

## 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 October 8, 2003.

### Members Present:

Elizabeth Good  
Kimberly Grace  
Molly O'Dwyer  
Ramona Tecumseh  
Elizabeth Reeb

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart  
Randy Robinson  
Laurent Teichman  
Carmen de Novais

### Members Absent:

Jesus Hernandez  
John Hohmann

### Staff Present:

Randy Vogel  
Laura Brown  
Tom Wilson  
Nancy Wolter  
Barbara Meyerson  
Andreya Hernandez-Garcia  
Patty Haberman

Rob Schultz  
Gerri Green  
Jerry Dillehay  
Jean Kaminski

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart called for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There being none, Kimberly Grace made a motion, Laurent Teichman seconded, and the September 10 minutes were unanimously approved and posted on the web page.

### Discuss and Take Action – Consider Approval of Mini-Grants – Andreya Hernandez-Garcia

Andreya Hernandez-Garcia reported that the Grants Committee (Kimberly Grace, Chair, Randy Robinson, Carmen de Novais, and Elizabeth Good) along with staff liaison Andreya Hernandez-Garcia met on September 23 to review Mini-Grant applications. Each Mini-Grant applicant may request up to \$1,500. This year, thirteen applicants applied for a total of \$18,194.78, of which six were first time City of Mesa Mini-Grant applicants. The Grants Committee recommended funding nine of the 13 applicants for a total of \$6,250, leaving \$3,750 available for the second granting cycle in February. The first cycle applicants traditionally number higher than those who apply during the second granting cycle.

Kimberly Grace posed the question of whether the process to determine who is awarded grant money is adequate. One question posed was, "should we give more money to fewer applicants in the future?" Liz Good asked if there was any way to track, through the arts organizations, whether the money granted was enough to allow the organization to continue with their program/events? Ms. Hernandez-Garcia stated that they do complete a report at the end of their season where those questions are asked and answered. Ms. Good also asked if it was possible for the Committee to be pro-active and ask on the application what the minimum amount would be for them to produce their program/event? Ms. Hernandez-Garcia stated that the Committee did discuss some of these issues and is thinking of making changes on the application. Laurent Teichman commented that he feels the committee should continue as they do now which is to divide grant money available among as many applicants as possible. He also stated that he thought educating the arts organizations on how and where to acquire more grant money might become an additional component. Mr. Teichman stated that because money is tight at this time, it is important that the arts organizations are aware of other resource venues and do not rely solely on grant money from the Arts and Cultural Division. Ms. Hernandez-Garcia stated that Jerry Dillehay, who has an extensive background in writing grants, has agreed to assist any of the arts organizations that need help in looking for and/or writing grants. It was determined that this is an issue that the "Grants Committee" of the Board Work Program will address under number eight (see page 2 of this report under "Information and Discussion - Board Work Program for FY03-04").

#### Recommended for funding and projects:

- **Sirrine Adult Day Care** – Local musicians perform for Alzheimer's patients twice a month at two sites.
- **PREHAB OF Arizona, Inc.** – Performing arts performances for students living in a residential facility who are studying about diverse cultures.
- **Mesa Community Action Network** – Artist will work with community members to create a community mural for the Mesa CAN building.
- **Valley of the Sun, YMCA** – Artist will guide at-risk youth and their mentors in construction of permanent ceramic sculptures on Mesa Family YMCA grounds.
- **English Department, Mesa Community College (MCC)** – Editor/writer Dawn Marano will present a reading and a topic-driven memoir seminar at MCC.
- **Mesa Senior Services, Inc.** – Diversity Festival with lecture series and workshops for seniors and the public-at-large.
- **Mesa Public Schools Music Education Department** – Series of informational and recruiting assemblies for sixth graders. In addition, musician and educator Deanna Swoboda will perform and present a workshop to the junior high performing arts students to encourage and motivate them to join high school performing arts ensembles.
- **Anthology, Inc.** – Staging of the eighth Annual Mesa Poetry SlamOff in Mesa.
- **Filipiniana Cultural Dance Group of Arizona** – One-hour Philippine Cultural show at Fiesta Mall.

#### Not recommended for funding:

- **Community Bridges, Inc** – Organization failed to demonstrate a need for City of Mesa financial support.
- **Stevenson Elementary School** – Application lacked evidence of residual effects on students attending plays. The budget was incomplete, and the artists' resumes were not included.
- **Mesa Senior Center** – Applicant lacked a plan of action and did not identify artists participating in the project. The budget was weak, and the Committee questioned the high fees for event planning.

