

**EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

**The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Advisory Board convened in a special called meeting via video conferencing.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

**David Goujon, Chair**  
**Art Navarro, Vice Chair**  
**Olga Campos-Benz, Member**  
**Gerardo Gandy, Member**  
**Diana Gomez, Member**  
**Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member**  
**Tomas Salas, Member**  
**Endi Silva, Member**

**Board Members Absent:**

**Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member**  
**Wayne Lopes, Member**  
**Claudia Massey, Member**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager**  
**Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Manager**  
**Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Supervisor**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Goujon called the Board Meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Frank Rodriguez provided his background and history related to the MACC. He mentioned his previous experience as a policy advisor to Mayor Steve Adler. He described what a music hub contained in addition to performing space. He added his role in the language used to create the 2018 Creative Spaces Bond and his support that a music hub be located at the MACC.

Ana Maciel did not call in.

Alex Vallejo provided his background and spoke on behalf of the Latin Music Coalition Austin. He spoke with regards to the lack of spaces for Latinos to showcase their music in the City of Austin. He also spoke of his support of a music hub be located at the MACC.

Leonard Davila addressed the board with regards to a music hub at the MACC. He discussed the possibilities of the MACC to become a tourist destination, especially with its proximity to hotels tourist destinations and discussed his support for a music hub at the MACC. He stated that it is a space that is greatly needed for Mexican American musicians and that it would include space for all Latinos in music.

Chair Goujon pointed out that even though Ana Maciel wasn't able to call in, he identified all four callers as big supporters of Hispanic musicians of I the City of Austin.

Member Olga Campos-Benz thanked the callers for their contributions.

Vice Chair Art Navarro expressed his support to the discussion and the resolution being presented further along in the agenda.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Campos-Benz motioned to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Navarro Seconded. Vote Passed. (8.0)

**2. CHAIR REPORT:**

Chair Goujon presented the chair report and read the MACC's mission statement. He discussed the items on the agenda. He also discussed the history of past events and their significance to the community. He also commemorated the life of Johnny Limon who had recently passed away and whose life's mission was to support Latinx music in the music capital of the world. Chair Goujon summarized the presentation of the cultural center's audit report. He mentioned that the results of the audit report supported the MACC board's desire to achieve many of the goals they have identified such as better transportation options, customer service training for staff, and improved maintenance of the facility. He also expressed his support for the other cultural centers identified in the audit and expressed the unequal burden on black, indigenous and people of color communities in the pandemic and continued mistreatment of black people by law enforcement. He expressed that support to the other cultural centers and quality of life commissions was long overdue.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Michael Mendoza presented idea and history on his project commemorating Manuel "Cowboy" Donley. He described Cowboy Donley's background and proposed several phases of project using possible community grant funding or parks and/or heritage funding. He provided rendition of art installation next to the trail of legends. He also provided estimated budget between 10 to 20 thousand dollars. He stated that the project had been approved by the Donley family.

Member Salas asked about potential timeline and if it would it happen during Phase II.

Chair Goujon Division Manager Esparza to weigh in on timeline and potential funding.

DM Esparza discussed inability to provide funding for this type of project through the MACC budget and encouraged Michael to look at other funding opportunities. Would discuss any potential availability of funds from the MACC's budget with Manager Rojas.

Member Campos-Benz discussed potential corporate sponsorships to become partners to see if there's a way to add additional tributes to honor not only musicians but other Hispanic icons that have passed away.

Chair Goujon invited Michael to attend the Arts Working group meetings to discuss ways to support his efforts. Chair Goujon added this item to future agenda for discussion and possible actions.

Member Gandy proposed a deeper dive into this potential project that could be a part of series or walk. He advised thinking through the project and incorporating it with the Phase II plans for a more cohesive project.

#### **4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Supervisor Tamzarian presented the staff report outlining the previous and future programs of the ESB-MACC.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Update on a proposal by the Latin Music Coalition Austin (LMCA), a local non-profit, for possible funding from the Creative Spaces bond for the ESB-MACC CIP for a music hub.
  - Chair Goujon spoke about his support to for expanding music venues for Latinos and also for Black and Asian communities.
  - Vice Chair Navarro added that 27 million that had been approved for the 2018 bond package included 12 million dollars for creative spaces. 6 million went to the Music Commission and 6 million went to Arts Commission. A coalition of Latino musicians was seeking the MACC board's support in requesting that \$2 million dollars be granted for a music hub located at the MACC. Spoke about the draft resolution included in the agenda and was asking for the board's full support on the item.
  - Chair Goujon recapped meeting of the Arts Working group with members of the coalition. He discussed three main questions that needed to be addressed 1) What is the most equitable way to spend the creative spaces bond funding? 2) Is this something the community wants – yes based on citizen's communication and the potential to increase tourism 3) What can the money be best used for and identified that the music hub at the MACC was the best option because of the ability to leverage the project with Phase II funding. Opened it up for questions.
  - Member Salas supports a music hub being built at the MACC and leveraging it with Phase II funding. He asked for clarification that the resolution presented supports the music hub only and not a specific group. He recommends being cautious of giving support to a specific group. If the hub gets built that the board does not commit to support any specific group to run the music hub. Salas supports that the music hub be run by the MACC staff to provide equitable services to all genres of music.
  - Chair Goujon explained that there is currently a task force researching ways to spend that money equitably using Hotel Occupancy Tax.
  - Member Campos-Benz motioned to adopt the resolution for the ESB-MACC Advisory Board request that \$2 million dollars of the Creative Spaces bond funds be allocated to the ESB-MACC for the creation of a Music Hub. Chair Goujon seconded motion. Unanimous vote. Motion passed. (8.0)

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review and discussion on City Auditor's Cultural Centers Audit Report.
  - Chair Goujon presented highlights of Audit Report and spoke with regards to items that Board members have been asking to be identified and addressed. Requested presentation by City Auditor's office and encouraged board members to read through the report.
  - Member Salas stated that the audit report brought to light that the cultural centers need more financial support from the City.
- b. Discussion and action on letter of support for fellow Cultural Centers.

- Chair Goujon motioned asking the board for approval to write a letter of support for the other City Cultural Centers. Seconded by Member Silva. Unanimous vote. Motion passed. (8.0)
- c. Discussion and action on all working groups did not occur due to expiration of time.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Bring back discussion on Manuel “Cowboy” Donley tribute exhibit.

Invite City Auditor to present Cultural Sites Audit Report

Vice Chair Navarro asked to continue discussion on item 5 a.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- Vice Chair Navarro motioned to adjourn with a second by Member Campos-Benz. Unanimous vote. Motion passed. (8.0) Meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.