



**EMMA S. BARRIENROS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at City Hall Boards and Commissions Room. (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, Member
John Estrada, Member
Raul “Roy” Reyna, Member

Board Members in Attendance Remotely:
Lillian “Lily” Zamarripa-Saenz, Vice Chair
Gerardo Gandy, Member (Left at 6:53pm)
Cynthia “Cy” Herrera, Member
Anthony Martinez, Member (Left at 7:33pm)

Board Members Absent:
Noemi Castro, Member

Staff in Attendance:
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

Laura Esparza, former Parks and Recreation Division Manager and current Executive Director of Art Alliance Austin (A3) explained that A3 was a local art agency that raises funds to sustain free programming in Austin. She stated the work they do was important because there have been financial challenges and changes in funding patterns which causes the concern for the welfare of artists, musicians, and performers and she hoped that through the efforts of A3 she could help sustain the arts ecosystem. She mentioned that one of the current programs she was working on raising funds for was for the MACC’s Teen Caminos program, noting that with the funds raised they could hire more artist to mentor and lead art projects. She also informed the board that she had submitted a collaboration request with the city and the request was pending but the plan would include Facebook funding efforts to help raise money for the Rainey Street furniture and video project. She also announced that they would be hosting a fundraising party for the Carver Museum’s Artists in Residence Program and invited the board to attend Thursday, November 21st from 7pm-9pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the Regular meeting of October 2, 2024, were approved on Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz’s motion. Member Herrera seconded the motion. Unanimous vote (8.0). Motion passed. Member Castro absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff briefing on staffing updates, August, September and October programs, marketing and outreach efforts, and updates on signature event planning.

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Marketing & Outreach Representative reported on the Holistic Wellness programs, Education, Academia Cuauhtli, Caminos Teen Leadership programming, and current and upcoming marketing and outreach events. She also shared an update on the MACC's Dia de Los Muertos event, letting the board know despite the weather challenge, the MACC team had prepared and was able to provide tent covers to its participants, and even kept the face painting going during the rainstorm. Tamzarian stated that even with the last two performances being cut due to the sound equipment being affected by the rain, it was still an amazing event with a great turn out and thanked the board, staff, volunteers, and all participants for helping make the event successful. (Please see the Board and Commissions Website for backup material.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Update on Phase 2 Construction Project.

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Culture and Arts Education Manager provided a brief overview of the current project timeline, announcements, scheduled milestones, as well as photos showing the construction progress.

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

4. Presentation by Frederico Geib, Art in Public Places Coordinator, Sr. on the selected artist for the Phase 2 public art project.

Frederico Geib, Art in Public Places Coordinator Sr. let the board know that City Council approved the selection of local Latino artists Ruben Esquivel and Katherine "Kat" Talley, announcing they'll be creating 3D artwork for the center that will become the beginning of a sculptural garden. Research and community engagement will begin within the next 2 to 3 months and then the artist will provide a presentation in the spring to share their conceptual mid design.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to Austin City Council supporting the creation and funding of Creativity Hubs at City Cultural Centers.

EQ Austin Board Chair Nagavalli Medicharla provided a summary on the creative hubs and its purpose, stating the hubs will serve as a portal of entry for artist from diverse communities to network into the commercial music industry. The goal being to create opportunities for artist from diverse communities, to close the gap on intent and impact, and to make the Austin music industry more accessible.

Medicharla stated that EQ Austin requested that the board send a recommendation to City Council supporting the development of a music hub at the MACC, Carver, and AARC.

- Chair Navarro entertained a motion to approve a recommendation supporting the creation and funding of creativity hubs at City Cultural Centers. Member Amaro motioned. Member Herrera seconded. Unanimous vote (7.0). Motion passed. Members Castro and Gandy were absent.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Creation of FY26 Budget Working Group

ADJOURNMENT

Member Amaro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm. Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz seconded. Unanimous vote (6.0). Motion passed. Members Castro, Gandy and Martinez were absent.

The minutes were approved at the December 4, 2024, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center meeting on Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz motion, Member Herrera seconded on a 6.0 vote with two vacancies. Board Member Estrada, Martinez, and Reyna were absent.