



**EMMA S. BARRIENROS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 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.)

Vice Chair Amaro called the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Board Members in Attendance:
Hilario “Larry” Amaro, Vice Chair
Noemi Castro, Member
Lily Zamarripa-Saenz, Member

Board Members in Attendance Remotely:
Angelica Navarro, Chair
John Estrada, Member
Gerardo Gandy, Member

Board Members Absent:
Litza Gonzales, Member

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

David Goujon, Former Vice Chair of the ESB-MACC Advisory Board spoke on the reduction of the scope for the valued engineering of the Phase 2 project. He stated he was highly opposed to any reduction in the scope and felt the Board should investigate further on the time delays that had occurred from the original schedules that were provided at the beginning of the schematic design and throughout all milestones. Goujon believed they would quickly find the delays that had been occurring, specifically on permitting and approvals and would be able to see the real cause of the delay and progress of the project. He stated it was limiting their ability to use the 2018 Bond money as well as further funding to really be able to support the Phase 2 of the MACC that was approved by City Council. He was adamant that the Board should advocate for additional funds whether it be the general funds or other funds to be able to fill in any funding gaps that would be required to fulfil the design that had been approved by the MACC Advisory Board. He would like for there to be a larger conversation with the Department of Public Works to help understand the delays with permitting and hopes they can explain when some of the actionable items would comeback online, like the shade structure, outdoor stage, and the theater.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. **Staff Report on ESB-MACC programs during July and upcoming programs in August.**

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Marketing & Outreach Representative provided a report on program highlights for the month of July, along with upcoming programs & events for the month of August.

(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 Supervisor Marie Ortiz and asked her to share a little about herself.

Marie Ortiz, shared that she had a professional background in arts and cultural management, letting the Board know she had worked with the Austin Public Library for 8 years and had experience working as a Program Director at Fractured Atlas, a national art service organization. She commented that she intends to fully dedicate herself to the MACC's mission and that it was important to her that she makes contributions to the dreams and aspirations of the community.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. **Presentation of the Phase 2 monthly update.**

Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs delivered the update on the Capital project report that was prepared by Heidi Tse, Capital Delivery Services Department, Capital Delivery Project Manager.

- Esparza shared a couple of highlights announcing that the site development permit was granted on July 26th, and the Central Plant Building Permit was approved August 1st.
- She also mentioned Art in Public Places (AIPP) had released a call for local artist as the Board had requested on May 9th, announcing that a total of 8 applications were received and only 3 of the applications qualified because the call was specifically for sculpturers. After meeting with AIPP, it was suggested to open the call to Texas artist.
- Esparza let the Board know that AIPP staff had asked if there were any Board Members that would like to serve on the panel and added that some art or architectural background would be helpful.

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

4. **Discussion and possible action on a recommendation that the Phase 2 expansion not be value engineered and that appropriate funding be allocated to keep the original scope as was presented.**

Member Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to send the letters of support regarding Phase 2 and Academia Cuauhtli funding to City Council. Chair Navarro seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzales absent.

Member Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to recommend that the Phase 2 expansion not be value engineered and that appropriate funding be allocated to keep the original scope as it was previously presented. Chair Navarro seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzales absent.

5. **Discussion and possible action on defining and creating a new Music & Arts Working Group.**

Vice Chair Amaro gave an example of the type of working groups he believed needed to be created. He explained that 501c3 organizations usually have Boards and Committees that do the planning with staff to plan accordingly to the organizations mission. Which are then evaluated at the end of the year to help with future planning to ensure that the agency is doing what it's supposed to, to achieve its long-range goals.

- Member Zamarripa-Saenz suggested that Vice Chair Amaro consider meeting with MACC staff for the next signature event (Viva Mexico) and then report back to the Board with what he felt they should work on collectively with MACC staff. She thought it would be a good opportunity for Vice Chair Amaro to demonstrate exactly what he was wanting out of creating the working group.
- Chair Navarro motioned to establish a Music & Arts Working Group. Vice Chair Amaro seconded. After discussion the Board decided to postpone the agenda item and add to the October agenda to allow Vice Chair Amaro the time to gather information and report back to the Board.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

6. Phase 2 Project

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager let the Board know that no meeting had been held and reminded the Board they had agreed on waiting on additional Board Members to join the MACC Advisory Board so the proper Phase 2 Working Group could be formed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion and possible action on AIPP submissions to open the call to Texas artist and vote for Board Member(s) to sit on the AIPP panel. *Gandy, Zamarripa-Saenz*

Phase 2 Construction Update

Staff Report

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Navarro motioned to adjourn the August 2, 2023, Advisory Board meeting at 7:48pm. Member Zamarripa-Saenz seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Member Gonzales absent.