- **Highland Arts Elementary School** – A worthy project, but City funding cutbacks gave it a low priority. Parent council and school fundraising, as well as the donation of materials from local businesses, could be used to fund this production. Committee members scrutinized why the play to be produced was not identified in the application.

**Note:** Mesa Senior Center and Mesa Senior Services, Inc. are administrated separately.

Carmen de Novais made a motion, Randy Robinson seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the Grants Committee’s recommendations.

### **Information and Discussion – Board Work Program for FY03-04 – Jerry Dillehay**

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart met with Gerry Fathauer and Jerry Dillehay to discuss how to assign responsibility to ensure goals are accomplished throughout the year. There was discussion regarding number nine under “Diversity Committee.” Board members present expressed an interest in having input in programming regarding diversity. Randy Robinson suggested that the Diversity Committee take the lead, but keep the Board informed on programming/events, etc. in regard to diversity within the Arts and Cultural Division, and at that time, the Board will have the opportunity for input.

It is suggested that the following Work Program priorities be placed under the purview of the Board committees as follows:

#### Networking Committee:

1. Provide free admission one day a month at the Arizona Museum for Youth and Mesa Southwest Museum. Suggestion – staff will take leadership and the Board will provide input.
2. Create one-on-one opportunities to communicate with City Council and pursue a greater profile for our Arts and Cultural facilities. Suggestion – each Board member will assume responsibility. It was suggested that becoming acquainted with the Councilmember in the Board member’s district would be a good starting point.
3. Meet with the East Valley Legislators. Suggestion – Committee will take leadership, but each Board member will assume responsibility to become acquainted with Legislators.
4. Pursue an *Arts News Magazine* on channel 11. Suggestion – staff will take leadership and the Committee will provide input.
5. Have an active role in allocating adaptive re-use of the Irving School building. Suggestion – Committee will take leadership and the Board will provide input.
6. Sponsor a cultural calendar of events through various media, **initially on-line**, thereby creating awareness. Suggestion – staff will take leadership and the Committee will provide input.

**Note:** bold type wording was added to goal.

#### Grants Committee:

7. Provide support to emerging arts organizations. Suggestion – Committee will assume responsibility.
8. Conduct an evaluation of the Community Aid Grants program. Suggestion – Committee will assume responsibility.

#### Diversity Committee:

9. Extend programming that incorporates diversity within the Arts and Cultural Division. Suggestion – Committee will take leadership and the Board will provide input.
10. Reach-out and educate the public and downtown merchants on arts and culture in the East Valley and encourage merchants to assist in advertising at their establishments, thereby promoting the downtown arts and cultural district. Suggestion – each Board member will assume responsibility.

It is decided that the Committees would meet at least three times per year and piggyback with a Board meeting (either prior or following).

Each Committee will notify the Board members via e-mail when their respective Committee is meeting. Anyone not on the Committee is welcome to attend.

Each Committee will provide a progress report, when applicable, during the “Staff Reports” segment of the Board meeting.

### **Information – Mesa Southwest Museum Collection – Dr. Tom Wilson**

Dr. Tom Wilson presented an in-depth report on the Mesa Southwest Museum Collections. The report includes the number of objects at the Mesa Southwest Museum; how objects are accessioned and catalogued into the database; how objects are stored, maintained and displayed; criteria for accessioning objects into collections; and criteria for planning and implementing an exhibition. Please see “Attachment A” for Dr. Wilson’s complete, detailed report. In addition, Dr. Wilson reported that the Museum is making great attempts in their programming and exhibitions to reach out to diverse members of the community in the valley. Dr. Wilson reported that there is a Chicano art show coming next spring. Following that, there will be an art show on Arab Americans. Efforts are being made to acquire bilingual labels at the Museum. Because of the Board’s interest in diversity, as stated earlier, Dr. Wilson said that he would continue to report to the Board on their diversity efforts.

