Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, One East Main Street, classroom space, on September 24, 2015.

Members Present:

Nancy Aposhian Robert Valverde Dilworth Brinton, Jr. Alyssa Yingling David Dean

Dr. Robbi D. Venditti via phone

Members Absent:

Merlin Ellis Melissa Sue Johnson Michelle Streeter Karina Wilhelm

Staff Present:

Cindy Ornstein Rob Schultz Tom Wilson Sunnee O'Rork

Jean Kaminski

Dr. Robbi D. Venditti, Chair, was out of town, but participated via phone. In her absence, Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Vice-Chair, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 23. There being none, David Dean made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, and Nancy Aposhian seconded the motion. All Board members present unanimously approved the July 23 minutes and they will be posted on the City's website.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Distribute: 2015-2016 Talking Points

Talking points are created and distributed each year to provide Board members with factual information on the Museums and Mesa Arts Center when speaking with the public and legislators. When speaking to the public/legislators, and perhaps media, Cindy Ornstein pointed out that Board members need be clear that they are speaking on their own behalf as a member of the Museum and Cultural Board, and not as a representative of the institution or the Board as a whole.

The Mesa Arts Center (MAC) talking points give an overview of programming for Performing Live, Event Services and Rentals, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, Art Studios, Volunteer Programming, Community Events Programming, and Engagement (formerly Education Outreach) programming. It describes what the programs are about and what they strive to accomplish. See Exhibit A

The Arizona Museum of Natural History talking points cover the diversity of their programs and provides information on last year's participation and school tours; renovations to Dinosaur Mountain; new exhibition "Cultures of the Ancient Americas; number of objects the Museum cares for; information on Mesa Grande; field research projects; and the number of volunteer hours and value to the City for last fiscal year. See Exhibit B

The i.d.e.a. Museum talking points provides background on who they are; the name change from Arizona Museum for Youth to the i.d.e.a. Museum; attendance and membership numbers; the Museum's goal, vision and mission; information on the three galleries; the HUB gallery; offerings available; ArtVille Gallery; and information on additional spaces, i.e., the Black Light Room, Atrium, and the Snackery. See Exhibit C

Staff Reports

i.d.e.a. Museum – Sunnee O'Rork

- The i.d.e.a. Museum had 1,200 child and 650 adult footprints leading patrons from the Country Club Light Rail station to the Museum. During the free period on opening day (9 a.m. – noon on August 22), the i.d.e.a. Museum saw 103
- To continue the Light Rail Opening, the Museum will open a new exhibition next Thursday "All Aboard Trains!" which has two actual trains in the exhibition. Working with Valley Metro and Pioneer Park, the Museum was able to acquire a bell, an engine, and several historical parts for the exhibition.
- Jennifer Herrema from Valley Leadership provided a presentation as part of the Museum's "Once Upon a Time" exhibition. Valley Leadership created a children's book which was part of a Collaborative Community Project to encourage the use of community gardens, the availability of wholesome foods, and sustainable growing practices by way of aquaponics.
- The Museum saw 33,148 visitors for "Once Upon a Time," and realized just under \$100,000 in revenue the largest numbers ever.
- The Museum had an Arts Consulting Group come to conduct a Development Assessment and Strategic Recommendations profile for the Museum.
- The Museum is working to update the HUB and again working with Kimberly Swisher from ASU the artist who designed the soundscape activity in the HUB. She will be changing the sound profile to either sounds from space or

underwater fantasy; the Museum is planning an "Underwater Fanta-Sea" exhibition for this spring. In preparation for that exhibition, Barry Sparkman and Dena Milliron have been meeting with the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes at ASII

- Staff has met with Dawn Giles to plan the fall Art Masterpieces program at the Museum. Ms. Giles is on the Board for Art Masterpieces.
- Staff met with 105 ASU students for an eProject at the Museum to promote the upcoming "Animated Walls."
- New Officers were elected to the i.d.e.a. Museum Board: Jennifer Duff is Board chair; Dawn Giles, vice-chair; Jennifer Clack, Treasurer; Andy Witts, secretary; and Elaine Morrison, member-at-large.
- Sunnee O'Rork has been nominated for an Athena Award. Winners will be announced at the October 29 luncheon.
- Latonya Jordan Smith, Marketing Director, has left the Museum after seven years of service. She is staying on as a contract employee until someone has been hired for the position. The position will be posted on the City's website on October 2 for two weeks.

