

## Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting via hybrid format with Zoom video and in person at Mesa Arts Center on Thursday November 18, 2021.

### Members Present:

Alycia de Mesa-Weeden  
Jocelyn Condon  
Colleen Byron  
Theresa Schlechty  
Nick Willis  
Melvin Van Vorst  
Katelyn Armbruster  
Annalisa Alvrus  
Ivan Martinez  
Angela Buer

### Members Absent:

### Staff Present:

Cindy Ornstein  
Sarah Goedicke  
Illya Riske  
Alison Stoltman  
Jarrad Bittner

Theresa Schlechty moved to start the meeting and Melvin Van Vorst seconded. Alycia de Mesa-Weeden called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments, but Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager, and Stephanie Foster from Mesa Libraries observed the meeting. The Board introduced themselves.

### Approval of Minutes from the July 22 Meeting:

Melvin Van Vorst moved to approve the minutes and Jocelyn Condon seconded. Board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes from September 23, and they will be posted on the city's website.

### Presentation from Mesa Historical Museum – Susan Ricci

Susan Ricci, Executive Director for the Mesa Historical Museum (MHM), gave a short PowerPoint presentation (**Exhibit A**) about the museum and recent programming. The Board asked how the museum is engaging the community, specifically in the creation of the recent Diversity exhibit. Susan answered that they worked with community groups and associations, put up signage and banners, held open house events, and created a free concert series. In creating the Diversity exhibit, the museum approached the families that are featured in the exhibit and had members of the community participate in providing oral histories. Susan stated MHM is always looking for more history, more input, more stories, and has an open door policy for visits and tours.

### Discuss: Public Art

The public art working group shared notes from their October 22 meeting (**Exhibit B**), which focused on defining public art and the history of public art in Mesa and the Valley. The group also discussed what the Board's vision for public art is, and what could be done in the future. The group thinks now is the time to get some public feedback.

The Board wants to make sure they consider how to make the program equitable, how to include artists from all over the city and Mesa Community College, and how to engage public feedback. For the public feedback, who to ask and how to ask are very important questions. Nick Willis recommended starting very targeted and invite speakers to start. Melvin Van Vorst encouraged getting participation from Mesa Public Schools. Annalisa Alvrus mentioned she recently toured Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center and recommended reaching out to them for collaboration. This led to the question of how to utilize community partners.

Alycia de Mesa-Weeden asked the working group to come up with a better definition, focus on inclusiveness, and create an informal advisory committee and get public feedback from residents. Cindy Ornstein noted that it's important to understand the goals for the engagement and recommended establishing goals before deciding how to proceed. She also told the Board about the Mayor's Youth Committee, which may be another opportunity to engage young people.

Alycia asked if the working group thought about a percentage or dollars for the program and Nick stated no, that the goal is to reestablish the program and bring that to Council. Cindy Ornstein explained that the program never went away, but the funding was not appropriated by Council. The public art resolution still exists, and Council would just need to reappropriate funds (likely requiring an updated Public Art Master Plan). Ivan Martinez asked what the Board wants from Council. The Board should manage community expectations and be clear to Council of what the Board is expecting from them.

Cindy shared that Council has a Community & Cultural Development Committee that the Board could have a first conversation with after narrowing and identifying goals. Alycia recommended the working group have two more meetings before the next Board meeting on January 27 to go over objectives and create a recommended framework.

### **New Topics Discussion**

Alycia de Mesa-Weeden suggested inviting local arts organizations and community leaders to give short presentations to the Board to see where intersections may lie.

### **Arts & Culture Department Update – Cindy Ornstein**

Cindy Ornstein shared that there has been a notable change in the tenor of people's intersection with Arts & Culture in our community and other communities. People's values shifted during COVID to increase appreciation and value for creative and collective experiences. Participation is fantastic right now at all venues and in all areas with a tremendous amount of new people. 50% or 60% of people enrolled in the Studios Winter session are brand new students. This kind of resurgence of interest in arts and experiences has happened historically after major pandemics and epidemics.

Educators are also looking at the value of arts in education. Arts & Culture is in discussion with the ASU Prep Academy and Mesa Public Schools for fee for service programs, and City Council allocated American Rescue Plan money for financial aid for student art experiences. The Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools is discussing a new and robust after school program.