Ramona Tecumseh posed several questions to Dr. Wilson. Ms. Tecumseh asked about the accreditation of the Museum? Dr. Wilson reported the Mesa Southwest Museum is not accredited. In the United States there are less than ten percent of the museums that are accredited. In Arizona there are less than a half-dozen. The Mesa Southwest Museum has been working, as museum professionals, toward reaching a standard of accreditation that would put them in a position to acquire accreditation, if it were decided to pursue

that. Ms. Tecumseh reported that she had the opportunity to go through the ruins at Mesa Grande. She asked about the status of Mesa Grande and who owns the property? Dr. Wilson responded that the City owns the property. Mesa Southwest Museum has both the management and interpretive plans for the Mesa Grande property. Ms. Tecumseh asked how the members of that community felt about the ruins in their neighborhood? Carmen de Novais, who lives in the neighborhood, reported that the neighborhood is very supportive of the ruins. Dr. Wilson reported that the management and interpretive plans were to appear on the bond election coming up; however, it has been removed. Another question posed by Ms. Tecumseh was regarding any bones found and repatriation. Dr. Wilson reported that the Museum has complied with the Repatriation Law since 1991. Under the 1991 law, the Native American Grace Protection Repatriation Act obliged museums to give inventories and summaries of collections to Native Americans with three- and five-year deadlines. Mesa Southwest Museum met both those deadlines. Now, 12 years later, there is not as much activity in the area of repatriation as there was seven - eight years ago. Recently, the Museum did have a request from the Mescolaro Apache group to look at the Museum's Apache materials and send them information on those materials. The Arizona Apache groups have been to the Museum and consulted on these materials, and the Museum repatriated to the Arizona groups items that were appropriate under the Repatriation Law. Normally the Museum is more liberal than the law in complying with Native American requests. The Museum does not use the law to shield collections, but as a collaborative means. A report was given to the Mescolaro Apache group on the Museum's dealings with the Arizona Apache groups. Records are kept on all items involved in these collaborations with the Native American communities.

### **Information – November 12 Board Meeting and Site Tour – Randy Vogel**

The next regular meeting (November 12) of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board will take place on the construction site of the new Mesa Arts Center, in the Kitchell trailer at 3:30 p.m. The focus will be on the new Mesa Arts Center and will include a presentation on the new Center, a video on the new Center, a 10-15 minute up-date on the construction, and an up-date on the completed ArtsMarket marketing and programming studies. Following the Board meeting will be a tour on the construction site. A detailed flyer describing appropriate clothing and shoes will be included in the Board packet prior to the November meeting. Hard hats and safety goggles will be provided.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Arizona Museum for Youth -- Barbara Meyerson

- Staff has moved into the new facility – no elevator to date!
- The first wall for the doghouse exhibit, "Bow WOW!," has been erected.
- The new "rack card" (first ever) was distributed to all present at the Board meeting.
- Staff is hopeful that the grand opening for the Arizona Museum for Youth will remain on target – November 22.
- Barbara Meyerson reported that she attended another Maricopa Regional Arts and Culture Task Force meeting, of which she is a member. The Task Force is committed to ". . . stimulate economic development, and improve the quality of life for local residents by developing and improving the Valley's arts and cultural base." The public is invited to attend three community dialogue sessions and give their input. Ms. Meyerson agreed to e-mail the current list of dates and places where the Task Force community dialogues will be held to the Board members. Based on recommendations the Task Force has already received, additional focus groups, which will be composed primarily of "knowledge workers" (people in their 20's and 30's), has been added. It is hoped that the work of the Task Force will bring about a positive outcome for solid, reliable numbers and data to support the arts for the business community. Members of the Task Force are comprised of people in the arts, attorneys, business owners, sports team owners, etc., with Drew Brown as the Chair. The Task Force is looking for a good cross of West Valley/East Valley residents at each of the community discussions and locations.

#### Mesa Southwest Museum – Tom Wilson

- Each staff person at the Museum (full-time and part-time) is participating and contributing to the Strategic Agenda process.
- Two new exhibits just opened: "Turtles: Origins to World Domination;" and Valley artist Craig Cheply's, "Dawn to Dawn."

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

- Janice Gennevois, Volunteer Coordinator, has the volunteer program fully operational. She held her second volunteer orientation today, Wednesday, October 8. The number of volunteers has increased considerably, and volunteers are serving as teaching assistants, working with Mesa Contemporary Arts, and in the administration office. Ms. Gennevois has completed all printed materials for the volunteer program that includes Site Supervisor Handbook, Volunteer Handbook, job descriptions, and other materials.
- Interviewing for a new jewelry instructor has been completed. The selection has been narrowed to two candidates, and a final decision will be made soon.
- The Mesa Arts Center staff collaborated with Eisenhower Elementary School to offer a second year of after-school arts classes for their at-risk students. Mesa Arts Center van picks the kids up at school, delivers them to the Mesa Arts Center for class, and when finished, takes them to their homes. The Friends of the Mesa Arts Center (FoMAC) sponsors this program, and Rob Schultz especially thanked Cliff Moon who was the impetus behind this program.
- The Mesa Arts Center will assist with the "Storytelling Festival" coming Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25. Mesa Arts Center will help with face painting activity and have the facility open to make restrooms available to the public. The event takes place outdoors.
- The Mesa Arts Center staff has begun to review the construction calendar to determine projected opening dates. **Tentative** target opening dates for Studios north and south, Mesa Contemporary Arts, and the Shadow Walk, are Tuesday, March 1 through Sunday, March 6, 2004.