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Mesa Grande parking lot extension and trail improvements were finished the week of September 21 doubling the onsite parking area. Trail improvements included building some artificial dig pits that are now in place.
- The Museum has partnered with Mesa Arts Center on the National Geographic Live programming and will forge an even stronger relationship this year participating actively in this year's school programs for National Geographic Live.
- The Light Rail opening was lots of fun at the Museum; 1,119 large and baby authentic dinosaur tracks began at the Center Street Light Rail Station to the Museum and brought a lot of people. The Museum placed their T-Rex by the Main Street Station and a Stegosaur at Macdonald and Main. Approximately 1,800 people visited the Museum in the first two hours. The Museums, as part of a Light Rail collaboration were open free from 9 a.m. noon on August 22.
- The Museums, along with Mesa Arts Center, shrink-wrapped a full rail car with images from the three Arts & Culture facilities with the theme "Create and Discover."
- The Museum finished July with revenue of \$98,500, which is the most money ever made in one month in the history
 of the Museum.
- The upcoming exhibition is the "Dinosaur Petting Zoo." This exhibition will contain a lot of creative and interactives for the family opening sometime this fall.
- The Museum has been working on a new website with a kick-off date of October 12.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts - Rob Schultz

- Artspace was in town to meet with potential funders and to meet with their architect and landscape designer. They also presented an update to City Council on the status of the project. The housing project is for live/work spaces for artists that includes studios within their living space. Mesa's project will house approximately 55 artists in downtown Mesa at Hibbert between 1st and 2nd Ave. There will be ample opportunities for the artists to interact with the Arts & Culture Department and we will be looking for ways to utilize the artists and involve them in community building in the downtown area and beyond. Cindy Ornstein added that the presentation to Council is available for viewing on the City of Mesa's website showing the design of the building and the plan that outlines the community spaces.
- InFlux Valley-wide projects in the Public Art field that bring temporary Public Art to downtown empty store fronts and/or other community/public areas. This year, 11 cities will participate and this will be Mesa's fourth year. Mesa Arts Center is partnering with NEDCO to bring one project to the downtown area. The new project is hoped to be installed by the December holidays. The artist selection panel will meet in the next couple of weeks.
- The current InFlux project, Animal Land, is in the Ikeda Theater and is a series of projections on the lobby glass walls facing south. The imagery will be updated to wolves in October in conjunction with a project that Mesa Arts Center is doing in partnership with the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project in Flagstaff. On October 21, storyteller Sunnny Dooley will present The Story of Leadership and the Wisdom of Wolf in the Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater. Ms. Dooly will present a traditional Navajo story about how Mai Tso (big wolf) helps people by bringing integrity to leadership, a cultural guide for proper human behavior, and a positive story about wolves. Tickets are \$10 and is a fundraiser for the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project.
- On Wednesday, September 9, the American Masters PBS film special on Pedro Guerrero was presented at Mesa Arts
 Center in the Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater on his life and photography followed by an on-site discussion on his
 work Zarco Guerrero, local artist and a nephew of Pedro, was part of the panel discussion. 75 members of the
 Guerrero family were present at the film screening.
- On Thursday, September 10, MAC Talk presented Cheech Marin who spoke about his life as an actor on TV and film,
 his role as an arts advocate, some history behind the 10 pieces who selected for the exhibition, and his passion for
 collecting Chicano art. The following evening his exhibition titled "Take 10" opened in the Mesa Contemporary Arts
 Museum.