There is an update on the search for the new Director of the Arizona Museum of Natural History. The city has hired Arts Consulting Group as an executive search firm, and they will put a search committee together with the first committee meeting coming up soon.

There is a preliminary conversation going on with Andrea Alicoate, Diversity & Special Projects Manager, about creating a Diverse Cultures Cultural Walk and promenade on the walkway between the Marriot and MAC, and Cindy recommended inviting her to a future meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Mesa Arts Center (MAC) Update on Programs and Operations – Cindy Ornstein, Illya Riske, & Randy Vogel**

Día de los Muertos saw enormous crowds and record attendance of 30,000 over the course of the weekend. The festival layout was spread out more and every corner of campus was activated. The reimagined Mesa Prototyping Festival took place on November 13. The festival was originally scheduled for six days after the COVID shutdown started. The event on November 13 was small but lovely, with 150-200 total attendees across three distinct locations along Broadway Road. Numerous families came out and interacted and the event had an intensely local neighborhood feel, which was the goal for this event. This event planted seeds for future opportunities, and we were happy considering everything we went through to finally execute this event.

The MCA's Visionary Art exhibitions have been very well received, with people coming from all over the country to view the exhibits. The Greys are big names in the contemporary art field. This show has a lot of rarely seen work in it, and the Greys did a talk in November in the Dobson lecture hall. The talk was completely full and there was a tremendously positive response. MCA also rolled out new EnChroma glasses, which enable those who are color blind to see color.

Performing Live shows are selling well, and we are seeing high participation. Theater participation was 30% higher in October 2021 than October 2019, even with the Piper Theater being closed for half the month. Studios also continue to do well in sales and participation.

Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) – Alison Stoltman

Attendance numbers are looking good, but the museum lost half of its scheduled group bookings due to schools putting off field trips. However, the museum recently received news that Mesa Public Schools will be reinstating field trips in January. Attendance and revenue for this quarter are still higher than they have ever been. Mesa Grande opened in mid-October and Alison Stoltman shared photos of the Dino Mountain renovations (**Exhibit C**).

Dr. Emily Early, Museum Curator, was accepted into the Piper Fellowship program to support her research on “decolonizing the museum”. She is also the principal gallery designer for the future renovation of the Southwest Gallery and is working very closely with the Cultural Officers of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community on these exhibits.

i.d.e.a. Museum – Jarrad Bittner

Overall, the museum is seeing an upward trend in participation. i.d.e.a. is seeing 70% of participation compared to pre-pandemic levels, and 90% of memberships compared to pre-pandemic levels. While not quite back to pre-pandemic visitation and membership, the museum is far above the current industry average for children’s museums, whose audiences include the vulnerable and unvaccinated under five age group. This upward trend has started to decline at other museums and i.d.e.a. Museum is one of the few children’s museums at full operation and doing programming. i.d.e.a. has seen a decline in school visits like AzMNH.

Education staff are working on piloting bringing programming into schools with a local Title I school. The next exhibit at the museum will launch on January 21, titled “Imagine, Design, Build” and the Atrium renovation will launch alongside that exhibit and will incorporate a multisensory mural.

**Discuss any Projects, Initiatives, or Presenters of Interest & Report on Conferences and/or meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information only**

Theresa Schlechty went to Bruce Nelson’s exhibit at Mesa United Way for Veteran’s Day, which included an introduction of the Buffalo Soldiers, photos of veterans going back to the late 1800s, photos of veterans of color, and a 1925 film reel of soldiers training.

Jocelyn Condon stated that American Airlines held a Gala in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British flying school at the hangar she works at, which featured WWII era music and an auction. Alycia shared that her experience at the Mesa Prototyping Festival was great. She was there doing public engagement with an ASU group on how to reimagine Broadway Road for livability and environmental and family friendliness. The event was small but mighty.

