

## Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Revised Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at Mesa Arts Center, third floor, south Studios Building on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

### Members Present:

Nancy Aposhian  
Dilworth Brinton, Jr.  
Jocelyn Condon  
Gladys Contreras

David Dean  
Michael Darr  
Melissa Sue Johnson  
Alycia Perry

### Members Absent:

Benjamin Rundall  
Michelle Streeter  
Karina Wilhelm

### Staff Present:

Rob Schultz Tom Wilson  
Jean Kaminski

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Public Comments:** No members of the public were present.

### Approval of Minutes: Gladys Contreras, Chair

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called for any corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of September 28. There being none, Dr. David Dean made a motion to approve the September 28 minutes, and Jocelyn Condon seconded the motion. The Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of September 28 and they will be posted on the City's website.

### Introduction of New Board Members Alycia Perry – Gladys Contreras

Gladys Contreras, Chair, introduced Alycia Perry to the Board and invited her to tell a little about herself. Ms. Perry is a native of Arizona, fourth generation. She grew up in Lehi and is a musician working primarily in brand and marketing within the community. Welcome!

### Information: Update on Dinosaur Façade at AzMNH – Tom Wilson

Dr. Wilson distributed some images of the façade that will be installed on the outside of the Arizona Museum of Natural History facing Pepper Street. **See Exhibit A.**

The Museum is installing a full-size dinosaur busting forth from the Museum. The façade will be visible from Light Rail, and will be approximately 12 feet off the ground.

The first fundraising phase raised \$250,000 for the manufacturing of the façade; Phase II is raising \$150,00 for the installation, which is going well.

The white images in Exhibit are made of foam and will be coated with fiberglass that will create a detailed, sculpted look. The process is on schedule and on budget. Installation will take place around the third or fourth week of April, with an unveiling event upon completion.

Dr. Wilson added that this will be an iconic image that will draw people to the Museum and to downtown Mesa.

### Staff Reports

#### i.d.e.a. Museum – Rob Schultz reported for Sunnee O'Rork

- Invitations were sent out, including to Museum and Cultural Advisory Board members, for the VIP opening reception on February 8, 5 – 7 p.m., for the "Sonoran Safari" exhibition. In addition to the usual snacks, they will be serving cake to celebrate their 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the i.d.e.a. Museum, although the Museum (formerly the Arizona Museum for Youth) will turn 40 on December 6, 2018.
- Staff continues to meet with City Engineer, Trevor Colin, and Environmental Management and Sustainability staff on the Museum's lighting project.
- The Museum hosted ASU Design Students on December 6, to install their capstone project, Pause + Play. for the installations final review. The event included 75 Porter Elementary sixth graders, who informed the project, to observe the installation and enjoy lunch.
- The Museum is kicking off the Mesa K Ready program tonight, January 25, from 5 – 7 p.m.; Sunnee O'Rork was unable to attend the meeting today to prepare for the event.
- The Bloomerang and Audience View software upgrade projects are underway with a plan to launch them by July 1, as part of the Agile Project funded by Piper Trust.
- Gyroscope has completed the 50% Master Site plan for the Museum. Ms. O'Rork will present the plan to the Board at a later date.

## Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Dr. Wilson had nothing further to add to his report on the dinosaur façade above.

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

- Registration for summer classes, including summer arts camp, begins April 13. Billy Jones, who currently oversees classes, will be retiring in May after over 30 years of service at Mesa Arts Center beginning as a volunteer, a performer, and eventually an employee.
- Arts in Service is a new program through a grant from Boeing Corporation providing free arts classes for service members, active or retired, that do not have to be strictly in the US military. Six classes are being offered this spring session.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum will host their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition with a VIP reception on February 9 from 6 – 7 p.m., and a public reception from 7 – 10 p.m.