- On Friday, September 11, was the opening of five new exhibitions at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum: 10 x 10; Take 10 The Past Decade of Collecting by Cheech Marin; Chicano State of Mind; Yonder Peasant . . . the Photography of Pedro E. Guerrero; and Curatorial Spotlight: Ricardo Ruiz. A few days after the opening of the exhibition, Patty Haberman, MCA Curator, received an e-mail from Cheech Marin stating that he had been exhibiting his works for a long time, but had never seen his work displayed so well; 3,300 people visited the galleries that evening.
- The Artist Cooperative is open once again for the season. They have completely paid off their loan to the Mesa Arts Center Foundation (the loan was made to buy the fixtures in the store and the custom made desk/counter) and started the year out of debt.
- Day of the Dead celebration is October 24 from 10 a.m. 5 p.m. and October 25 from noon 5 p.m.

Director's Report – Cindy Ornstein

• The Downtown Business Community met with approximately 25 different groups creating a one page document with the Downtown Mesa vision with key priorities that was presented to Council. See Attachment D

The vision reads "Downtown is an innovative, art-centered, quality-focused, eclectic blend of old and new." It continues, "Downtown Mesa is alive with options day and night, is connected to local and regional residents and visitors, and offers a variety of active and safe gathering spaces. Downtown Mesa is the location of choice to live, work and relax."

Cindy pointed out that in the Key Priorities there are several that are related to arts and culture, i.e., Arts, Entertainment and Events, and Heritage. Under "Arts" it reads "Build on the investment made in the Mesa Arts Center and museums to leverage and incubate a more established local downtown arts and maker space scene and to develop a younger, hip arts culture and vibe downtown."

This year, staff looked at the Season Kick-off event differently because it was also the kick-off for MAC's 10 Year Celebration. This year involved three nights of events prior to the Season Kick-off on September 11. Rob Schultz shared earlier the Wednesday night's screening of Pedro Guerrero and the Thursday night talk with Cheech Marin. The Friday night festival ran from 6 – 11 p.m. rather than the usual 10 p.m. time and happily, because of the types of activities and the engagement of the activities, at 11 p.m. there were still people in the galleries and on the Shadow Walk dancing and enjoying the campus.

MAC hosted Ballet Hispanico, a New York based Dance Company, for the second week of festivities to celebrate 10 years of MAC. Lincoln Center is filming a series of movies called "Lincoln Center at the Movies," and their first series is about *Great American Dance*. They filmed Ballet Hispanico here at MAC and the film will be distributed world-wide in theaters; the MAC filming is due to be shown in theaters in November.

MAC presented a culmination of events to continue the opening of the 10 Year Celebration. On September 24, Wynton Marsalis will be in a conversation at the Herberger with the Dean of the Herberger Institute at ASU, Steven Tepper, to a sold out audience. On September 25, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis will perform for a Mesa Arts Center Foundation fundraiser (followed by a dessert reception with Wynton Marsalis) to benefit MAC Outreach programs; then on September 26, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and special guest The Phoenix Symphony will perform in the Ikeda Theater.

It is the hope of Mesa Arts Center, throughout this year celebrating the 10th year, to have high profile events to bring attention to new audiences and deliver a message about Mesa Arts Center's brand – that we hold quality very dear. There will be special promotions, special offers, and several featured events throughout this 10th year.

• A major feature this year is a project from Street Pianos called "Play Me, I'm Yours." Street Pianos is an international touring artwork project devised by British artist Luke Jerram, and has appeared in cities around the world. The Mesa Arts Center Foundation has agreed to help sponsor the event that will totally be a community engagement event. For six weeks the pianos will live in public spaces, available for the community to play and enjoy. We are hoping to get 20 plus pianos donated that an artist will help lead a group of community volunteers to transform the pianos into a playable, visual art piece. The pianos will be on exhibition from February 26 through April 9. To kick-off the event, there will be a fundraiser at Mesa Arts Center on the Shadow Walk on February 26 with all the pianos displayed with a public event the following evening. Following the public opening on February 27, the pianos will be placed in their respective locations – primarily in Downtown Mesa along Main Street, near Mesa Museums and Libraries, on Mesa Arts Center's campus and at numerous other accessible and open-to-the-public locations, including several satellite

locations throughout the city. This free exhibition in Mesa is Street Pianos' Arizona premiere that will offer performance and music for the public 24/7.