***The next scheduled meeting date is January 27, 2022, and is currently planned as a hybrid meeting.***

There being no further business, Angela Buer moved to end the meeting and Ivan Martinez seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,



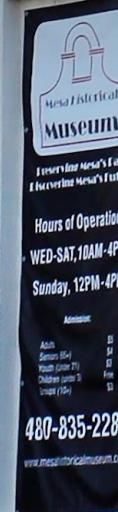
Cindy Ornstein, Director  
Arts and Culture Department

MESA  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# Mesa Historical Museum

Preserving Mesa's Past, Discovering Mesa's Future

2345



Mesa Historical  
Museum

It preserves Mesa's Past  
& Discovers Mesa's Future

Hours of Operation:  
WED-SAT, 10AM-4PM  
Sunday, 12PM-4PM

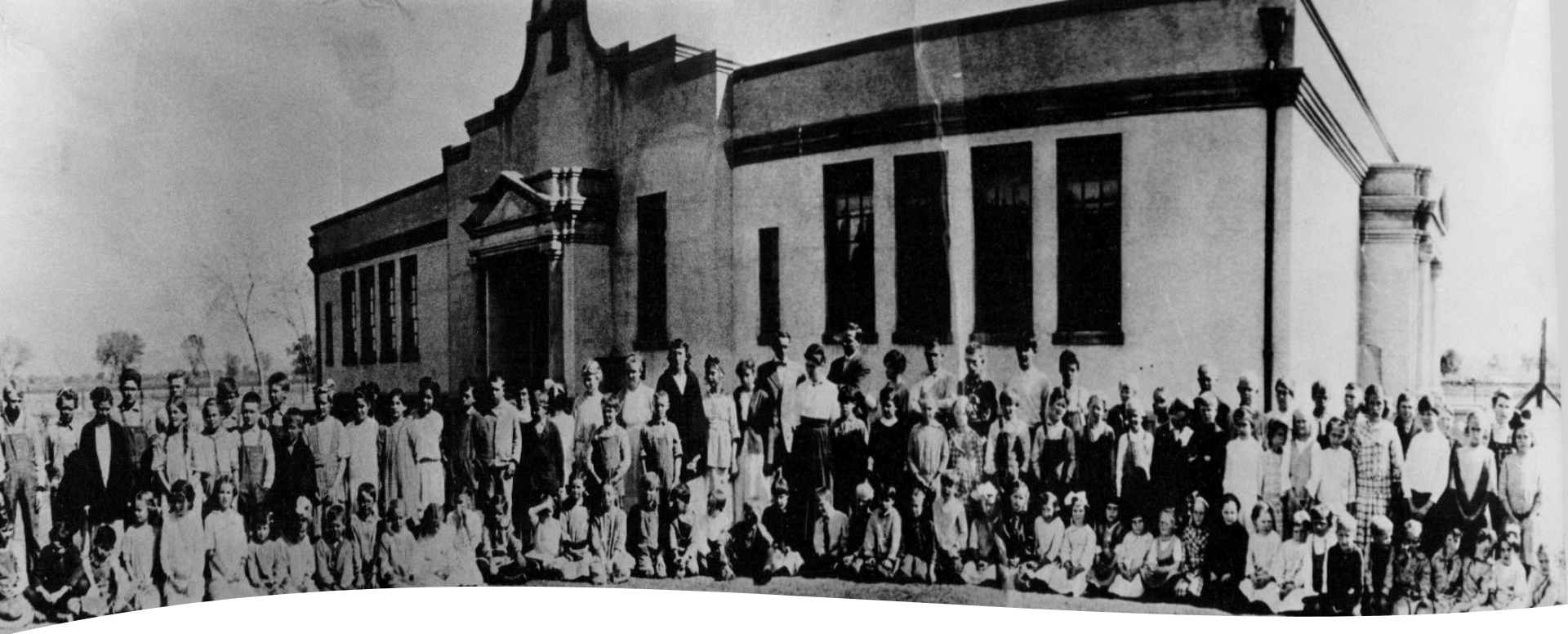
Admission:

Adult	\$5
Senior (65+)	\$4
Family (up to 7)	\$7
Children under 5	Free
Unsupervised (15+)	\$3

480-835-2286

[www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com)

Escorts,  
Gadgets and  
for cabins  
1877-1887  
Feb. 8-June 1  
Hours of Operation:  
WED-SAT, 10AM-4PM  
Sunday, 12PM-4PM  
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## History of Lehi School

