

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular hybrid meeting via Zoom and at Arizona Museum of Natural History's Conference Room on Thursday September 26, 2024.

Members Present:

Todd Hanle
Annalisa Alvrus
Angela Buer
Claudia Bloom
Karen Rolston
Melvin Van Vorst
Brad Peterson
Greg DeSimone
Katelyn Armbruster

Members Absent:

Nick Willis
Colleen Byron

Staff Present:

Illya Riske
Candace Cannistraro
Jarrad Bittner
Alison Stoltman
Dawn Farley
Sarah Goedicke
Zac Koceja

Greg DeSimone called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Items from citizens present: There were no citizens present.

Approval of minutes from the regular July 25, 2024 Meeting:

Karen Rolston noted that she was at the July meeting and not absent as the minutes suggested. Sarah Goedicke will correct that on the minutes. Angela Buer moved to approve the minutes as with corrections and Todd Hanle seconded. Board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes from July 25 with corrections, and they will be posted on the city's website.

Co.Lab and Podcasting at Mesa Arts Center – Tomas Stanton, Mesa Arts Center Arts Education Supervisor:

Tomas Stanton gave a presentation on the Co.Lab at Mesa Arts Center (MAC) (see **Exhibit A**). Co.Lab is the Connecting Community Story Lab, and it uses digital media to promote and activate community connections through the art of digital storytelling. Mesa Arts Center's podcast, launched in 2023, offers storytelling, culture, and creative conversations that engage, connect, and catalyze community. Other departments and programmers at Mesa Arts Center are also able to utilize the platform for series like Faces of Mesa, and Mayor Giles has utilized the space for his podcasts. Recently, staff have launched youth camps that use this space and host a Podcasting 101 class.

Goals moving forward are to continue to respond to interests in the stories of MAC programming and impact; create a platform that features Mesa community members, artists, or creative leadership; and authentically enhance sense of space.

Katelyn Armbruster asked what platforms this can be found on and how are staff getting the word out. Tomas replied that it's on YouTube and Spotify and he is working with the Marketing team to identify the best way to advertise and get the word out. Right now it's mostly grass roots marketing. Katelyn suggested doing live podcasts at certain events. Tomas stated they are planning a live podcast for the celebration of MAC's 20th anniversary and Tomas would like to do more in the future.

Arroyo Update – Illya Riske, Interim Director of Arts & Culture:

Illya Riske gave a brief presentation, with Zac Koceja from Engineering, on the Arroyo water feature (see **Exhibit B**). He reviewed the original design and intent of the water feature and explained what the department is planning to do for lifecycle replacement, and to address system failures. The Arroyo began losing significant amounts of water in 2018 and staff shut it down to investigate. Staff worked

with Facilities Management and discovered most of the leaks were around the pumps and water supply lines. The city has engaged with an on-call consultant team to create a design to repair and renovate the water feature so it is functional and uses less water. The goal is to keep the artistic integrity of the water feature while making it more sustainable in the future. While not required to follow standards for pool quality water due to it being a water feature, staff know that due to how the public interacts with the feature that they will need to have pool quality water.

Total project cost is estimated to be \$2.6 million, as of June 2024. The renovation will partially close the Shadow Walk and will be less intrusive than a full restoration. This project is estimated to take six months to complete. Illya stated that a full renovation would have taken longer and required the entire Shadow Walk to be pulled up rather than just the Eastern section. The project is anticipated to wrap in November 2025, but the project schedule has not yet been finalized.

Karen Rolston asked where the pump room is located, and Illya explained it's located to the right of the Brown Sculpture Garden at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum.

Upcoming Events – Volunteer or Participation Opportunities:

Sarah Goedicke referenced some informational emails previously sent to the board and noted some Relaxed Hour flyers for those attending in person to take with them to share. Relaxed Hour is from 9-10am on the Sunday of the festival and Sarah asked for some more volunteers during that hour. She explained what volunteers would do during this hour, mostly wayfinding, and also mentioned that the festival overall could still use some stage hosts and other volunteers.

Jarrad Bittner shared a quick update on the external mural going up on the i.d.e.a. Museum wall that faces Main Street (see **Exhibit C**). The museum recently received a \$200k grant from Maricopa County thanks to Deputy City Manager Candace Cannistraro to help continue the museum's goal of making the building itself a work of art by funding this mural. Local artist Kyllan Maney is working on this mural and will be completed by the end of October. There is space at the top for the new i.d.e.a. Museum logo signage. At some point, the exterior lighting will be updated to better feature these new murals.