There will be special covers made to protect the pianos from weather and each piano will have a "piano buddy" who watches out for weather changes and will keep it dry; the pianos will also be turned as needed.

What will become of the pianos that have made it through the six week exhibition period has not been decided todate. Some cities have auctioned them off and/or donated them to community organizations. It will be assessed and decided when the exhibition is underway.

If interested, you can view some of the pianos that have been in other cities at www.streetpianos.com. – go to videos and especially check out the third video on the next to last row from Melbourne.

- Mesa Arts Center is updating their website and hope to have it up and running within the next month or two. Staff will be able to do much more on the new website than they can do on the current one.
- The Outreach Education Office has changed their name to Engagement Office. Engagement is what they are focused
 on engaging audiences and providing more meaningful experiences better describes what the Engagement Office
 does.
- Nancy Wolter, Mesa Arts Center's Development Director for close to 30 years, has retired. Interviews are taking place and staff is hopeful that we will be able to make an offer soon.

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

David Dean has been on NPR two Saturdays discussing historical dates, elections, etc.

Nancy Aposhian attended the Season Opening Kick-off event and had a wonderful time – her son especially loved the cars and break-dancing competition. Loved the vibe.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Vice-Chair, attended the Light Rail Opening.

The next scheduled meeting date is November 19, 2015, 4 p.m. at the Museum of Natural History

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ornstein, Director Arts and Culture Department

Exhibit A



Mesa Arts Center Talking Points - 2015

Mesa Arts Center (MAC) is the largest and most comprehensive multi-disciplinary arts facility in the State of Arizona, with over 212,000 square feet on a campus of seven acres. Located at the crossroads of downtown Mesa at the corner of Center and Main Streets, Mesa Arts Center reflects the City's proud tradition of family and community. In FY14-15, approximately 452,000 people were served through MAC programs and outreach activities, and overall revenue totaled \$5.8 million.

Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center presents world-class national and international artists. Broadway style theater, classical and pop music, world and ethnic performers, and a spectrum of dance and family entertainment are part of the experience on the Shadow Walk and in the four theatres: Tom and Janet Ikeda Theatre – 1,588 seats; Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theatre – 550 seats; Nesbitt/Elliott Playhouse Theater – 200 seats; and Anita Cox Farnsworth Studio Theatre – 99 seats. In FY14-15, over 85,000 people attended Performing Live performances, racking up \$3 million in ticket sales.

Event Services and Rentals host performances and events on campus by the MAC's Founding Resident Companies, and outside arts and user organizations not part of the Performing Live program. In FY14-15, Event Services had attendance of over 155,000, and posted over \$1.1 million in revenue.

Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) features 5,500 square feet of visual art exhibition space. In five stunning galleries, curated and juried exhibitions of contemporary art by emerging and internationally known visual artists are showcased. Exhibitions are supplemented by public receptions, gallery talks by exhibiting artists, lectures by museum professionals, avant-garde films about the arts, arts education outreach activities, and a volunteer docent program. In FY14-15, over 21,500 visitors attended MCA.

Art Studios offer a comprehensive program of community arts education classes, workshops, and lectures for youth and adults of all skill levels. Courses are offered in a variety of media, including acting, ceramics, dance, drama, drawing, glass, jewelry, metals, music, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and more. Three class semesters are offered annually in fall, winter/spring, and summer. In FY14-15, participation was over 34,000, with \$700,000 in class fee revenue.

Volunteer Program at the Mesa Arts Center utilizes the talents of community members to assist in the expansion and improvement of services to the public. Volunteering at the Mesa Art Center is the perfect opportunity to give back to the community and enjoy and support the arts. In FY14-15, volunteers contributed 39,117 hours of their time, valued at over \$906,000.

Community Events Program presented the MAC Fall Opening, El Dia de los Muertos Festival, Mesa Arts Festival, and spark! Mesa's Festival of Creativity – all free to the public. The program also includes our popular Out to Lunch Concert Series in fall and spring. In FY 14-15, over 65,000 people enjoyed free festivals and outdoor concerts.