The Lehi School is located on a five-acre parcel donated early in the establishment of the Lehi community by one of the original Mormon settlers, Henry C. Rogers. The original Lehi Schoolhouse was a one-room adobe schoolhouse built in 1880. It would wash away in a flood and a second one was built in its place. Two more rooms were added and the outside was veneered in brick. By the early 1910's, this schoolhouse was no longer functional for the growing community and was replaced by the Old Lehi School. Opened in 1914, the Lehi School was the third school to stand on this site. It started out as a five-classroom schoolhouse with offices for the principal, administration and school nurse. Between 1914 and the 1930s, two more rooms were added on to the original schoolhouse. In 1939 the auditorium was built, which provided an additional six to seven classrooms for the school as well as a cafeteria, gymnasium and theater. Years later, the school was added on to again with the addition of what is now the Farnsworth room. Lehi School was shut down in 1977 and today is home to the Mesa Historical Museum. Lehi School holds the title as the oldest standing schoolhouse in Mesa at over 100 years old. It was listed on the National Historic Register in 2001 along with the auditorium.



## Mesa History Room

Brigham Young sent the first pioneers to Mesa in 1877 to help support the Mormon church's expansion into Mexico. These early Mormon settlers were known as the "Utah Company" and settled in what is now Lehi. The men of this Company built on the knowledge of the ancient Hohokam people and uncovered enormous areas of rich river bottom land under their feet. To their amazement, these early canal heads were still usable. The journey into Mesa took many months through the Idaho Mountains. Their animals were exhausted from carrying not only the digging equipment but all their belongings. Initially, the men had to dig the first canals by hand with shovels and pickaxe. However, once their animals recovered, they began using the more efficient scoops as featured in this exhibit. Several decades later, more advanced equipment would be used to expand the canal and bring more water to farming fields.

# Founding Families Exhibit

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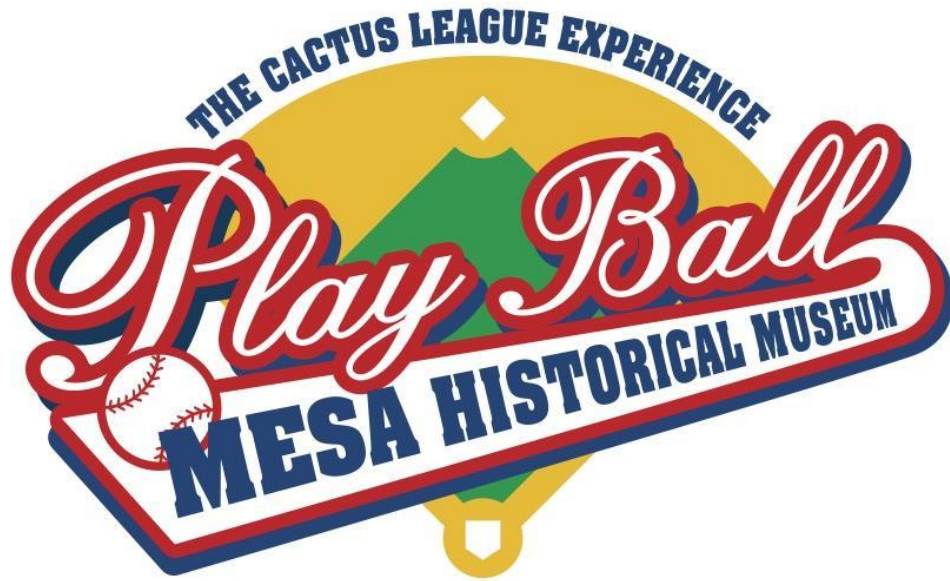
This exhibit showcases a wide array of photos, collections and stories from members of the first founding families who settled in Mesa and Lehi. Some of the family collections include Dana, Pomeroy, Crismon and Rogers to name a few.





**MESA IS THE  
SPRING TRAINING  
HOME OF THE  
CHICAGO CUBS  
AND OAKLAND A'S**





# THE ART OF KAREN KUYKENDALL



Artist Karen Kuykendall's paintings, jewelry and papier-mache have been exhibited at both the Phoenix Art Museum and the Tucson Art Museum. She was a published author and teacher who created a fantasy world of Cat-People which inspired a lot of her artwork including dolls, sculptures and paintings. With over 1000 pieces now a part of the Mesa Historical Museum's permanent collection, this exhibit is dedicated to her art.

