

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Revised Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the i.d.e.a. Museum, 150 W. Pepper Place, second floor conference room on March 23, 2017.

Members Present:

Nancy Aposhian
Dilworth Brinton, Jr.
Jocelyn Condon
Michael Darr

Melissa Sue Johnson
Benjamin Rundall
Robert Valverde
Karina Wilhelm

Members Absent:

Dr. David Dean
Gladys Contreras
Michelle Streeter

Staff Present:

Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson
Jean Kaminski

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes:

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, called for any corrections/additions to the minutes of January 26. There being none, Nancy Aposhian made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Melissa Sue Johnson seconded the motion. The Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of January 26, and they will be posted on the City's website.

Information – Dr. Tom Wilson's Report on his Washington Visit – Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson traveled to Washington on January 30 through February 1 for a Western States Arts Federation Workshop and took the opportunity to visit seven of the 11 Congressional Delegations from Arizona regarding securing funding the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). There had been an idea floating in the press that there was a possibility that the NEA and NEH would be defunded. Even though the possibility was in the air, it was not yet a part of administration's budget recommendations. The representatives from the Western States Arts Federation met with Senator Flake, Congresswomen Sinema and McSally, Congressman Gallego, Grijalva, Schweikert, and O'Halleran or members of their offices regarding the impact of the arts in Arizona. Dr. Wilson found it interesting that the Republican delegation seemed as in-the-dark regarding what was happening with the budget as the Democratic delegates were. He commented that the phones were ringing off the hook regarding all issues including arts funding. Dr. Wilson spoke with Congresswoman McSally's staff as well as Congressman Schweikert regarding the impact arts plays in Arizona. He came away saying it was nice establishing contact with those offices because now he knows people in those offices. They have listened to his concerns and he gave them information.

When the administration budget came out, it included the plan to defund the NEA and NEH, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Needless-to-say, this has set off national advocacy groups to take action and contact Congress on this subject.

One thing that is done every year regarding the state budget is to try and get funding for the Arizona Commission on the Arts into the Governor's budget proposal. That has not happened recently, which means advocates must go through a legislative process to try to get funding for the Arts Commission. Two years ago, we failed and the Commission received zero money from the state, last year they received \$1.5M and the Commission immediately pushed that money out to Arizona organizations which included the i.d.e.a. Museum and Mesa Arts Center. Mesa Arts Center receives funds directly from NEA as well as the Arizona Commission on the Arts for general operating support. Because of the \$1.5M last year, grants to individual organizations went up between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Mesa Arts Center benefited directly from those advocacy efforts. This year, once again we are not in the governor's budget proposal, but we are working to get \$2M for the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which would again be pushed out to organizations such as the i.d.e.a. Museum and Mesa Arts Center.

Arts Congress was held on March 14 at the capitol. There were workshops on advocacy, arts education, creative economy, storytelling, the legislative session and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. There were two sessions for each of those workshops and meanwhile attendees met with the legislators in their own district. Dr. Wilson met his legislators and spoke about the impact of the arts.

Dr. Wilson added that he believes the Governor wants the issue of funding the arts to be a legislative process and let the representatives of the people make that decision.

Staff Reports

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

- The i.d.e.a. Museum Board paid the City for staffing for January-December in the amount of \$109,567.88 which includes \$7,613.15 for the Benevon grant for an Office Assistant II position.
- The Museum received a pledge of \$3,500 from Wells Fargo Foundation for the Access for All Program.
- The Museum’s exhibition design team installed and opened “Caped Crusaders & Everyday Heroes” on February 9; the exhibition continues through May 28.
- Yvette Armendariz, Marketing Director, put together a Family Day sponsorship packet and with that package the Museum secured a \$2,500 Title sponsorship from College Nannies, Sitters and Tutors for the “Caped Crusaders & Everyday Heroes” Family Day event.
- i.d.e.a. Museum submitted a \$50,000 proposal to Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for “Bolstering Foundation for Child Development through Creativity.” If awarded, this would include enhancements in ArtVille, changes to the Tech Room, and help with maintenance facilitation.
- On February 15, Jeffery Morris, Museum Curator, presented his final report on travels he has made to learn more about non-profit fundraising as a Fellow of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust; this completes a three-year process.
- The Museum hired Jessica Kuenne, Senior Program Assistant; Erica Cardenas, Marketing Assistant; and Pat Grogan, Volunteer Coordinator. These positions are funded through various grants and fundraising efforts of the i.d.e.a. Museum Board.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, commented that there is discussion among the Boy Scout leaders to speak with the i.d.e.a. Museum regarding possibly offering classes this summer where the boys could earn a merit badge in art.

Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) – Tom Wilson

- Staff is working on the basket exhibition including new portions to build up certain areas in the Museum on Apache and Navajo exhibitions, which are not well represented in the Museum now.
- The Museum conducted a paleontological field work expedition near Safford and discovered sloth, horse and turtle fossils that are between a million and 10,000 years old.
- The Museum received a donation of an ancestral Zuni gold piece that is around 1400 – 1500 years old.

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

- Billy Jones, Arts Education Director, and Jesse Armstrong, Lead Ceramics Instructor, toured 50 Chinese ceramic artists who were visiting Phoenix. They heard about Mesa Arts Center and our ceramics program and insisted on coming for a tour – they were impressed.
- The Artist Cooperative Gallery is having a good year. To-date, they have over an 8% increase in sales and 4% increase in visitors. The Coop consists of approximately 45 local artists who run The Store. Mesa Arts Center provides them the space and takes care of custodial and maintenance needs. Last year, The Store sold approximately \$85,000 worth of art; 70% is kept for artist profit, 20% is donated to the Mesa Arts Center Foundation; and 10% is for Store operations.
- Mesa Arts Center hosted Paula Wright, local representative for AARP Arizona, for a tour of Mesa Arts Center and discussed the potential of AARP funding one of our programs, specifically the Arts In Mind Program which is part of the Creative Aging Program. She was excited about the program and took it back to her people at AARP. Mr. Schultz learned today that Mesa Arts Center received \$5,000 from AARP to support the Arts In Mind Program.

Assistant Director’s Report – Rob Schultz

Mesa Arts Center presented the annual spark! Mesa’s Festival of Creativity on March 17 and 18, which included spark! After Dark on Friday night. The focus was changed a bit this year to highlight interactive projects created by local artists. Mr. Schultz asked if anyone on the Board attended. Melissa Sue Johnson said she did and her family loved it, everyone was so engaged. She liked that the miniature Chinese lanterns are still up and kids can come back and locate their lanterns still hanging. She feels it is more meaningful to them rather than taking it home and just throwing it in their room; it gives them a sense of connection and belonging to something greater. She added that we are becoming a place of destination for families to come to again and again.

Mesa Arts Center held the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on March 6, which approximately 200 volunteers attended. The event was held on the Ikeda stage and guests were served a plated dinner with entertainment during dinner and many raffle prizes distributed. The Mesa Arts Center has approximately 300 – 400 volunteers, depending on the time of year. The volunteers contribute nearly 40,000 hours of service with a dollar value to the City of approximately \$900,000. It would

take approximately 22-23 full time staff to cover the hours that volunteers generously give. Arizona Museum of Natural History also held their Volunteer Appreciation on March 11. We want to make sure the volunteers know how much we appreciate what they do and that we could not operate without them.

The Stapley family wants to donate a bronze statue of one of their pioneers, Orley Stapley, and place it in front of the old Stapley building. Mr. Schultz brought together the Stapley family, Downtown Mesa Association, and their selected artist Bill Barnhart to discuss the sculpture and its placement. It is in process and the sculpture will be added to the Downtown Mesa Association sculpture collection. The project is expected to be completed by September.

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

Melissa Sue Johnson reported that during spring break she took her children to Tucson to the Arizona Historical Society Museum – the kids loved it.

Jocelyn Condon reported that they went to see Mark Twain with Hal Holbrook at Mesa Arts Center. She added that because he has been doing this for so long, when he came back on stage, it was difficult to know if he was back as Hal Holbrook or as Mark Twain.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, reported that he heard good things regarding Mesa Arts Center on the radio (ads, etc.). Rob Schultz added that we sent material to PBS who produced a couple of PSA videos on the Creative Aging Program – great publicity for the Program and a good way to let people know about the program and know that there is an outlet available for those suffering from dementia and their caretakers.

The next scheduled meeting date is **May 18**, Mesa Arts Center, third floor, south Studios conference room. Note: This date was changed due to Mesa Public High Schools holding graduation on the original date of May 25.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department