



**EMMA S. BARRIENROS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 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 Navarro called the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Board Members in Attendance:
Angelica Navarro, Chair
Hilario “Larry” Amaro, Vice Chair
John Estrada, Member
Anthony Martinez, Member
Raul “Roy” Reyna, Member
Lily Zamarripa-Saenz, Member

Board Members in Attendance Remotely:
Gerardo Gandy, Member (Left at 8:54pm)
Cynthia “Cy” Herrera, Member

Board Members Absent:
Noemi Castro, Member
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

Chair Navarro announced there were new ESB-MACC Advisory Board Members and asked each member to introduce themselves.

Member Reyna introduced himself and shared that his preferred name to go by was Roy. He stated he was a lifelong central Texan, grew up in Elgin, east of Austin, and has lived in Austin for 20 years. He is married and has an 11-year-old son, enjoys the outdoors, going to sporting events, and spending time with friends and family.

Member Martinez introduced himself letting the Board know he was from Brownsville, Texas, has lived in Austin for 15 years, and had worked with the MACC in the past in different capacities. He expressed that he would like to continue the MACC’s mission through participating on the Board.

Member Herrera introduced herself stating she was an attorney and non-profit Executive Director for a local sexual health and wellness center called ASHwell. She shared that she was from central Texas, San Antonio and has been living in Austin for 10 years. She also let the Board know that she was a musician and has been

playing Tejano music since she was 11 years old. Member Herrera thanked the Board for the work they have done and expressed that she was excited to be a part of the Board.

Speaker 1: Anna Maciel, Former ESB-MACC Advisory Board Member spoke on the Music Creative Hub. She stated she wanted to make sure that whatever decisions that were made, were made by the Board and not by EQ Austin. She commented that she did not know who hired EQ to conduct their meetings, but her concern was that Nagavalli Medicharla was currently the Board Chair for EQ Austin, the Music Commission, and knew Nagavalli to be a Board Member of the Arts Commission as well. Maciel wanted to know how the MACC wanted to create the hub and believed it should be centered around what the community wanted to see. She questioned who would have access to the hub and found it disturbing to see EQ Austin so involved. She noted that she treasured the efforts that Nagavalli made for the music hub by putting together the proposal that was submitted to receive the funds for the hub but wanted to make sure that the MACC Board knew exactly what they were doing. She also asked them to keep in mind that feedback is needed from the musicians and doesn't need another organization telling the Board what to do as members. Before ending her time, Maciel took a moment to congratulate Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs and MACC staff, letting them know they had done an incredible job with their Diez y Seis de Septiembre event. She stated it was incredible and had never been so happy and excited to see real community engagement.

Speaker 2: Bertha Rendon Delgado, City of Austin Housing Commissioner welcomed the new ESB-MACC Board Members and thanked MACC staff for being proactive and doing great things since closing the MACC for construction. She acknowledged that the MACC continues to provide programs and events that allow them to connect with the East Austin community and appreciated their respect for including them. She also expressed her concerns, mainly making sure the board oversees any decisions when it comes to local artists, Chicano art, and the art that belongs to the history of East Austin. She stated that the fight for Chicano art in East Austin was real and that as the Co-founder and Executive Director of Arte Texas the organization had been the only art organization that has fought for preservation and the continuation of Chicano murals and Indigenous murals you see today. She explained that the Art Commission had received millions of dollars throughout the years, monies that the community had fought for, natives & artist of Austin, and shared her own experience with Art in Public Places (AIPP) informing the Board of the difficulties of getting those projects and getting paid for them. She asked the Members of the Board to monitor AIPP and monitor the preservation of the art and local artists in East Austin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the Regular meeting of October 4, 2023, were approved on Member Zamarripa-Saenz's motion. Member Estrada seconded the motion. Unanimous vote (8.0). Motion passed. Members Castro and Gonzales were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

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

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

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

Lorie Martinez, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Coordinator provided an update on the Holistic Wellness program. She let the Board know the programs were based on 8 aspects of wellness, went over the geography of where participants wanted to see programming and provided highlights from January 11, 2023 through August 31, 2023.

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

3. Staff Report on Phase 2 Construction Project Updates

Christina Bies, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Associate Project Manager provided an update on the Capital project report that was prepared by Heidi Tse, Capital Delivery Services Department, Capital Delivery Project Manager.

- Bies went over the status and timeline for the construction document, permitting, bidding, and negotiation phase.
- Chair Navarro stated that with respect to the budget for Phase 2 she would like a more detailed response of what the amount was that the MACC had started with, where the MACC is at now, and what amount of new funds were allocated. She asked if there was a list of the specific dollar amount for the items that were value engineered and requested the possibility of a discussion on prioritizing reintroduction of those value engineered items.
- Bies informed the Board that the project was allocated at \$27 million as part of the 2018 General Obligation bond, smaller funding came from rental proceeds from the 64/70 Rainey agreement, as well as a small amount from the 2006 bond, and in December 2022 PARD allocated an additional \$5 million. The funds currently stand at \$32.5 million for the Phase 2 Project.
- Chair Navarro expressed her concerns for the City of Austin delaying permits for their own City projects. She acknowledged she was aware of the City and their processes but felt it should not be that way and believed there should be more visibility provided to the Board at meetings by Heidi and her team. She commented that visibility from Project Managers naturally creates transparency.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Presentation by Division Manager, Laura Esparza on the status of the 64 Rainey project.

Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager of Museums and Cultural Programs provided an overview on the history of Rainey Street Historic District, staff actions to date, draft of timeline for development, and ESB-MACC proposed board actions.

- Esparza asked the Board if they still wanted to proceed with the alley vacation and noted that it was important to the community. She also asked if the Board would want to create a working group for the 64 Rainey project or incorporate another working group and wanted to know how the Board would like to update attendees of community engagement meetings.
- Chair Navarro asked how the Advisory Board could continue to support the MACCs efforts with the 64 Rainey project.
- Esparza replied that it would become critical fall of 2023 for Board Members to speak with their Council Members and urge their support because of homeowners who'd object to the vacation.

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

5. Presentation by Martha Cotera on the historical and interpretive panels for the 64 Rainey project.

Martha Cotera, professional historian, and librarian provided details of the history of 64 Rainey Street.

- Cotera informed the Board that 90% of the research needed for the panels under consideration had been completed. She stated panel topics were negotiable and they would be able to eliminate or add panels. It was also noted that background information could be catalogued and used in other displays, such as in Interactive Video installations and all panels would include text and visuals.
- Chair Navarro and Vice Chair Amaro thanked Cotera for her presentation.

Recessed at 8:09pm. Resumed at 8:15pm

6. Presentation by Gavin Garcia, Scott Feder, and Don Pitts on the Music Creative Hub engagement and assessment.

Nagavalli Medicharla, EQ Austin Board Chair introduced herself letting the Board know she was a musician and served as the Chair for the Austin Music Commission as well as the Arts Commission.

- She let the Board know that EQ Austin was an organization that was focused on fostering opportunities and economic prosperity across commercial music and creative sectors in Austin.
- Medicharla informed the Board that EQ Austin was currently working to provide an assessment for building a creative music hub at the MACC, Carver, and Asian American Resource Center (AARC) based on feedback from the community, letting them know their plan would be to conduct 3 focus groups at Townhall then they would plan to share their recommendations along with cost estimates for the space and equipment.
- She noted that the creative hub would provide access to rehearsal spaces, equipment, and technology to record, live stream, and make videos.
- Chair Navarro called for a motion to extend the meeting. Member Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to extend the meeting. Vice Chair seconded. Unanimous vote (8.0). Motion passed.
- Alex Vallejo, EQ Austin Board of Directors introduced himself sharing with the Board that he was a musician and had grown up in the East side of Austin. He's currently the Operations Director for the School of Rock located in Southwest Austin and Round Rock for over 200 kids. He commented that he had 20 years of experience with creating, building, designing, and consulting music studios and believed it was important to service all ages from 8 to 80 and support and tell the stories of Latin and Tejano history. As a musician he believed that he could speak about what the needs are for a music hub.

7. Discussion on Art in Public Places (AIPP) submissions to open the call to Texas artist.

- Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager reminded the Board that the agenda item was from the previous Board meeting that did not take place due to lack of quorum and provided an update letting the Board know AIPP had reopened the call for submissions to November 20, 2023.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

8. Discuss and recommend the appointment of one Board member to sit on the Art in Public Places (AIPP) selection panel for the Phase 2 project.

Tabled discussion for November meeting.

9. Discussion and possible action on recommendation to forward letter of support to City Council from LULAC Council 650 in support of Phase 2 funding.

Chair Navarro entertained a motion to move forward with the recommendation from the Board to proceed with forwarding the letter of support to City Council Members.

- Member Martinez motioned to move forward with the recommendation. Member Estrada seconded. Unanimous vote (7.0). Motion passed. Members Castro, Gandy, and Gonzales absent.

10. Discussion and action on 2024 Advisory Board meeting dates.

Chair Navarro read aloud the proposed dates for the 2024 calendar year.

- Chair Navarro proposed to move the January and July dates to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Member Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to move the January and July meeting to the 2nd Wednesday of the Month. Member Martinez seconded. Unanimous vote (7.0). Motion passed. Members Castro, Gandy, and Gonzales absent.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

11. Update from Phase 2 Project Working Group

Tabled discussion for November meeting.

12. Update from Ethnographic Working Group followed by a Presentation from Cassie Smith on Ethnographic working group background and status.

Cassie Smith introduced herself as a Former ESB-MACC Advisory Board Member from 2011 through 2014 and current PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico as well as a teaching artist at the MACC.

- Smith explained the history of the Ethnographic working group and the MACC. The types of methods she used for her research, projects, and goals.
- Smith stated the purpose of her presentation was to inform the Board but also to recruit new working group members that would be interested in continuing the support of the Ethnographic project.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion and possible action to create a 64 Rainey Working Group as well as updating current ESB-MACC Working Group memberships. (Zamarripa-Saenz, Navarro)

Discussion and possible action on Phase 2 Project (Zamarripa-Saenz, Navarro)

Discuss and recommend the appointment of one Board member to sit on the Art in Public Places (AIPP) selection panel for the Phase 2 project (Martinez, Estrada)

Discussion and possible action to support the alley vacation for the 64 Rainey project (Zamarripa-Saenz, Estrada)

Discussion on the functionality and purpose of Working Groups (Navarro, Amaro)

Phase 2 Construction Update

Staff Report

Working Group Updates

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Amaro motioned to adjourn the October 4, 2023, Advisory Board meeting at 9:49pm. Member Martinez seconded. Unanimous vote (7.0). Motion passed. Members Castro, Gandy, and Gonzales absent.