# DIVERSITY OF MESA



The Diversity of Mesa exhibit celebrates the many different cultures that helped settle the City of Mesa. Many times these stories were fraught with obstacles but they were also written with the hope of a bright future and a prosperous life. Our exhibit will feature photos and stories of the many ethnic groups who came to Mesa.

The goal of this exhibit is to foster understanding, increase awareness, and encourage respect for other cultures by representing them positively. We want to celebrate the people from other countries and cultures and to showcase their accomplishments as well as their contributions to our local community and society.

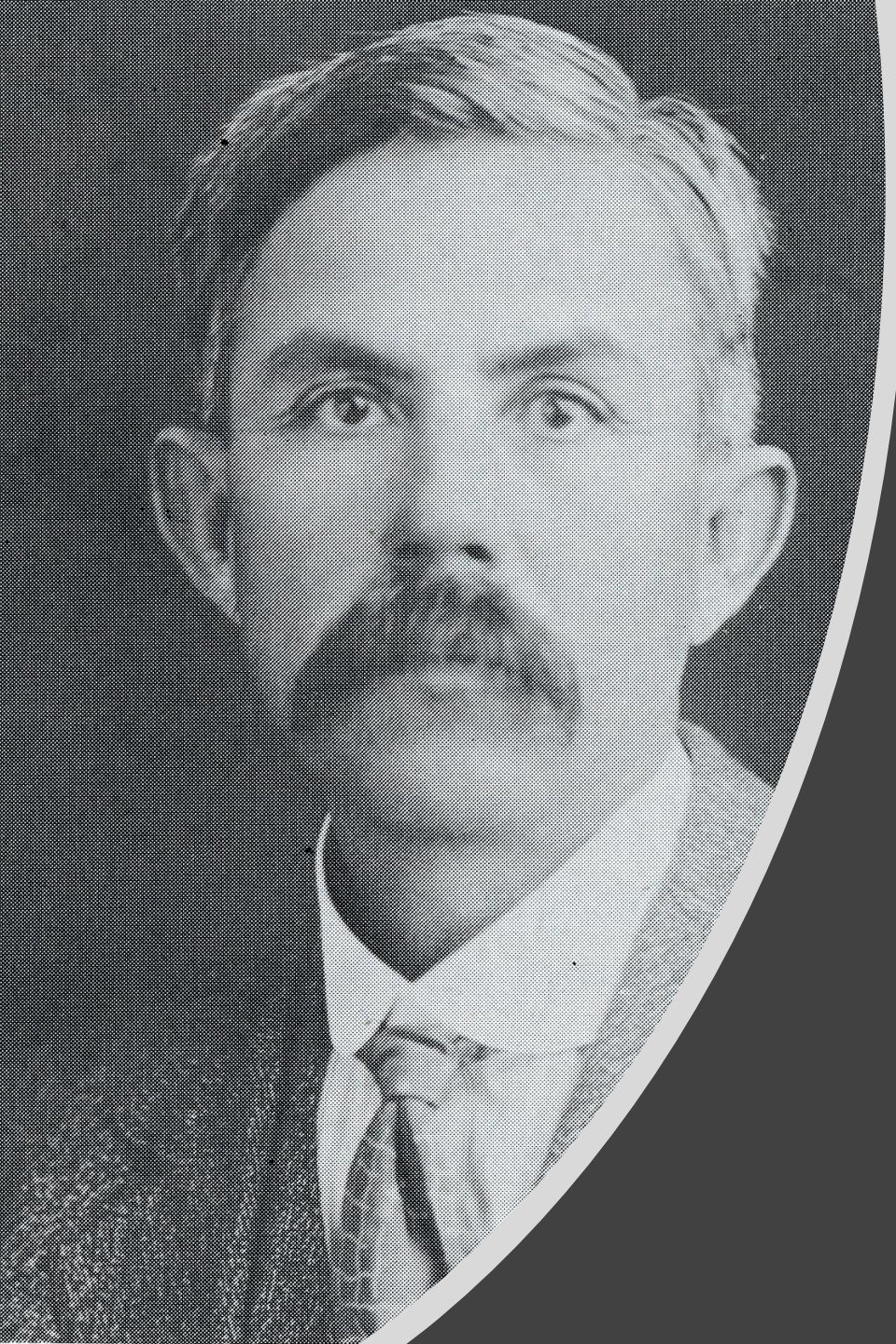




Veora Johnson -  
first African  
American principal  
in Mesa



Ishikawa Family late 1920s – first Japanese Family to settle in Mesa



Ramon Mendoza, Sr. -  
first Mexican American  
Police Officer in Mesa



Pima Maricopa activist,  
storyteller, teacher and  
author Anna Moore Shaw



# Diversity in the Schools

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Mesa High School  
Latin American Club  
1942



Mesa High School - Betty Oda - Karnival Queen 1956



ANTIONETTE COURY  
Superstition Queen of 1956



Mesa High School  
Indian Club  
1961 - Inaugural Year



Adults \$7  
Seniors (60+) \$5  
Military \$4  
Youth (under 18) \$4  
Children (under 5) Free  
Members Free  
