



**EMMA S. BARRIENROS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 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.)

Member Navarro called the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Meeting to order at 6:17pm.

**Board Members in Attendance:**  
Larry Amaro, Member  
Litza Gonzales, Member  
Angelica Navarro, Member  
Lily Zamarripa-Saenz, Member

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:**  
Gerardo Gandy, Member  
John Estrada, Member

**Board Members Absent:**  
Endi Silva, Chair (Term ended)  
David Goujon, Vice Chair (Term ended)  
Greg Gonzalez, Member  
Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member (Term ended)

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

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager informed the Board that Chair Silva and Member Maga Rojas terms had ended so they would not be participating as ESB-MACC Advisory Board Members. However, Member Navarro had graciously accepted to lead the meeting.

Anna Maciel, Former ESB-MACC Advisory Board Member stated she was happy to see there were new members participating on the Board and expressed the importance for all new members to take their roles as commissioners seriously, especially since they represent different communities and their Council Members. Her hopes are that members will ask a lot of questions from City staff so that when it comes time for upcoming bonds or making important resolutions that regard the MACC, they will be able to make solid decisions. She also asked that they keep Phase II and III on their radar to ensure the completion of the center.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The minutes from the Regular meeting of April 5, 2023, were approved on Member Zamarripa-Saenz's motion. Member Gonzales seconded the motion. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzalez absent.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

2. Member Navarro encouraged Board dialogue and asked if there were any questions for members to ask for clarification.

## **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

3. **Staff Report on ESB-MACC programs during March and upcoming programs in April.**

Lorie Martinez, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Acting Supervisor provided an update on the Holistic Wellness programs attendance and its highlights as well as a brief description of each program for the month of April. She also shared the upcoming programs for May and encouraged Board Members to attend if they could.

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

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Marketing Representative provided a report on the La Mujer pop-up event and mosaic unveiling. She announced the next signature event would be the Awards of Excellence and starting May 5<sup>th</sup> the MACC would be accepting nominations. The deadline for nominations would be May 26<sup>th</sup> and the Ceremony would be held July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Long Center. She also shared with the Board that the Teen Caminos current students would be graduating June 10<sup>th</sup> and were accepting applications for the 2023-2024 class of Caminos until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager introduced new ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Coordinators Eufemia Rivera (Teen Caminos Coordinator) and Estrella de León (Events Coordinator) to the Board and asked them to share a little about themselves.

**Eufemia Rivera**, thanked the Board for having her and shared her excitement for the opportunity to work with the teens and the MACC. She expressed that she was grateful to represent her culture and that it was her passion.

**Estrella de León**, shared that she was born and raised in East Austin and that being able to work at the MACC was an honor. She is a local artist and musician. She has a background working with young people doing social justice, teaching artist, as well as with rental management. She is excited to be working at the MACC supporting the city and community.

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

4. **Presentation by Angela Valenzuela and Maria Unda on the ESB-MACC's Academia Cuauhtli program.**

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Manager informed the Board that Angela and Maria were not able to present but were able to send a representative that would present on their behalf.

Christopher Milk-Bonilla, Texas State Professor provided a presentation on Academia Cuauhtli's history, mission, who they serve, the number of schools and names of the schools they provide services to, who they teach, what they do, and information on their year-round programming.

- Milk-Bonilla discussed the types of research that went into their program and shared the data collected since 2014.

- He provided the Aztech Kidz Code camps summer numbers for students that participated in 2021, 2022, and 2023 and commented that the funding received from the City of Austin to run the program would only be for the summer of 2023.
- Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs clarified the funding for the Aztech Kidz Code summer camp at the MACC came from the City of Austin's 2023 allocation from City Council in the amount of \$370,000 which included one full-time employee position to be hired on at the MACC but only for the Summer of 2023. She reminded the Board and shared with Academia Cuauhtli staff that the Board had recently passed a Resolution requesting \$275,000 in additional funding for FY24 and asked Milk-Bonilla to state his ask.
- Milk-Bonilla responded that to continue the program for the full year they are asking for \$550,000 to cover the program.
- Member Amaro asked if a Recommendation to City Council is preferable as a group or should be done individually with their Council Member. Rojas stated that in the past the Chair has drafted a letter that all Board Members sign and then give to their Council Members to sign before sending to City Council.
- Member Gonzales requested to see a draft of Academia Cuauhtli's curriculum before putting together a draft to City Council.

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

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

Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs provided an update on the Phase 2 expansion making the Board aware that fencing had gone up and signage would soon follow.

- Currently waiting on the site plan application to be approved and site permit issuance to begin construction.
- Esparza shared the list of add alternates and let the Board know that she is waiting on getting the quote for what the cost reference would be to get the items valued engineered. Once received she will share the cost with the Board.
- Member Gonzales motioned to draft a memo to send to City Council saying the ESB-MACC Board wants to honor the resolution that was proposed in 2022 to complete the MACC. Member Amaro seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzalez absent.

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

#### 6. **Discussion and action on Board Elections.**

Member Navarro opened dialogue to nominate the ESB-MACC Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair.

- Member Amaro motioned to nominate Member Navarro for Chair. Member Gonzales seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzalez absent.
- Member Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to nominated Member Amaro for Vice Chair. Member Gonzales seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzalez absent.
- Member Navarro commented that she was surprised and honored to be appointed. She looks forward to working closely with all Board Members and advising City Council on any updates from the Board and MACC operations as well as working with the community to support and foster the center.
- Member Amaro stated he is happy to do anything he can in the absence of the Chair and any other duties that are assigned.

### **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

#### 7. **Phase 2 Project**

Member Navarro asked the Board if they should proceed with asking who wants to serve on the working groups now or should they wait for future appointees.

- Member Zamarripa-Saenz stated she would like to wait so that new members could get familiar with Phase 2.

#### 8. **Ethnographic**

No updates

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Presentation by Heidi Tse, Capital Delivery Project Manager on the Phase 2 updates. (Navarro, Zamarripa-Saenz)

Working Group Updates (Navarro, Zamarripa-Saenz)

Staff Report

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Navarro let the Board know there was a new Advisory Board Member and asked him to introduce himself. **John Estrada** stated he was an Austinite. He was honored and grateful to serve on the Board alongside its current Board Members. He shared that he had history with the MACC where he was a former hourly employee and was also a former Awards of Excellence recipient

Member Gonzales motioned to adjourn the May 3, 2023, Advisory Board meeting at 8:11pm. Member Zamarripa-Saenz seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzalez absent.