Greg DeSimone asked about the progress of rebranding and Jarrad said they hope to unveil the new logo when they reopen in December.

Discuss projects or presenters of interest and report on events attended:

Karen Rolston asked about the mural planned for the West wall of the Mesa Arts Center. Illya Riske stated that they presented the contract to Council and they were amenable to it, though they did not need to approve it. Karen then asked about an article referencing a new collections system. Alison Stoltman confirmed they had just completed the Request for Proposals process and selected one. This system will help the museum with managing their NAGPRA responsibilities. Alison also confirmed that the next gallery opening was postponed from early November to late January.

The next scheduled meeting date is November 20, 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting on zoom and at the Mesa Arts Center South Conference Room.

There being no further business, Karen Rolston moved to end the meeting and Melvin Van Vorst seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

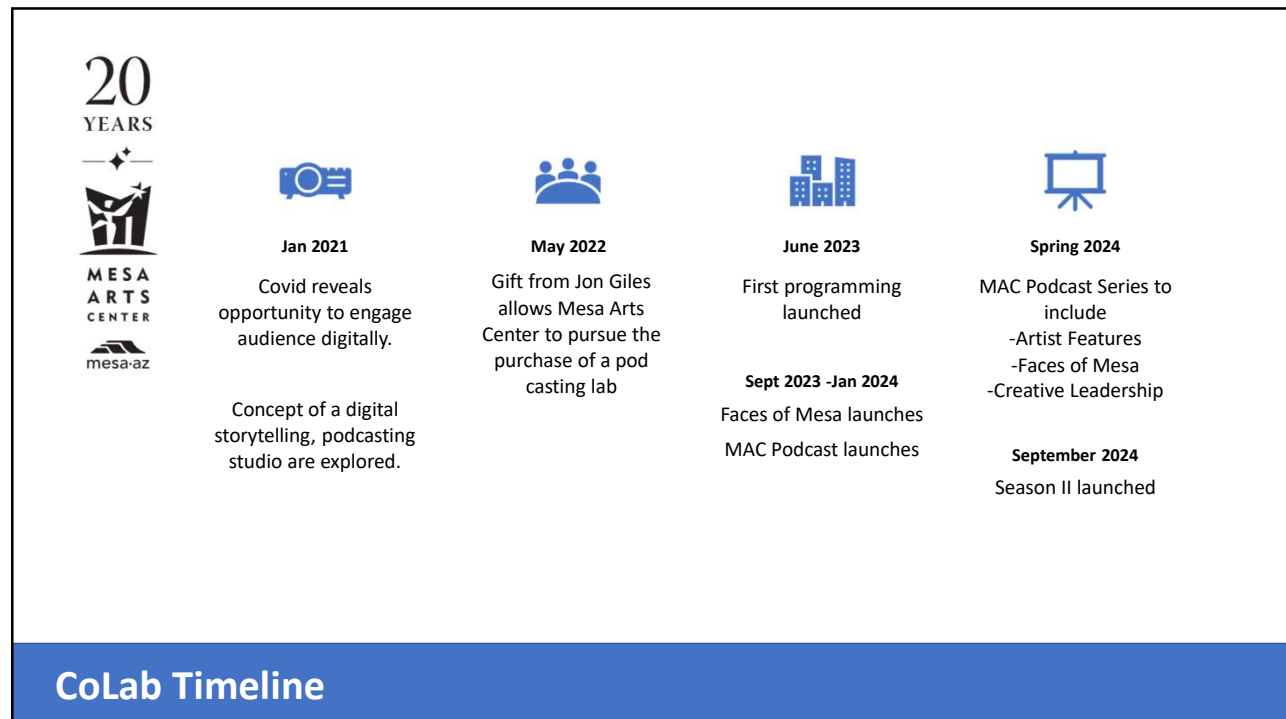
Illya Riske
Acting Director of Arts and Culture

EXHIBIT A



Connecting Community Story Lab (CO.Lab) uses Digital Media to promote and activate community connections through the art of *DIGITAL* storytelling.

