

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Revised Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

Members Present:

Nancy Aposhian
Dilworth Brinton, Jr.
Jocelyn Condon
Gladys Contreras

Michael Darr
David Dean
K. Alycia Perry
Karina Wilhelm

Members Not Present:

Melissa Sue Johnson
Benjamin Rundall
Michelle Streeter

Staff Present:

Cindy Ornstein Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson Jeffory Morris
Jean Kaminski

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes from the May 24 Meeting: Gladys Contreras

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called for any corrections to the minutes of May 24. Alycia Perry noted that her name was misspelled two times on the second page of the May 24 minutes. There being no other corrections, Karina Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction to Ms. Perry's name, and Nancy Aposhian seconded the motion. The Board members present unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 24, with the correction, and they will be posted on the City's website.

Take Action – Elect a new Chair for FY2018-2019 – Gladys Contreras

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called for nominations to elect a new Chair for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Gladys Contreras, Chair, nominated Karina Wilhelm, and she accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Board unanimously voted Karina Wilhelm as the new Chair for FY18-19.

Take Action – Elect a new Vice-Chair for FY2018-2019 – Gladys Contreras

Gladys Contreras, Chair, called for nominations to elect a new Vice-Chair for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Alycia Perry nominated Nancy Aposhian, and she accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Board unanimously voted Nancy Aposhian as the new Vice-Chair for FY18-19.

Information and Presentation – i.d.e.a. Museum Gyroscope Master Site Plan – Jeff Morris

Jeff Morris, Curator for the i.d.e.a. Museum, presented the i.d.e.a. Museum's Master Site Plan which the Museum has been working on for approximately 16 months. The Museum was selected as one of four organizations (i.d.e.a. Museum, Arizona Opera, Children's Museum of Phoenix, and Childsplay) to participate in the Virginia G. Piper Trusts' special program called AGILE. Through this program, the Museum has learned more about themselves and how to be a more sustainable organization. As part of this program, the Museum has written two grants for a total of \$375,000; \$100,000 of which was used to look at a Master Site Plan for the Museum. The Museum brought in an organization called Gyroscope Inc., from Oakland, CA, which is well known in the museum world for assisting museums in looking at site plans and making organizations more dynamic and helping them to attain sustainability.

Mr. Morris presented a Power Point presentation that was presented to City Council on April 10. ***See Exhibit A.***

The presentation included the Museum's Mission, information on the steps they have taken to create a Master Site Plan; what they learned from their focus groups, staff, and Board meetings (Make it Better, Not Bigger); and how they will raise the funds to make the plan a reality – through a \$5 million City of Mesa Bond that will be on the November ballot, as well as donations through public and private matching funds.

Information and Discussion – Strategic Plan Update (Mission, Vision, and Outcomes) – Cindy Ornstein

Cindy shared that the objectives are still being revised but the intention of each has been defined, and they include: staff professional development to increase our capacity to achieve the desired outcomes, engaging a variety of perspectives and people in our projects and organization, listening to and partnering with the community, working with exciting and diverse artists to bring many perspectives to audiences, expanding opportunities for personal creative development accessible to a broad range of people and locations, improving the MAC campus as a gathering place, and increasing awareness of and participation in MAC programs.

Ms. Ornstein asked the Board if they had any input after reading through the document. The Board agreed that the document was well written; Alycia Perry noted that she didn't see anything specifically mentioning education. Ms. Ornstein explained that this was the foundation for the Strategic Plan and relates to all programming at MAC. Each program area is working on their Strategies to tie into the Vision, Mission and Outcomes which will be specific to each area, including educational programming. Ms. Ornstein is hoping to have a completed document by fall and that she will share with the Board before it is finalized for any additional input.