Arts Education Outreach provides education activities to supplement Performing Live, MCA, and Community Events, along with Jazz from A to Z, Band Director Academy, Creative Arts Partnership with Mesa Public Schools, Culture Connect, Community Residencies and Master Classes, Creative Aging, and Basic Arts. In FY14-15, the program served 215 local/regional schools and over 44,000 youth and adult participants.

Exhibit B



Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH)

The mission of the Arizona Museum of Natural History is to inspire wonder, understanding and respect for the natural and cultural history of the Southwest.

AzMNH is the premier natural history museum in Arizona.

Over 122,000 visitors enjoyed AzMNH in 2014-2015, and over 2.3 million since 2000.

35,000 school children visit the Museum annually on school tours.

Dinosaur Mountain was renovated with three new animatronic dinosaurs in 2015, and the exhibition *Cultures of the Ancient Americas* highlights new donations to the Museum.

AzMNH cares for over 60,000 objects of natural history, anthropology, history and art, and houses over 10,000 historic photographs.

Mesa Grande Cultural Park opened to the public in January 2013. Mesa Grande, one of the few surviving Hohokam platform mounds in Arizona, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is an Arizona 2012 Centennial Legacy Project.

AzMNH conducts field research projects in paleontology and archaeology and presents the results in publications and exhibitions.

Last year, volunteers contributed 19,417 hours to AzMNH, the equivalent of over nine full time staff. The hours that the volunteers gave to the Museum are valued at \$447,950.



• After 35 years as the go-to museum for original, fun, inspiring and educational hands-on art experiences, a new era in art, creativity and imagination began on Feb. 7, 2014 when the Arizona Museum for Youth officially opens its doors as the i.d.e.a. Museum.

Since opening we have exponentially grown our annual attendance from 62,000 to just under 105,000 and our membership has increased by 36% to 2,300 family households.

- Imagination. Design. Experience. Art. our guiding creative thrust.
- The **i.d.e.a. Museum** creatively enhances, improves and expands our use of art and art-inspired activities by adding science, engineering, technology and design in multi-sensory experiences.
- Our goal: providing even more opportunities for families to create together.
- Our passion: to develop individual and collective creativity in its many forms, not just art.
- Our vision: a place for your child and the child within you.

Interactive spaces include:

Whiteman Family Exhibition Gallery:

- 3 fun, educational hands-on art exhibitions will be presented each year incorporating S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts through local, national and international artists' work.
- Our goal: inspire children to tap into their own imagination and creativity using art to appreciate different viewpoints and cultures.
- Current Exhibition: All Aboard Trains!

HUB Gallery:

☐ Like the central part of a wheel or a computer networking device where several routes meet, HUB is designed for diverse activities leading the explorer to one's own imagination.

It is the intersection of imagination and experience through collaborative making, spontaneous creation, full-body movement, problem-solving and inspiration.

Among the offerings:

Oodles of Doodles: let your inner child loose or collabradoodle with your child.

•iArt: Visitors will create their own iArt-works similar to what Curator Deborah McMillon-Nering gathers together using images by local and national artists

- Me & My Big Idea: celebrating the ideas and idea-makers that have changed the world. Let us know what your greatest idea is for the world.
- **Soundscape**: full body, interactive sound and movement activities that explore other "sound worlds." Developed by digital sound artist Kim Headlee who originally designed the activity for Autistic children.
- **Recyclery:** reuse and recycle materials to "make" individual artwork or projects inspired by "green artists" whose works are on display.
- Tech Table: interactive activities and games on a light-and-motion enhanced table at child level.
- **Design Our World**: re-imagine or design the next phase of the i.d.e.a. Museum outdoor space using your ideas and solutions. Draw inspiration from examples that ASU students created for the next 35 years.