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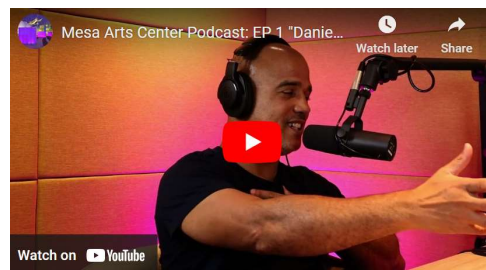


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The new MAC Podcast will offer storytelling, culture and creative conversations that engage, connect and catalyze community. Listen to authentic and lively conversations that dive deep into the artistic process, methodology and origin stories of creatives and tastemakers in the Valley of the Sun and beyond.

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Podcast

The facesofmesa Podcast

facesofmesa

Follow



2023-2024 Host: Molly

About

The Faces of Mesa project highlights unity within the diversity of Mesa's community. A photographic documentation and response database, Faces of Mesa serves as a snapshot of our neighbors, community, friends, families and strangers who perhaps aren't so strange. Diversity showcased through photography and unity sparked by themes surrounding the question "What makes Mesa home to you?"

Faces of Mesa

20 YEARS



MESA ARTS CENTER

mesa-az

5



Faces of Mesa

20 YEARS



MESA ARTS CENTER

mesa-az

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Evolution of Co Lab Podcast Studio

- Mayor Giles Podcast
- Heritage Academy
- Studios
 - Youth Camps
 - Podcasting 101

7

20
YEARS



Season Two

Ep 1: Arianna Jones is a Poet, Marketing Specialist, Podcast Host and most importantly, just a human sharing her existence. In this episode we discuss the importance of mental & emotional wellness and how the arts can serve as a tool for "said wellness".

Ep 2: Dr. Sandoval is a cultural historian and performance studies scholar. His research focuses on the transborder holiday Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). He is also an award-winning professor at Arizona State University's Barrett the Honors College where he teaches interdisciplinary seminars on art, culture, performance, cinema, race, history, and activism.

Ep 3: Ben Venom graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2007 with a Master of Fine Arts degree. His work has been shown both nationally and internationally. Ben Venom contrasts the often menacing and aggressive counterculture components of gangs, punk/metal music, and the occult with the comforts of domesticity. This collision of traditional quilting techniques with elements tied to the fringes of society re-envision the story of the material through a softer lens.

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Goals:

- Continue to respond to interest in the stories of Mesa Arts Center programming and impact.
- Create a platform that features Mesa community members, artists at the MAC or creative leadership.
- Authentically enhance the sense of place.
- Launch Podcast 101 programming in spring of 2025

EXHIBIT B



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The Arroyo

- The Arroyo is the main water feature located in the center of the Mesa Arts Center campus
- Original design intent of the feature was to run with water periodically through campus like a flash flood
- When in operation, the water feature was continuously running
- The Arroyo design compliments the environmental design focus of the rest of MAC Campus
- Arroyo needs to be repaired due to system failure and lifecycle replacement needs

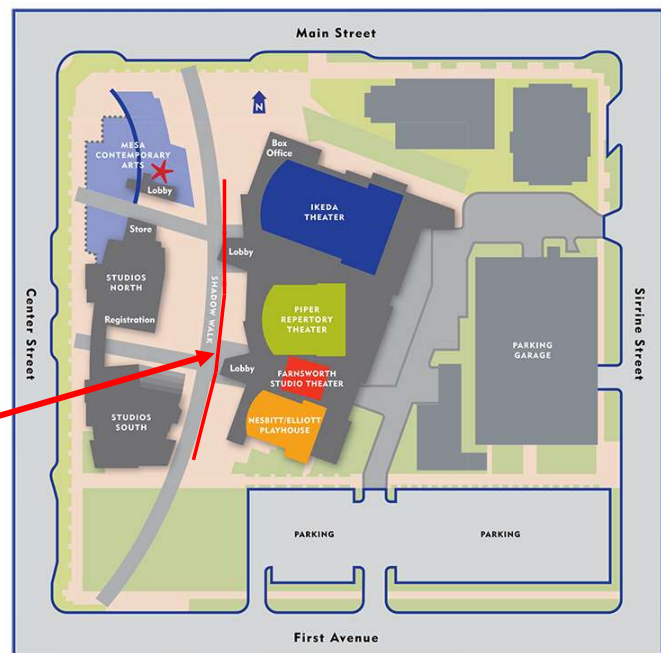
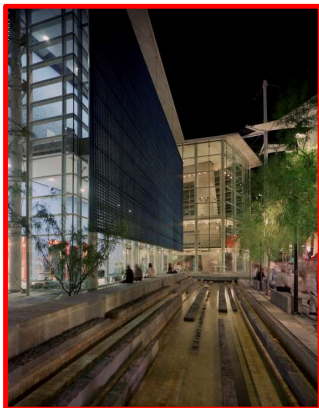


