



**EMMA S. BARRIENROS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025**

**The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center convened in a Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at Austin Energy Headquarters – Mueller Assembly Room 1111A located at 4815 Mueller Blvd in Austin, Texas 78723. (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 6:11pm.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**  
Angelica Navarro, Chair  
Lillian “Lily” Zamarripa-Saenz, Vice Chair  
Hilario “Larry” Amaro, Member (Arrived at 6:28pm)  
Noemi Castro, Member  
John Estrada, Member  
Cynthia “Cy” Herrera, Member

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:**  
Gerardo Gandy, Member  
Anthony Martinez, Member  
Raul “Roy” Reyna, Member

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Marjorie Flanagan, 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**

Cassie Smith, Member of the Ethnographic Research Working Group, PhD student at the University of New Mexico, and ESB-MACC Education Instructor let the board know that she had recently completed the draft of the Ethnographic dissertation research and had gone through several rounds of comments with her committee. Smith requested that she be placed on the February agenda so that she could provide the board with a presentation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The minutes from the Regular meeting of December 4, 2024, were approved on Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz’s motion. Member Herrera seconded the motion. Unanimous vote (8.0). Motion passed.

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. **Staff briefing on staffing updates, December and January 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. Tamzarian reminded the board

of the dates for their signature events and provided an update on potential themes for La Mujer. She also announced nominations for their Awards of Excellence event would be opening January 27<sup>th</sup> and would close March 23<sup>rd</sup>. She made it clear that board members were not allowed to nominate anyone themselves, but they could encourage others by spreading the word.  
(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. Rojas mentioned staff were able to participate in two onsite visits so they could see what the new parts of the building were going to look like and so they could start thinking of what types of programming could be held in their new spaces. She also let the board know the construction team was planning on scheduling an onsite visit for them for some time in early March but would keep them posted.

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

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **4. Presentation, discussion and approve a recommendation to council to support the creation of a music hub at the MACC and update on School of Rock visit and the Phase 2 site visit from EQ Austin.**

Nagavalli Medicharla, EQ Austin Board Chair stated it had been a long aspiration to create the Music Hub at the MACC, Carver, and AARC and that the sole purpose of the hub would be to serve as a portal of entry for established, emerging, and young artist. Medicharla's key request was for the board to vote for a Music Hub Committee to serve as an advisory committee on the buildout and operations specific to the creative hub.

- Alex Vallejo, EQ Austin Board of Directors informed the board that 2 groups from the MACC were given an opportunity to visit the School of Rock to see their layout and how equipment and recording spaces were being used, so MACC staff might get ideas of how they could buildout their spaces for their music hub.
- Vallejo also provided an update on the MACC's Phase 2 site visit that was provided to his team along with a group of young women who worked for the MACC. He expressed that it was moving to see the girls during the site visit, see how staff engaged with them, and that having them included as a part of that process left him feeling inspired. He stated after seeing the spaces that were being built out the next steps would be to figure out what is going to be in each room and what the budget would look like.
- After conversation of the budget that would be needed to fund the music hub and the roles that committee members and staff would play, as well as to who would be involved in the process, Member Castro felt there were too many moving parts involved to make a recommendation and felt that it would be best to establish a music hub working group first. All members of the board agreed.
- Chair Navarro moved to pass on further discussing the item and requested for the establishment of a music hub working group to be placed on the February agenda and asked that EQ Austin provide their expertise on input for a budget recommendation.

#### **5. Creation of FY26 Budget Working Group**

Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz motioned to create the FY26 Budget Working Group. Member Herrera seconded. Unanimous vote (8.0.) Motion passed.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ethnographic dissertation, working group background and current status.

(Sponsors: Zamarripa-Saenz, Estrada)

Discussion and action for the creation of a Music Hub Working Group.

(Sponsors: Herrera, Navarro)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Herrera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Vice Chair Zamarripa-Saenz seconded.

Unanimous vote (8.0). Motion passed.