- A form was distributed for Board members who would like to participate in Opening Festivities Sub-teams. Sub-teams consist of Tours, Mesa Contemporary Arts, Studio, Theaters/Shadow Walk, Opening Weekend Festivities, Donor Recognition Event, and Theaters Grand Opening. The goal is to create a community celebration that will open the new Mesa Arts Center and include a behind the scenes look at the Theaters that the public normally wouldn't see.
- An Operations Supervisor has been hired and will begin on November 3. The Event Services Supervisor position is in the final stage of hiring.

### **Public Art Program – Jerry Dillehay**

- An RFQ has been sent out to artists around the nation to submit slides and examples of their work for the permanent sculpture program with the downtown merchants for this winter/spring season. It is the goal of Public Art to attract a higher caliber of sculptors. The deadline for proposals is October 16, and following the deadline, a panel, along with the downtown merchants, will review the proposals received. Laurent Teichman is a member of the panel. Kimberly Grace volunteered to be on the panel.
- Ned Kahn has finished the windscreens for the new Mesa Arts Center. It was noted that Ned Kahn has been named as a "McArthur Genius." This is an honor, along with \$100,000, given once a year to outstanding individuals in their field.

### **Directors' Report – Nancy Wolter for Gerry Fathauer and Jerry Dillehay**

Due to an unavoidable commitment, Gerry Fathauer was unable to attend the Board meeting. In her absence, Nancy Wolter reported that on Monday, October 13, on channel 11, at 5:45 p.m. during the City Council meeting, an announcement would be made regarding the success of the Capital Campaign. Ms. Wolter reported that the \$3.7M campaign has taken in \$4.7M plus. All Theaters have been named. Names would also be announced at the Council meeting along with a five-minute video on an up-date of the construction of the new Mesa Arts Center.

Ms. Wolter encouraged everyone to attend the up-coming "Art on the Move" event taking place on Saturday, November 8. Invitations were distributed to all in attendance.

Jerry Dillehay reported that "Sue" is coming to the Mesa Southwest Museum in January. A news release was distributed to Board members from Anchorage, AL where "Sue" is on exhibit at this time. The article states that more than 1,000 people flocked to see the exhibit the first day, and a steady stream of patrons continues each day. "Sue" will be in Anchorage for four months after which the exhibit comes to Mesa.

### **Information - Meetings and Events Attended – Board Members**

Carmen de Novais and Laura Madson Brown reminded everyone of Tour de Culture that will take place in downtown Mesa this Friday, October 10 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. This is a free event which gives the public an opportunity to see the Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa Arts Center, the new Mesa Arts Center construction site, the Sistine House, Xicanindio Artes, Mesa Main Library, Segura Art gallery, and the Mesa Bank lobby. The Arizona Museum for Youth was not ready at this time for public viewing, as they are preparing for their grand opening November 22. An invitation was extended for everyone to come and enjoy the evening.

Randy Robinson reported that he and Randy Vogel attended "Best Practices in Mesa." This event, sponsored by Human Relations, took a look at cultural diversity and the future direction of the City of Mesa. Maureen Chaisson-Stewart asked if the Board members' names could be put on Human Relations' e-mail list for any future discussion/meeting notices. Jean Kaminski, Administrative Assistant, will forward the Board members' names and e-mail address to Human Relations. Dr. Robinson reported that the Martin Luther King celebration this year would not be providing a speaker, but instead a history video of Mesa. On the video will be comments from people who were involved in creating a Martin Luther King Day. Dr. Robinson asked if anyone knew of a person who should be a part of the video to provide the name to the committee.

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart and Kimberly Grace reported that there would be an open-house meeting on light-rail, Saturday, October 11, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Webster Elementary School. The meeting is a meet-and-greet for residents near the proposed transit center just east of Dobson Road and Main Street at the site of the former Tri-City Mall.

Maureen Chaisson-Stewart reported that the Sonoran Desert Chorale would be presenting a "Best of Ten Years" concert on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Mesa.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Dillehay  
Acting Cultural Director