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- Tom Wilson reported that the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) is attracting record revenue this month, and as of July 26 the Museum had earned \$90,000 for the month. Among the reasons for this robust attendance are attractions like the Dinosaur Façade, a very successful Summer Camp season, and AzMNH exhibitions. Exhibitions highlight the Museum's collections, many of which are given to AzMNH by generous donors. Dr. Wilson discussed four recent donations as examples. ***See Exhibit B.***

One is a set of three carved bones from the Chavin culture from the Andes of Peru. Chavin was one of the earliest major civilizations of South America, and these objects showing figures outlined by incised lines infilled with cinnabar, date from 800-200 BC. Another work of art is a globular vessel with a human head from the Moche culture from the north coast of Peru, dating AD 200-700. From the Maya area of Mexico and Central America is an incense burner of the goddess Ixcacao, shown with cacao beans (cocoa, chocolate) on her body, from the Late Classic period, AD 600-900. The final donation is a magnificent incense burner from Teotihuacan, the great urban center in Central Mexico, AD 200-650. The ceramic composition has about 45 appliqué elements built into a stunning design ensemble. The Museum builds its collections through such monumental generosity, which in turn helps drive revenue for the Museum through attendance and affords opportunities to provide educational and engaging opportunities for the people of Mesa and beyond. The Museum will install these items as soon as possible for the public's viewing.

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

- Mesa Arts Center is hosting a special "Welcome to the Neighborhood" for the 50 new residents at Mesa Artspace Lofts; the facility is fully booked. The reception is scheduled for next Friday, August 3, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. This is an opportunity for an informal get-together to introduce ourselves to our new neighbors. Light refreshments and drinks will be available, and the Museum galleries will be open. Mesa Arts Center anticipates developing ways to collaborate with these artists in the coming months. Cindy Ornstein noted that the official public opening of Artspace Lofts will be in January allowing time for the residents to get settled and have some of their work ready for exhibition in their gallery space.
- Mesa Arts Center applied to the Arizona Forward organization for consideration of an Environmental Excellence Award in the category of Art in Public Places. The submittal was for the new *Acrocantliosaurus* sculpture that is bursting out of the south wall of the Arizona Museum of Natural History, highlighted by photographs and a narrative on the project and its impact on downtown Mesa. The awards gala is scheduled for October 6, so we expect to hear prior to that time if this unique sculpture is a winner.
- Mesa Arts Center is assisting the City's Transportation Department in the development of a public art project, focusing on a mural (or similar type of artwork) to adorn the pedestrian/bicycle tunnel beneath the Loop 202, west of Dobson and at the north end of Riverview Park. A call to artists went out in early July for the \$45,000 project and a review panel will meet on August 2 to choose three semi-finalists. Those three semi-finalists will then develop conceptual proposals and one will be selected as the artist for the project. Expected completion date is late fall 2018.
- Mesa Arts Center's Artist Cooperative Store had a great fiscal year; sales were up 15%; net operating income up 20%; and number of visitors to the Store up 19% over last year's figures. The Store is currently closed for the summer for annual deep cleaning and reorganization and will reopen the second week of September prior to the Mesa Arts Center's Season Kickoff event on September 14. Mr. Schultz attributed these increases to the Mesa Arts Center's Marketing staff and the Store's staff for their efforts in getting the word out to the public.

Director's Report – Cindy Ornstein

Cindy Ornstein reported that Mesa Arts Center is experiencing good initial Performing Live sales, which reached almost \$1.2 million as of this morning, July 26.

Bill Passey-Maria Silva proposed a Challenge Grant in support of Project Lit for \$20,000. Last year they provided us with a Challenge Grant of \$10,000 which was met and exceeded. For this larger amount, Mesa Arts Center (MAC) will mount a campaign that will launch in the fall and run through at least the spring of 2018-19 fiscal year.

MAC received a grant of \$47,000 from the Arizona Commission on the Arts 2018-19 fiscal year. The Classical Music Inside Out Series received a grant of \$35,000 from the Gloria Miner Charitable Foundation in support of the program's artistic director, Zuill Bailey. The Arts in Service Program, for which the original pilot last spring was supported by a grant of \$60,000 from The Boeing Company, has received a second-year award from Boeing in the amount of \$75,000, which will enable us to expand this very successful program serving veterans and active military with free studio art programs.

