

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

REGULAR MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 600 River Street, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Aida Cerda-Prazak, Vice Chair

Art Navarro, Member

Endi Silva, Member

Claudia Massey, Member

Tomas Salas, Member

David Goujon, Member

Rosemary Banda, Member

Nelly Garcia, Member

Board Members Absent:

Andrea Chavez, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager

Tina Herrera, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant

A. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak called the Board Meeting to order at 6:08pm.

B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

1. Gonzalo Barrientos, Former Senator let the Board and audience know that he would not speak unless there were questions.
2. Jaime Castillo, Chair of the Arts Commission invited the Board to attend a joint meeting by the Arts and Music Commission on Saturday, June 8th from 10am-1pm at the Asian American Resource Center.
 - He reminded the Board that on November of 2018 voters approved a Bond package that included 12 million dollars for creative spaces. The Arts Commission formed a working group consisting of (2) members from the Music Commission and (3) from the Arts Commission to work on a process to be able to distribute those funds.
 - He asked the Board and staff to share with art and/or music groups that they knew so their voices could be heard and that they could provide input and feedback on how to determine what would be successful for the community as a whole.
3. Michael Mendoza, Co-Founder of Augzoo augmented reality app let the Board know that he was working on a current project called VOCES that focuses on World War II Veteran immigrants and their experiences.
4. Chris Milk, Academia Cuauhtli Education Coordinator stated that he came before the Board to ask that they provide free summer programming in Spanish and cultural arts.
5. Julia De Los Santos, Jorge Jimenez, and Itzel Hernandez each spoke in regards to their children being participants in Proyecto Teatro's programs and believed that it was important for the Center to continue to allow PT to run their programs during the summer.

6. Luis Ordaz Gutierrez, Artistic Director of Proyecto Teatro shared with the Board that they were in another difficult situation stating there were no spaces for them to use during the summer.
 - Ordaz explained they began free programming in 2013 making sure to preserve Español through the arts, theater, dance, and other disciplines.
 - He went on to express that there was hierarchy at the MACC, that MACC education programs have a priority over all other education programs and that they get to choose the calendar before anyone else. He noted that when Spring break and Summer arrived the MACC's spaces are blocked specifically and only for MACC education programs. He commented that to him and the families of the community, they felt it was unfair because the Summer camps were not affordable, and PT was providing free programming for the community.
 - Ordaz asked how the spaces could be shared during the Summer with MACC education so there would be equality in all the communities, especially with immigrant families, and first-generation families. He questioned why there couldn't be two Summer camps at the MACC, one that charges and one that was free and accessible to others that could not afford to attend the camp through the City.
 - Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak stated that since the item was not on the agenda to discuss, she requested that the LAAP Working Group meet as soon as possible to figure out how PT could use the spaces during the summer.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Member Salas motioned to approve the April 3rd meeting minutes as submitted. Member Silva seconded. (8.0) Motion passed.
2. Member Silva motioned to approve the Special Called meeting minutes from April 11th. Member Garcia seconded. (8.0)
3. Member Silva motioned to approve the May 1st meeting minutes. Member Salas seconded. (8.0) Motion passed. Member Chavez was absent for all votes.

D. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by University of New Mexico researcher Cassie Smith on her dissertation research on ESB-MACC.

1. Cassie Smith let the Board know she was a current Ph.D student working on her dissertation project where she decided to research the concerns of art education programs at the MACC.
 - She shared with the Board that she has been with the MACC in different capacities since 2008, first as a volunteer, then as an Advisory Board Member from 2011-2014, and a teaching artist from 2016 – present.
 - She informed the Board that she had met with some of the LARP groups as well as with Herlinda Zamora (ESB-MACC Site Manager), and Lorie Navarrete (Education Specialist) to study the art education programs at the Center. She hopes to find out how to conceptualize the community, who are the communities that are served, what does that mean, and what does the MACC consider as cultural heritage.
 - Smith has asked that the Board collaborate with her on the project and stated that she will provide her revisions to the Board once completed.

Update by Laura Esparza Division Manager on CIP process for Phase II of ESB-MACC.

2. Esparza provided a handout to the Board of a memo from Liana Kallivoka, PARD Interim Director on Phase I, Phase II and the current project plan. (Please see Boards and Commission Website for backup material)

- PARD will continue to provide the ESB-MACC Advisory Board with briefings and/or updated information throughout the life of the project.

E. BRIEFING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Discussion and possible action on letter sent to Mayor and City Council Members.

1. Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak opened the floor for discussion and made it clear that the goal was not to discuss what was in the letter but how the letter was brought forth to the Mayor and City Council without any of the other Board Members awareness.
 - Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak believed the letter implied that the Board knew about the letter and that they were all in agreement, however that was not the case.
 - She felt that it showed a lack of transparency and asked Member Navarro if there was a reason he did not inform the Board of his involvement with the letter.
 - Member Navarro believed that his involvement with the letter was to make sure that staff's performance was reviewed and measured.
 - The Board opted to go over the letter point by point and addressed all issues and discuss each concern.

ACTION ITEM: Officer Elections.

2. Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak opened the floor for nominations.
 - Member Salas stated that he wanted to focus on the future of the MACC and help solve problems that arise at the Center. He believed their goal should be to make the facility the best Cultural Center it could be and pledged to make sure the communities and staffs voices were heard.
 - Member Navarro stated that the MACC was heading into great times with the phasing of the Center, the bond money and believed that because of his collaborative working relationships with UT and the Conservancy he would be the best candidate for Chair.
 - Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak motioned to elect Member Salas as Chair. Vote passed. (6.0) Members Goujon and Navarro voted against. Member Chavez was absent.

Discussion and possible action on MACC facility improvements.

3. Chair Salas commented on a couple of issues that were brought to his attention, those being incidents with the homeless bathing in the restrooms and not wearing any clothes.
 - Chair Salas believed that because staff does not have the proper training to handle those types of situations it was important to get security at the Center.
 - Lucas Massie, Assistant Director stated that possible options until the MACC could come up with a more permanent solution would be to have staff do periodic sweeps or book the City Park Rangers and/or APD to provide security for a few hours during the day.
 - Member Massey motioned to make a recommendation to investigate different locking mechanisms for the bathrooms. Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak seconded. Unanimous vote (8.0). Member Chavez was absent.

Recessed at 8:33pm, resumed at 8:46pm.

Discussion and possible action on LAAP Contract.

4. Justin Schneider, PARD Community Engagement Specialist let the Board know that the contract would be ready June 6, 2019 by noon and that he would email the contract to staff to forward to all Board Members.
 - He commented that the final say would still be through the Legal Department.

- Anna Maciel, Former ESB-MACC Chair expressed her frustration, acknowledging that LARP Members had already waited 3 years for a completed contract. She made it clear that she did not agree with the contract and did not feel the panel for the LAAP program even understood the program.
- Maria Gutierrez, Hector Ordaz, Marcos Ordaz, Luis Ordaz, Jennifer Ramos, Lilianna Batista, Cesar Rodriguez, and Juan Oyervides all members or affiliates of Proyecto Teatro expressed that they did not agree with the new contract and believed that the term limit should be reconsidered and removed from the contract.
- Member Goujon motioned to continue the ESB-MACC Advisory Board meeting for an additional 15 minutes to adjourn at 10:15pm. Member Navarro seconded. (8.0) Motion passed. Member Chavez was absent.
- Member Goujon motioned to make a recommendation to retract the two-year term limit from the LAAP contract. Member Navarro seconded. (7.1) Motion passed. Member Banda voted against. Member Chavez was absent.
- Member Goujon motioned to recommend the exploration of dual programming, one that was an incubator and the other for childhood programming. Member Silva seconded. (8.0) Motion passed. Member Chavez was absent.
- Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak motioned to postpone **Discussion and possible action items 5-7**. Member Garcia seconded. (8.0) Motion passed. Member Chavez was absent.

Discussion and possible action on all working groups.

Awards of Excellence, LAAP, Marketing, and Budget

5. Tabled.

Discussion and possible action on the Transportation Task Force.

6. Tabled.

Update from the Budget Working Group.

7. Tabled.

Update from the LAAP Working Group.

8. Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Site Manager provided a handout of the 17 applicants who made it into the LAAP program. (Please see Board and Commissions Website for backup material)

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Update from University of New Mexico researcher Cassie Smith on her dissertation research on the ESB-MACC.

Staff update from Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Site Manager on monthly calendar, LARP highlights, and Teen Caminos program.

Update from Justin Schneider on LAAP contract.

Discussion and possible action on Palm School. (Salas, Cerda-Prazak)

Discussion and possible action on the Transportation Task Force (Cerda-Prazak, Silva)

Discussion and possible action on all working groups (Goujon, Massey)

G. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak motioned to adjourn with a second by Member Goujon. Motion passed. (8.0) Member Chavez was absent. Meeting adjourned at 10:18pm.