80-835-2286  
www.zenshojimuseum.com

## Upcoming Events

### ***Fall Concert Series: Nov. 7th, 14th, & 21st, 2021***

Nov. 7, 2021 5:30-7:30pm - Goddess Squared

Nov. 14, 2021 5:30-7:30pm - Chris Kane Trio

Nov. 21, 2021 5:30-7:30pm - Coda Blue

On the Museum grounds -Free admission

### ***Arts & Crafts Fair: December 4th, 2021***

Featuring 50 Arts & Crafts vendors, food concessions and book sale.

### ***Book Fair: February 5th & 6th, 2022***

We will be holding a major book fair in February.

\$1-2 books! Over 20,000 books for sale!

**March Rummage Sale** (Taking donations)



MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS

# FALL CONCERT SERIES

**NOV. 7, 2021 - GODDESS SQUARED**

**NOV. 14, 2021 - CHRIS KANE TRIO**

**NOV. 21, 2021 - CODA BLUE**

**5:30-7:30PM**

**LOCATED ON THE  
MUSEUM GROUNDS**

**2345 N HORNE  
MESA AZ 85203**

**FOOD & DRINK CONCESSIONS  
ADMISSION IS FREE  
DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

# MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR



Join us for our annual walking tour of the Historic Mesa Cemetery. This year's tour will feature a Civil War veteran, a woman who delivered over 12,000 babies, a cowboy singer from the Buffalo Bill Wild West show and many more.

This is a self guided tour with special speakers at the featured gravesites.

Complimentary coffee and donuts and free museum admission that day!