## **Assistant Director’s Report – Rob Schultz**

- Installation of the Fantastic Planet’s bigger-than-life inflatable sculptures will begin around April 30/May 1 to be up by May 4. Five sites have been selected; waiting for one final site selection. May 4 is the soft opening of the sculptures along with Motorcycles on Main, with events at i.d.e.a. Museum and Arizona Museum, as well, that evening. The American Alliance for Museums is holding a conference in Phoenix and will be coming to Mesa for an evening event at Mesa Arts Center on May 6. They will be shuttled to the Museums and MAC so they will see the sculptures along the way – expecting hundreds, possibly a thousand, conference attendees to be in Mesa. The sculptures will be up for nine days.
- spark! Mesa’s Festival of Creativity is coming on Saturday, March 17, from noon to 11 p.m., and on Sunday, March 18, from 10 – 5 p.m. This year the festival will feature uniquely creative art cars. We are expecting approximately 15 art cars that will be in the parking lot at MAC.
- Artspace lofts will be completed in a couple of months; the project began in 2012. They are now accepting applications for 50 live/work artist spaces. In February, a panel will convene to review the applications and determine who will be accepted to live there. If you know of anyone who might be interested, encourage them to apply.

Nancy Aposhian asked if there was a term limit on how long an artist can live there and was the price the same as the going rate for rentals? Mr. Schultz responded that there is no term limit on how long an artist can live there, and the pricing is well below the market rate, but can fluctuate as the market rate changes.

Jocelyn Condon asked the size of the lofts. Mr. Schultz stated that there are 1, 2, and 3-bedroom lofts available that have studio space within the loft. There is also a large open space in the center on the main level with space for receptions, and exhibitions.

Mr. Schultz added that the term artist is broad and you do not need to earn a living as an artist to qualify to live there.

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

**Dr. David Dean** reported that he visited the Pompeii exhibition at the Phoenix Science Center. After visiting Pompeii last summer, he was impressed with the exhibition. The exhibition runs through May 28.

“In this blockbuster exhibition, guests become time travelers, transported to the bustling commercial port and strategic military and trading center of Pompeii. Over 200 precious artifacts on loan from the unparalleled collection of the Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy, including wall-sized frescoes, mosaics, marble and bronze sculptures, jewelry, statues and ancient Roman coins, bring to life how Pompeii’s people lived, loved, work, worshiped and celebrated. In perhaps the most powerful portion of the exhibition, exquisite body casts of adults and children vividly communicate the emotions of the victims.”

Dr. Dean’s car club has an arts initiative that supports youth arts, aiming to interest and involve new young members in the club. The Club went to the Spotlight Youth Theatre in Glendale to see their performance of “Cabaret,” and they were impressed with the performers. They are looking for other experiences, that involve young people in the East Valley, to purchase a block of tickets and present a club donation to support that arts organization.

Mr. Schultz invited Dr. Dean to bring his car club to spark! Mesa’s Festival of Creativity in March to see the art cars.

**Jocelyn Condon** attend the Dave Koz Holiday show at Mesa Arts Center, recommended by Board Member Michael Darr. Even though her husband wasn't enthused about going, his comment after the performance was, why haven't we come to this every year?

**Alycia Perry** commented that she teaches at ASU for the School of Sustainability, as well as Benedictine University in Mesa. ASU took an EMSL (Executive Master of Sustainability Leadership) group on a tour at ASU to see the changes to ASU's Tempe campus focusing on changes in the intersection of public art, sustainability, and urban gardens. One noted change was replacing old sculptures with solar sculptures.

They also visited the Net Zero Student Pavilion Energy building. This was a student lead initiative to create a building for the student group which is completely net zero, meaning they are not putting out any more carbon than they are picking up. The building is not only functional, but artistically designed.

Ms. Perry, new to the Board, added that she had heard of the solar canopy discussions for Mesa Arts Center's parking lot and sees that as an excellent opportunity to look at the intersection of public art, architecture, and sustainability for Mesa.

***The next scheduled meeting date is***

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ornstein, Director  
Arts and Culture Department

Exhibit A



