and fascinating. He was wondering how the City secured them. He also commented that he would like to see more on social media about them. Mr. Schultz replied that originally National Geographic Live approached Mesa Arts Center (MAC). MAC was one of five venues they were interested in working with and MAC grabbed the opportunity. National Geographic Live, until this year, were heavily involved in all aspects of running the show, but they have cut back and trust MAC to do some of the work now. Mr. Schultz will pass along Mr. Rundall's concern regarding more social media coverage. Dilworth Brinton, Jr. said he has heard it advertised on NPR. Mr. Schultz add that National Geographic Live does some underwriting so school children can come to the shows during the daytime – the school pays \$2 per child. MAC, through one of our re-granting programs, provides some financial assistance for bussing the school children.

Jocelyn Condon's family took a quick trip to New Orleans and reported that the French Quarter is back up to par and booming, which was good to see. They enjoyed the amazing history there and took an American Horror Story tour. They loved Jackson Square in the French Quarter that had great bands playing, artists painting, jugglers, etc.; the place was very alive.

Ms. Condon and her daughter are attending a calligraphy class here at MAC on Tuesday evenings.

Robert Valverde took his children to see Lindsey Stirling and said it was visually stunning and a great show.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr. reported that he had the opportunity to go to the Bradbury Museum in Los Alamos, and it was wonderful. They have new hands on items that were fun to play with and explore.

He also attended the 10 x 10 event at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum on October 10. He said that he has come to MAC several evenings and walked through the lobby area of the theaters on show nights and spoke with patrons and staff. Everyone seemed to be happy and enjoying themselves. He added that he has been impressed with what MAC is doing.

Melissa Sue Johnson said that she attended the Main Street Prototyping Festival Community Input Session last Saturday, November 12. It is still in the early stages, as they are reaching out to a broad range of people getting their input.

The next scheduled meeting date is January 26, 2017, Mesa Arts Center, south Studios conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department

MESA ARTSPACE LOFTS

INFORMATION SESSION

**YOU ARE
INVITED**

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 6, 2016



WHERE

Mesa Arts Center
Dobson Lecture Hall (downstairs)
1 E Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

WHEN

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 | 7:00 PM

Are you an artist who wants to be a part of the downtown creative community? If so, please join Artspace Projects at an informal information session to learn more about **Mesa Artspace Lofts**, the new affordable live/work housing development for artists and their families.

Learn about the rental criteria and how to apply for a loft. Applications will be available in late 2017 or early 2018. The lofts are located in downtown Mesa on Hibbert, south of Main, convenient to light rail, the Mesa Arts Center and more -- and will provide critical affordable housing for creatives in vibrant and dynamic downtown Mesa.

artspace

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