**SATURDAY OCT. 23 8-10 AM**  
**TICKETS: \$15 EA OR 2/\$25**



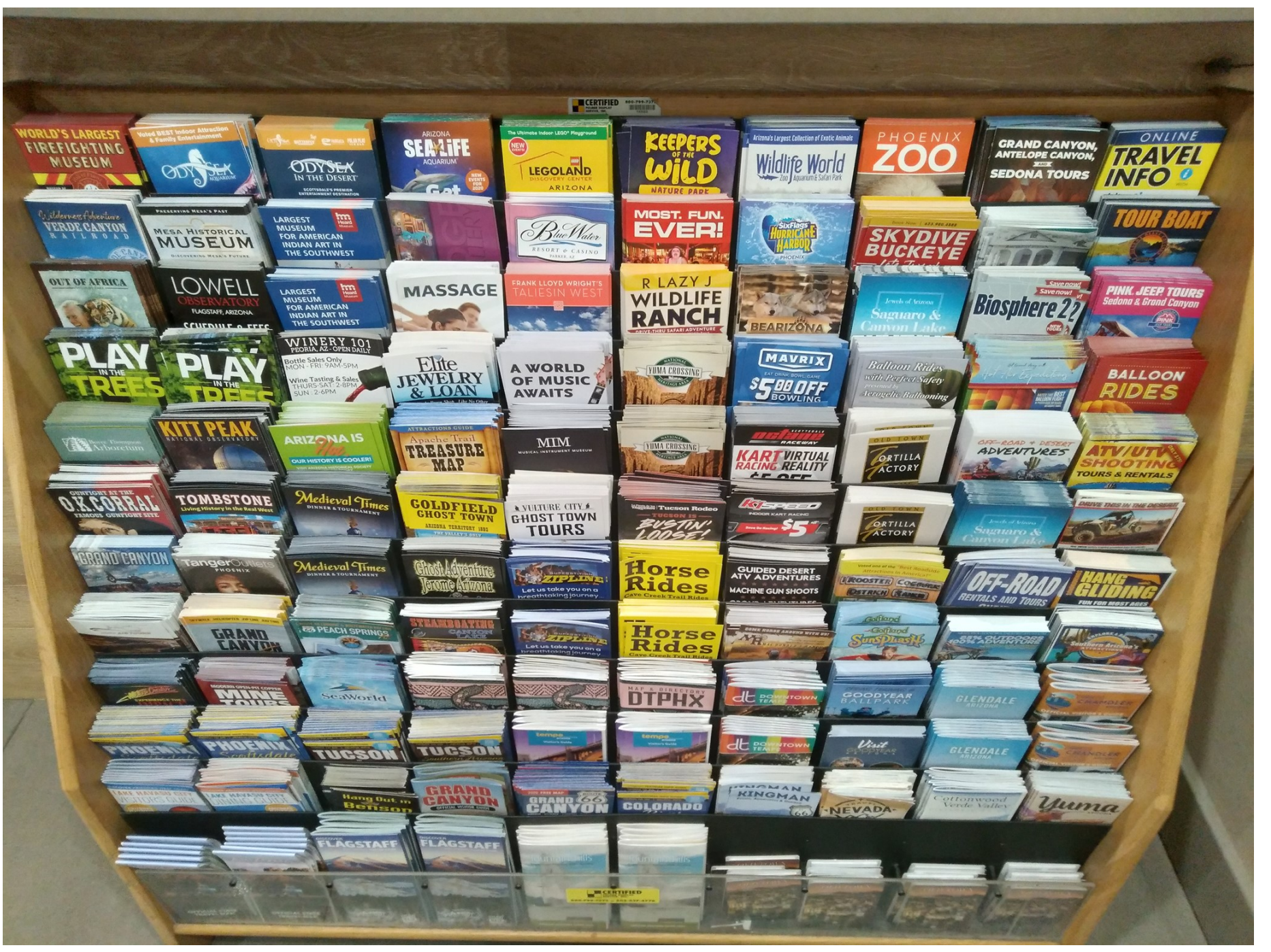
Purchase tickets at [mesahistoricalmuseum.com](http://mesahistoricalmuseum.com)











CERTIFIED 800-998-7377

CERTIFIED 800-998-7377



**Preserving Mesa's Past  
Discovering Mesa's Future**

**Hours of Operation:  
TUES - SAT 10 AM - 4 PM**

**Admissions:**

<b>Adults</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Seniors (60+)</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Military</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Youth (under 18)</b>	<b>\$4</b>
<b>Children (under 5)</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>Free</b>

**480-835-2286**

[www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.mesahistoricalmuseum.com)

# EXHIBIT B

## Public Art Discussion

### Summary:

On October 22nd, some members of the Mesa Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met as a working group to discuss the issue of public art in the City. The following is a summary of the group's discussion.

Public art is temporary or permanent art in public places that can include murals, sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape architectural work, community art, digital new media, performances and festivals. Public art should enhance the quality of life and appearance of the City by telling the history of its people and location.

A dedication to art has long been a defining characteristic of Mesa and should continue to be for years to come. To ensure art continues to flourish in Mesa, the working group would like to urge the City Council to adopt a formal public art plan, similar to what the City had in the past, and what surrounding cities currently maintain.

In previous years, the City of Mesa dedicated 1% of new public works funds to public art. While this would be an admirable first step, the working group would like the City to consider options to be inclusive to all communities, not just those that see the most new public works.

As a next step, the working group would like to ask for public feedback on this idea as a whole and also what the public would like to see in their communities. After that, the working group would like to meet again to discuss/implement the feedback.