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The Arroyo: Location

- Adjacent to the Shadow Walk
- Between the Theaters, the Studios, and Contemporary Arts Museum



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Arroyo Needs Significant Repairs



- In 2018, we noticed that the Arroyo water feature was losing significant amounts of water
- We stopped running the Arroyo to:
 - Prevent the loss of water
 - Prevent damage to foundations
- Engaged Facilities Maintenance team to begin identifying the cause and location of system failures
- Initial leak detection and investigation efforts found that multiple leaks were occurring around the pumps and the underground water supply lines.

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The Arroyo Repair

- MAC and City of Mesa Engineering have engaged an on-call design consultant team
- Contractor has completed base mapping and data gathering and is working towards a 60% design submittal to renovate the Arroyo
- City Council's Climate Action Plan includes a focus area of Water Stewardship
- Renovation will reduce overall water flow in the Arroyo water feature



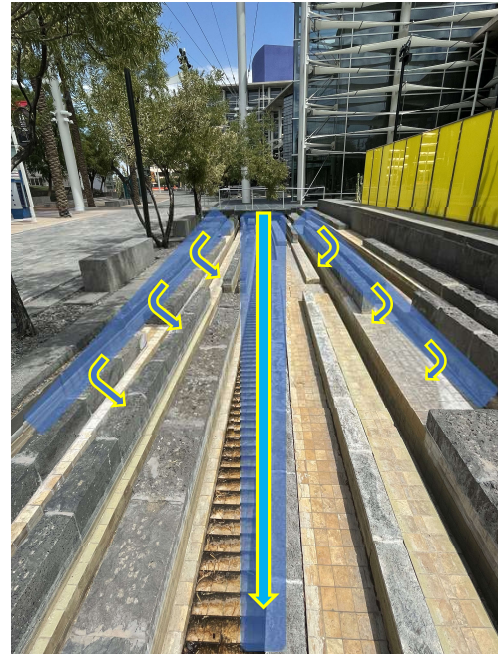
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The Arroyo

Renovation Details:

- Renovation will reduce water flow
 - Original design used three pumps
 - Renovation eliminates two pumps, replaces one pump
 - New pump, piping, and electronics will increase water and energy efficiency
- Shadow walk partially closed during repairs
- Less-Intrusive than full restoration – 6-8 months
- \$2.6M Total Project Cost (Estimated June 2024)



