



**EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at City Hall – Board and Commissions Room located at 301 West Second Street in Austin, Texas 78701. (Some members of the ESB-MACC Advisory Board participated via videoconference.)

Chair Endi Silva called the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Meeting to order at 6:24pm.

**Board Members in Attendance:**  
Endi Silva, Chair  
Larry Amaro, Member  
Litza Gonzales, Member  
Angelica Navarro, Member

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:**  
David Goujon, Vice Chair (Arrived at 7:13pm)  
Gerardo Gandy, Member  
Greg Gonzalez, Member

**Board Members Absent:**  
Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member  
Art Navarro, Member  
Tomas Salas, Member

**Staff in Attendance:**  
Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs  
Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager  
Lorie Martinez, ESB-MACC Acting Culture and Arts Supervisor  
Tina Davila, ESB-MACC Administrative Specialist

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Hector Ordaz, Audio Vision Director for Proyecto Teatro explained that he was present to speak on some of the challenges that the art community faces. Those challenges being finding spaces to practice and perform, funding, marketing & outreach, and the support of government entities. He went on to say that some of the City funding for Culture & Arts organizations were properly funded and reminded the Board that there would be another round of funding but wanted to ensure the funding wouldn't impact certain legacy groups that had been around for a long time. He also asked that with the challenges that arise, that staff be able to work with subject matter experts to provide solutions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The minutes from the Regular meeting of December 7, 2022, were approved on Member Navarro's motion. Member Gandy seconded the motion. Vote (6.0). Motion passed. Vice Chair Goujon and Members Maga Rojas, Salas, and Art Navarro were absent.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

2. Chair Silva thanked the Board for their understanding in having to cancel the February Board Meeting due to the winter storm.
  - Chair Silva provided a brief overview of the agenda items, informing the Advisory Board there would be discussion on the Budget and Phase 2 Expansion.

## **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

### **3. Staff Report on ESB-MACC program and operation updates and 64 Rainey.**

- I. Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager updated the Board on the Centers status. Informing them that since the Groundbreaking the MACC had been closed, programming had continued at other Culture & Arts locations as well as recreation centers and made sure they were aware that the MACC's home office would be housed out of the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) during its renovation.
- II. Lorie Martinez, ESB-MACC Acting Culture and Arts Education Supervisor announced that the Holistic Wellness Program kicked off in January 2023.
  - Martinez gave a short rundown of the program activity types, dates, and locations. She also notated that all programs were bilingual and free.(Please see the Board and Commissions Website for backup material.)
- III. Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Marketing Representative gave an update on the upcoming La Mujer event, letting the Board know that it would be a pop-up and art activation event over a span of six weeks at various locations throughout Austin.
  - Tamzarian also provided an update on the upcoming Spring & Summer camps as well as the Academia Cuauhtli camp, and Teen Caminos Breaking Barriers Latinx Youth conference.(Please see the Board and Commissions Website for backup material.)
- IV. Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs reported that 64 Rainey would be moving forward with development as a memorial park and was currently underway with a survey of the property. She commented the survey was a necessary pre-step for asking for the vacation of the alley.
  - Esparza mentioned there was a PARD Project Manager for the project and they would be going through the rotation list to find an architect, rather than using the current architects for Phase 2 of the MACC.
  - She shared information that community historian, Martha Cotera would research and write the interpretive text and they would be moving forward with allocating part of the Arts in Public Places (AIPP) funding that the center would get for Phase 2, would also be allocated towards Rainey Streets pocket park.
  - Chair Silva asked if there was a timeframe or expected date. Esparza responded with staff are hopeful to complete the interpretive text and design by the end of the 2023 calendar year and would like to get on the streets with AIPP by May to secure the artist by the end of the 2024 calendar year.
  - Member Gonzales asked if there was a back up plan if the alley vacation did not get approved. Esparza responded, letting the Board know that if the alley vacation does not get approved then the park would be built in the back of the lot that is currently in the plan.

### **4. Staff Report update on the Confluence Construction Project.**

- Lana Denkeler, Parks and Recreation Project Manager provided a presentation on the program overview for Waterloo Greenway – The Confluence Construction Project.
- Denkeler stated the project was being delivered in phases. Phase 1 was the opening of Waterloo Park, which was opened to the public in August 2021, and they were currently

working on getting phase 2 ready for construction which would be the Confluence Construction.

- Denkeler also shared their project milestones and stated they would be following up with more details but made it clear that they were not far enough in the contract to share more information.

(Please see the Board and Commissions Website for backup material.)

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **5. Presentation by Angela Valenzuela and Maria Unda representing Academia Cuauhtli on budget recommendations for the FY24 budget funding.**

Angela Valenzuela, Co-founder of Academia Cuauhtli provided context on their program.

- Valenzuela informed the Board that the program was inaugurated in 2014, where they were able to establish a formal legal partnership with the MACC through the City of Austin and formed an organization called Nuestro Grupo.
- She mentioned their curriculum was dual language and included Mexican Studies, Tejano Studies, and STEM, and were provided to students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> but commented that all ages are welcomed.
- She also announced they were finishing up their 9<sup>th</sup> year of the program and invited the Board to attend the graduation ceremony that would be taking place Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. Discussion and possible action on the FY24 budget funding.**

Chair Silva entertained a motion to ask for \$275,000 for future programming for Academia Cuauhtli to be added to the MACC budget on an annual basis permanently.

- Member Amaro motioned. Member Gandy seconded. (6.1) Motion passed. Member Gonzales abstained. Members Maga Rojas, Salas, and Art Navarro were absent.

### **7. Discussion and possible action on the Phase 2 Expansion.**

Chair Silva let the Board know they all received a report of the March Phase 2 updates from Heidi Tse, Capital Delivery Project Manager.

- Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs stated Heidi Tse was not available to provide the report on the updates shared but she could answer questions if needed.
- Esparza read aloud a few of the updates, informing the Board that there has been back and forth conversation with the Development Services Department (DSD) and architects, resulting in running 6 weeks behind in formal comments back to the design team which has pushed the commencement of construction back.
- Vice Chair Goujon requested the following be included in the meeting minutes:
  - (1) The ESB-MACC Advisory Board has already voted to support and request City Council action for additional funds to complete Phase 2 of the MACC.
  - (2) The ESB-MACC Advisory Board has not delayed the design phase but what was read in the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, was the review process is delaying the process, essentially the City of Austin is delaying its own process. It is not the community or Advisory Board but simply the system getting in the way of its own system.

(Please see the Board and Commissions Website for backup material.)

## **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### **8. Phase 2 Project**

Chair Silva stated the group had met in January to hash out the details about the scope of work and budget.

- Chair Silva reiterated the scope was the schematic design minus the lower level that was presented in the December 2022 meeting and the additional \$3 million would be used for the auditorium minus the restrooms.
- She also let the Board know the Phase 2 Working Group meetings were confirmed and would take place the Thursday prior to the Board Meetings.

### **9. Ethnographic**

Chair Silva notified the Board that there were no updates due to scheduling conflicts. She asked the Members of the Ethnographic Working Group to get together and confirm their meeting dates.

### **10. Budget**

Chair Silva reminded the Board that the Budget Working Group is reestablished every year to prepare for the FY budget and asked if there were any members that would like to join the group.

- Chair Silva, Vice Chair Goujon, and Members Amaro and Navarro confirmed they would participate in the working group.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Gonzales motioned to adjourn the March 1, 2023, Advisory Board meeting at 8:01pm. Member Navarro seconded. Unanimous vote (7.0). Motion passed. Member Maga Rojas, Salas, and Art Navarro were absent.