### What is our definition of public art?

- Definition that is in the resolution
  - “Public Art can enhance the quality of life and appearance of the City by describing the City’s heritage, character, identity, and sense of place through history murals, commemorative sculptures, decorative civic plazas, neighborhood park amenities, downtown and suburban streetscapes, landscape design, public building facades, bridge decoration, canal bank improvements, projects that educate the public about public art and City services, and similar projects.”
- Americans for the Arts definition
  - “Simply put public art is art in public spaces. The term “public art” may conjure images of historic bronze statues of a soldier on horseback in a park. Today, public art can take a wide range of forms, sizes, and scales—and can be

temporary or permanent. It often interprets the history of the place, its people, and perhaps addresses a social or environmental issue. Public art can include murals, sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape architectural work, community art, digital new media, and even performances and festivals”

- Notion of broad definition, but important that is in a public realm.
- Goal: Free and open in public space, inclusive.
- Element of education.
- Not just passive art, engaging.
- Create focal points, continue tradition of arts education.
- Involve local artists.
- Diversity of art and artists.
- Even “plunk art” has stakeholders.

### **What vision do we have for Mesa's public art?**

- People are starting to come out again, it’s time to attract people. Public art helps people reintegrate after lockdowns, etc.
- Art and resulting gatherings are necessary and positive for mental health and community health.
- Public art is a natural step for Mesa. We had it before and were ahead on public art. We have stepped away, but it’s time to go after it again.
- Identity: Mesa Arts Center shows our commitment, shows our identity, art is part of who we are.
  - Public art is taking advantage of a prior investment to further the goals of a city.
  - City Council has already established and there is a lot of activity building Mesa as a place of innovation. To maximize that potential, public art is an essential ingredient.
  - We are a huge city with a large footprint. It is critical to our long term success is to have people feel connected to our City.
- We need to look at the Council Strategic Initiative and tie in how public art meets their goals. IE Neighborhood transformation
  - Council Strategic Initiatives: Community Safety, Skilled and Talented Workforce, Placemaking, Transforming Neighborhoods, Sustainable Economy, Healthy Environment
- Mesa is a large, broad city. Does not belong in one place. Connects communities wherever they are.
- How do we structure this to tie in the public more to ensure that this does not fall apart in the future?
  - Someone would have to run the public art program – staff is a cost.

- Ongoing maintenance of public art would presumably be part of that structure/staffing plan
- Committee structure?
- Older communities may be run down or in disrepair. How can public art help them?
  - Historic preservation society can cover some, but if a place is not having new construction, how do we infuse art?
  - A public art fund solution could help address.
  - Agreement that when a certain amount of public art is complete in a new area, the money goes to a fund to be used for older neighborhoods?
  - We recommend that the plan include some mechanism to allow for equitable art access to all neighborhoods.
    - We want them to buy into reinstating the resolution (or a new one), approving the funding plan and giving us permission to make a plan.
- MCC is Mesa's community college and a huge presence – Giles and others value MCC and the college has a large art department.
  - How can we involve MCC more?
  - Public art needs to be connected to our community. Community engaged process.
  - Public art should be an opportunity for citizens to have a greater stake in their community.
  - By engaging students, we train and bring up the next generation of leaders.
  - Educational component.

**What recommendation to Council do we make to get us from our current state to our vision?**

- 1% for public projects
  - For discussion: Half goes into the area of the project, half goes into the fund to be distributed equitably.
- Communications for developers/builders encouraging them to incorporate public art into their planning.
  - Is there a way for the city to incentivize inclusion of art into private developments/projects?
    - Tie some of the mobile art activity with private businesses. If we put in public art, we will bring the mobile art to your business for an event.
    - Art elements are in place for a grand opening, mobile unit is present – becomes a community event.
- Have city partner with private industry to have the art created by the city but transfer maintenance to the private partner.



- Adopt an Artwork
- How can we tie this into tourism?
  - Work with Mesa tourism authority to display new art? Make sure we cobrand with new pieces?
  - We want to communicate vibrancy .
  - Public art site with all listed?

### **Who supports this?**

#### **What's next:**

- Step 1: Get their attention and make a strong case that public art is needed.
- Get public input.
  - Survey to gauge interests on how to include art in communities further.
  - Public opinion drives council member agenda.
- Write a letter from the advisory board.

#### **What do we need?**

- List of all city owned public art.
  - <https://downtownmesa.com/explore/public-art>
- DMA has a list of theirs.
  - There is not list of private public art.

# EXHIBIT C