We have hired a new assistant for the Director of Arts and Culture. We have restructured the position, giving some of the former assistant's duties to other administrative staff, and have hired a Management Assistant to provide support on projects and departmental planning and research as well as providing support to the Arts and Culture Director/Mesa Arts Center Executive Director. The new Management Assistant is Sarah Goedicke, and among her duties will be to provide support for the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board. Ms. Goedicke starts her position on July 30.

We are in planning for a new project called Water=Life, inspired by the AZ Community Foundation's AZ Water Public Art Challenge. A group of partners has been assembled including all three Mesa Arts and Culture organizations, and the Mesa Departments of Water Resources, Environment and Sustainability and Parks. Representatives from Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community attended the first planning meeting. We also had the opportunity to present our concept to the Four Southern Tribes Cultural Council and are hoping for partners among the tribal organizations. We have identified two lead artists for the project: visual artist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, who is of Tohono O'odham heritage, and Tony Duncan, who is a Mesa resident, Native American flute player and five-time World Champion hoop dancer, and whose ancestry is San Carlos Apache from AZ, and another out-of-state tribe. They will engage multiple artists in public workshops, creating with the public temporary interpretive artworks for two Hohokam Canal sites at Riverview Park and the Park of the Canals, and creating a multidisciplinary work for a culminating event at Mesa Grande Cultural Park. There will also be an exhibition, "Water's Extreme Journey," and educational/public dialogue opportunities on water sustainability. We've applied for funding to the NEA and will submit to the AZ Water Public Art Challenge.

Cindy Ornstein recognized Dr. Tom Wilson for 15 years of service as the Director of AZ Museum of Natural History. She also acknowledged that he just completed his term as the volunteer Chair of AZ Citizens for the Arts and what a great contribution that was to our State.

Ms. Ornstein shared that she has just been elected to the Executive Committee of the US Urban Arts Federation, a Council of Americans for the Arts that is made up of the Arts and Culture Directors of the 60 largest US cities.

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

Dilworth Brinton, Jr. reported that Randy Vogel gave an excellent presentation to the Mesa Rotary Club on the upcoming 2018-2019 season. Mr. Vogel suggested rather than buying "stuff" for family to consider given them a performance at Mesa Arts Center as a gift. The idea was well received.

Mr. Brinton said he tried to reach staff to let them know he would be arriving late, but he was unable to reach anyone through the voice messaging system. Ms. Ornstein thanked Mr. Brinton for his feedback and said that she would talk to staff regarding the phone tree. Part of the issue was that Jean Kaminski had retired and her replacement will not start until Monday, July 30. Her extension was transferred to another staff member who happened to be out of the office on July 26.

Karina Wilhelm, who works at ASU in the Map and Geo Spectral Hub, will be hosting the 5th Creative Cartography event where participants will create art using maps. There will be an opening reception on November 8 from 4 – 6 p.m.

Ms. Wilhelm also reported that there will be a two-day conference on Mapping the Grand Canyon in early 2019. She will forward information regarding the event to the Board and staff and provide more information at the September meeting.

Michael Darr announced that he submitted his resignation from the Board, as of August 1, due to moving to Sierra Vista; he has enjoyed serving on the Board. Cindy Ornstein and Board Chair, Gladys Contreras, thanked him for his dedicated service.

Alycia Perry reported that she spent some time in Brussels staying at a B&B that was formerly a Contemporary Arts Museum. They still have Contemporary Artwork throughout the B&B – very interesting place to stay.

Jocelyn Condon said that she and her daughter visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NY to see an exhibition on Catholic fashion. She said that throughout the gallery there was organ music playing hymns along with a lot of artwork on display making for a unique exhibition.

Gladys Contreras, Chair, asked to have a discussion regarding the Dairy Queen Sign and the Sally's Fabric sign, which are now both closed, saved in some way and possibly displayed somewhere. There is also the Buckhorn Bath sign and other historic signs that are disappearing in Mesa. The item will be added to the September agenda and Cindy Ornstein will invite someone from the Mesa Historic Preservation Board to come and speak to the Board regarding anything the Board might be able to do in assisting to preserve these signs.

The next scheduled meeting date is Thursday, September 27, 4:00 p.m. Mesa Arts Center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Ornstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department