

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular hybrid meeting via Zoom and at the Mesa Arts Center on Thursday January 22, 2026.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Jania Davis
Colleen Byron

Staff Present:

Luis Ruiz
Sarah Goedicke
Mandy Tripoli
Jarrad Bittner
Simon Tipene Adlam
Kristin McLeod
Jenn Fecteau

Greg DeSimone called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Items from citizens present: There were no citizens present.

Approval of Minutes from the Regular November 20, 2025 meeting:

Melvin Van Vorst moved to approve the minutes as written, and Todd Hanle seconded. Board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes from November 20, and they will be posted on the city's website.

Hear a Presentation on Development opportunities – Jenn Fecteau, Arts and Culture Resources Developer

Jenn Fecteau briefly shared details on the upcoming Mesa Arts Center (MAC) Gala on February 28, 2026. This Gala will focus on programs supporting veterans and active-duty military. MAC will also honor the MAC Alliance for stewarding the building of Mesa Arts Center 21 years ago. The featured performer is Priscilla Presley, with an Old Hollywood glamour theme. The pre-show dinner is sold out but there are still tickets for the show and cocktail event. Board Chair Greg DeSimone has purchased a table on behalf of the Museum & Cultural Advisory Board and there are seats available for Board members. Board members were asked to contact Jenn Fecteau directly to reserve a seat. Jenn asked Sarah Goedicke, Board Liaison, to send the invite out to Board members **(Exhibit A)**.

Jenn also shared that idea museum's Igniting Imagination fundraiser is in April and later in the calendar year will be the next Rock on the Rock at Arizona Museum of Natural History (AZMNH). These are both adult night out events.

Upcoming Events, Volunteer, or Participation Opportunities:

Luis Ruiz, Director of Arts & Culture, shared some info from one of the prior week's City Council study session regarding new KPIs (key performance indicators) based on outcomes rather than outputs. The Department of Arts & Culture fits into the City's "Thriving Community" priority and the department's executive team created a purpose statement **(Exhibit B)**. The Arts & Culture Department exists to connect the public with dynamic, enriching experiences while stewarding community spaces and assets to strengthen Mesa's cultural vibrancy and economic vitality, advancing the City's vision of a thriving and prosperous community. Greg DeSimone stated he thinks this will help the Board help the department and help the Board find more concrete ways to do so.

Jarrad Bittner, idea museum Administrator, thanked the Board for volunteering for January's opening. idea Museum will be open late for Second Friday on February 13, 2026 with an inclusive resource fair and a quiet hour from 4-5pm. The museum will stay open until 8pm.

Simon Tipene Adlam, AZMNH Museum Administrator, shared that redevelopment consultants will be onsite February 13, 2026 to do some community engagement work. This will coincide with Second Friday and it's very important to have the Board present. Staff also created an AZMNH 101 program for the Foundation to shadow staff so they can better advocate for the museum. This is open to members of this Board as well.

Mandy Tripoli, Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center, shared that the second ALT Fest will be on Friday March 13, 2026. She thanked the Board for their volunteerism at Dia de los Muertos and stated that for ALT Fest, MAC staff will need help with Club 48 and registration. Staff hope to expand ALT Fest to two days in coming years.

Kristin McLeod, Marketing Director for Arts & Culture, shared that Arts in Service has an exhibition opening on March 26, 2026 and the exhibition will be open March 26, 2026 through April 5, 2026 at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum has its next opening on Friday February 13, 2026 from 7-10pm, with the Member event starting at 6pm.

Sarah Goedicke shared that the City is holding a Board recruitment event at the Post on March 3, 2026 and Sarah will be present at the event to answer questions from the public. Sarah also emailed this information to the Board. The City has asked for quotes and photos from Board members on why they serve on their Board and Sarah asked Board members to share those with her via email. The City also would like to see Board members attend the event on March 3.

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

Karen Rolston asked if Sarah Goedicke had contacted Susan Ricci, Executive Director of Mesa Historical Museum, about coming to a meeting and Sarah confirmed that Susan will be at the next meeting in March.

Greg DeSimone attended the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performance and was thrilled with both the performance and the great Club 48 experience.

Angela Buer attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade and marched with the MEAD Machine.

Brad Peterson recently visited the new Eastmark Gateway Library and said it's cool to see the city expanding out in that area and the library is an outstanding facility.

The next scheduled meeting date is March 26, 2026, and will be a hybrid meeting on Zoom and at idea Museum Atrium Classroom, 150 W Pepper Pl, Mesa, AZ 85201.

Melvin Van Vorst made a motion to end the meeting and Karen Rolston seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Ruiz
Director of Arts and Culture

EXHIBIT A

Mesa Arts Center

Foundation Gala

✦✦ An arts ignited, elegant evening with Priscilla Presley ✦✦



Saturday, Feb 28 • 5:30–8:00 PM • Mesa Arts Center

Join us for an unforgettable night of style, glamour and giving at the Mesa Arts Center Foundation Gala—an elegant evening featuring the legendary Priscilla Presley. Set against a backdrop of timeless sophistication, this exclusive event celebrates the enduring legacy of compassion and community. Guests will enjoy dinner, live entertainment and heartfelt storytelling as we honor the spirit of generosity that makes our mission possible, making a lasting impact for those we serve.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Check-in opens at 5:30 PM

Dinner served at 6:00 PM

Program begins at 6:30 PM

Priscilla Presley's performance starts at 8:00 PM



ATTIRE

Old Hollywood Glamour

EXHIBIT B

ARTS & CULTURE

The Arts & Culture Department exists to **connect the public with dynamic, enriching experiences while stewarding community spaces and assets** to strengthen Mesa's cultural vibrancy and economic vitality, **advancing the City's vision of a thriving and prosperous community.**

PERFORMANCEPLUS
ENVISION. ELEVATE. IMPACT.

- WHY WE EXIST
- OUTCOMES-base of kpis
- HOW WE ALIGN TO THE PRIORITIES