ArtVille Gallery

- Immerse yourself and your children in our national trend-setting, larger-than-life art town.
- Experience key developmental and neurological milestones in children from birth to 4 years.
- Help shape motor skills, tactile senses, early literacy, vocabulary, self-expression and imagination through:
- Wee Design & Build: a new space for early learners to imagine, create, be curious and discover. Build with LEGO Duplo blocks, columns, roofs, bridges, characters and vehicles; create splashes of color in our lighted "Pixel Wall" or larger color mosaics in a specially designed light table.
- S.T.E.A.M. Train & TOT Depot: the train engine and depot may stand still, but not the mind of a child playing with real buttons, dials and levers carrying the train down a simulated video track. Help us name our lady train.
- *Town Squares* (soft blocks): our engaging, collaborative space to build teamwork, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking and quality family time.
- Art's Studio: a new wet and messy space for little artists to create to their heart's content.
- **Performing Arts Center**: a stage, costumes, instruments and props perfect for self-expression and dramatic play.
- Art's Puppet Gallery: Have lots of family fun sharing popular tales through puppets.
- Art's Living Room: a cozy place to hang out, read, do puzzles and view art.
- **Art's Kitchen**: an active space for imaginative play, cooperation, social interaction and motor-skill development.

Additional Spaces:

Blacklight Room is a fan favorite. Experience a glow in the dark space and exercise your imagination, no matter what's inside.

Atrium is an outdoor space open for visitors to picnic, relax and enjoy self-guided educational activities. (Closed May-August due to heat.)

Snackery is an indoor lounge area for visitors to eat a picnic lunch they have brought to the museum. There are also vending machines for convenience.

The Museum offers classes, workshops, family days and tours. For more information go to **www.ideaMuseum.org**

DOWNTOWN

is an innovative, art-centered, quality-focused, eclectic blend of old and new.

Downtown Mesa is alive with options day and night, is connected to local and regional residents and visitors, and offers a variety of active and safe gathering spaces.

> Downtown Mesa is the location of choice to live, work and relax.

Key Priorities

Light Rail:

Ensure light rail is a catalyst to create sustainable, transit-oriented development and economies.

Partnerships:

Keep stakeholders well involved, informed and partners in Downtown Mesa's future. Seek ways to work together and avoid duplication.

Market-Rate Housing:

Promote creative, unique, diverse housing products (large, medium & small scale) and opportunities in and around the Downtown core that attract residents regionally to consider Mesa as their resident city of choice.

· Arts:

Build on the investment made in the Mesa Arts Center and museums to leverage and incubate a more established local downtown arts and maker space scene and to develop a younger, hip arts culture and vibe downtown.

Restaurants and Nightlife:

Continue to actively recruit and deliver a wide variety of indoor/outdoor dining and nightlife options, e.g. 24-7 diner for students, wine bar, and destination restaurants.

Entertainment and Events:

Create a variety of entertainment options and special events, e.g. bowling, theater, nightclubs and signature special events.

Safety and Security:

Proactively prepare to address public safety and security issues that have developed from the transient rider population in and around the light rail system. Consider a bicycle police presence.

Form-Based Code:

Look into making form-based codes the standard for Downtown Mesa and in order to attract creative, qualityoriented developers and entrepreneurs

Public Infrastructure:

Make strategic investments in public infrastructure in and around the downtown core to create a safe and aesthetically pleasing transit/ pedestrian-oriented connections to and from surrounding neighborhoods, e.g. linear pedestrian paseos and parks and new/refreshed streetscaping and shade along Main Street, and creative use of alleys such as pedestrian thoroughfares, opening storefronts onto alleys, alley cafes, etc.

Heritage:

Ensure Mesa's historical assets are celebrated and preserved, e.g. remove stucco and uncover Main Street historic character and architecture.

Promote Downtown:

Be proactive and intentional in promoting Downtown Mesa as the hot area for entrepreneurs, artists, students and businesses.

 Parking and Wayfinding: Ensure parking is available and easy to find. Consider making surface parking lots, on-street parking, and parking structures an economic development tool to attract and stimulate creative development, e.g. developers could buy into these parking assets in exchange for reduced on-site parking requirements.