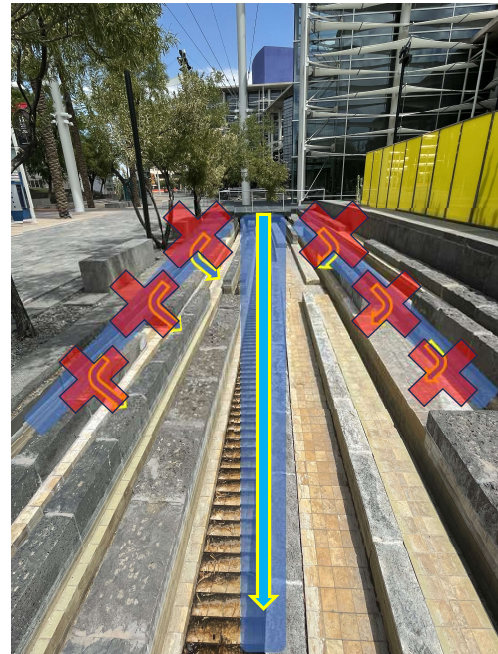
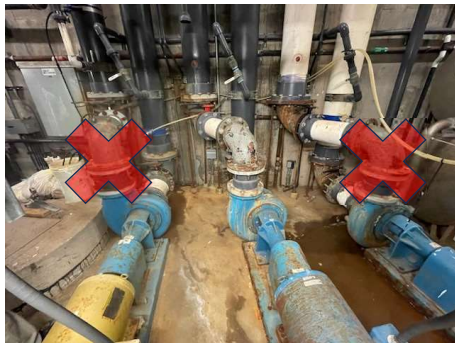
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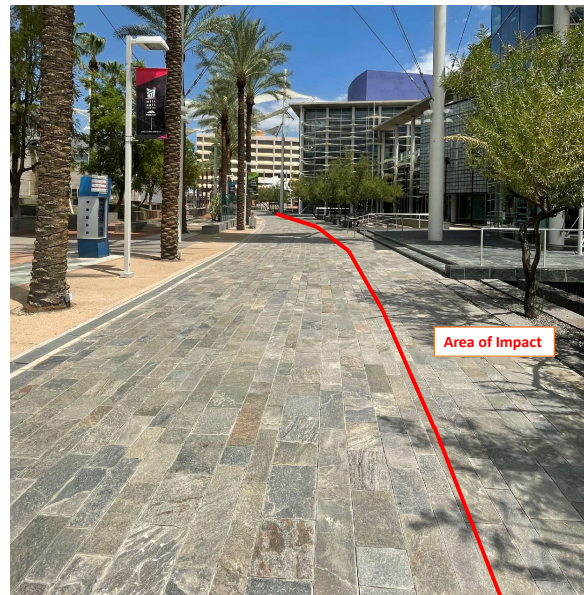


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The Arroyo: Impact to Shadow Walk

- This project will significantly impact the Mesa Arts Center's campus
- Expectation is that it will take six months for on site construction
- Cost estimates include extensive labor to remove and replace the stonework on the shadow walk
- 8" of reinforced concrete underneath the shadow walk requires extensive concrete removal to install new water feature piping
- During construction, a section of the Shadow Walk will remain open to allow for pedestrian circulation.



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Design Discussion Items

- **Waterfall Feature:**
 - Added with the stage.
 - Repairs will adjust the waterfall width to focus on center section of the arroyo feature.



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Design Discussion Items

- **Waterfall Feature:**
 - Added with the stage.
 - Repairs will adjust the waterfall width to focus on center section of the arroyo feature.
- **Headwall & Scuppers:**
 - Repairs will remove scuppers that will not be in use.
 - Repairs will keep the six scuppers in the center.



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Headwall Repairs & Scupper Removal



Current Condition



After Repairs

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Design Discussion Items

- **Waterfall Feature:**
 - Added with the stage.
 - Repairs will adjust the waterfall width to focus on center section of the arroyo feature.
- **Scuppers:**
 - Repairs will remove scuppers that will not be in use.
 - Repairs will keep the six scuppers in the center.
- **Bubbler Troughs:**
 - Repairs will cap the unused bubblers.
 - Bubbler troughs will be filled in with concrete grout with tile on top to match the existing tile.



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Bubbler Trough Repairs



Current Condition



After Repairs

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14

Bubbler Trough Repairs



Current Condition



After Repairs

15

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The Arroyo: Proposed Timeline

MAC Arroyo Fountain Design Schedule	
7/22/2024	Design contract NTP
8/20/2024	Design Status Meeting and Site Visit
11/11/2024	60% Design Submittal
12/09/2024	60% City Review Comments
2/03/2025	90% Design Submittal
3/03/2025	90% City Review Comments
3/31/2025	100% Design Submittal
3/31/2025	JOC Pricing (90% plans)
5/15/2025	Start Construction
11/05/2025	Construction Complete



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EXHIBIT C

“Inspiration of Light and Color”



Artist: Kyllan Maney - <https://www.kyllanmaney.com/>

Theme: Explores the interplay of space, play, time, and observation.

Imagination Focus: Encourages endless possibilities for children's imagination.

Design Elements: Bright color archways, bold and happy colors, and playful dots. Both sides will be painted. Top include new logo.

Attraction: Designed to draw attention from those driving by the museum. Serves as a playful landmark for the museum, increase visibility from down Main Street.

Timeline: Work will be completed by the end of October

Funded by a recent grant from Maricopa County. Additional elements will be added to this corner, including sculptures and musical instruments