

**EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

**The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 600 River Street, in Austin, Texas.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

**Rick Hernandez, Chair**

**Anna Maciel, Co-Chair**

**Julia Aguilar, Member**

**Juan Oyervides, Member**

**Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member (left @ 7:36)**

**Hipolito Sarabia, Member**

**Rosemary Banda, Member**

**Kathy Vale-Castillo, Member (left @ 8:05)**

**Hector Herrera, Member**

**David Goujon, Member**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager**

**Socorro Chapa, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Hernandez called the Board Meeting to order at 6:16pm. Chair Hernandez introduced new Advisory Board Member David Goujon. Member Aguilar announced she will be stepping down from the Board in March. She has advised CM Tovo's office of her departure.

**B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Hernandez announced that ten speakers would be allowed three minutes to make their presentation.

- Numerous Spanish speaking parents attended and addressed the Board about the new Artist Access contract. Parents included Selina Ortiz-Ott, Marissa V., Paulina Bermeo, Maria Isabel Alvarez, Patricia Ortiz, and Julia DeLosSantos. At the request of Member Oyervides, Member Maciel was asked to interpret. Member Maciel stated the parents were concerned about issues with the existing contract. Parents were concerned about staff walking into areas where the children perform and the lack of security. Parents were worried that the City might terminate Proyecto Teatro's agreement and they wanted to know the current status of the program. The parents stated that the MACC was a place they could depend on because they don't have something like that now.
- Leonard Davila, with Crossroads asked for Board consideration of an application he submitted to host an event at the Center on March 16 and 17 during SXSW week.
- Angela Valenzuela with Academia Cuauhtli addressed the Board with concerns that PARD take control over programming at the MACC and LARP. She stated the community does not want a Board to micromanage the Center's programs, or governed by a non-profit. She spoke of the deep history of the MACC and the need to honor that history.

- Emilio Zamora, Former Board Member and Quality of Life Commission stated that as advisory board members they can express the will and voice of the community especially in regards to the arts programs. He spoke in support of Proyecto Teatro and their commitment to the education of the children. He believes that Proyecto Teatro is engaging the immigrant community and Spanish speaking community significantly.
- Anthony Martinez, Nuestro Grupo and Co-Director of Academia Cuauhtli spoke in support of the MACC engaging in different languages and would like to see all flyers and communications in English and Spanish. He supports Proyecto Teatro and would like to continue the existing great work at the center.

#### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

With no corrections, Member Cerda-Prazak motioned to approve. Co-Chair Maciel seconded. Motion passed. (10.0)

#### **D. PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Mauricio Callejas, LARP, gave a presentation of his "Life at the MACC Project." The project included organizing four concerts and recording them in front of a live audience. He produced a composition CD and at the end of the year produced 8 hours of audio. He stated LARP is very necessary and hopes it continues.
2. Kim McKnight, PARD Project Manager was not present but sent an email with her briefing on the ESB-MACC Master Plan process. Member Vale-Castillo stated that McKnight indicated four separate meetings with different focus groups that provided feedback was included.
  - Hector Ordaz spoke in regards to the four different sessions that were held at the Community Centers. He attended the one at Montopolis Recreation Center and only three people were in attendance and the information received was the same as received when he met with the architects in public forum. He shared concerns that not all information was reaching the Spanish speaking community at the January 20<sup>th</sup> MasMACC meeting.
3. Martha Cotera, was not present to give an update from the Coalition for ESB-MACC 2018 Bond Campaign developments. Chair Hernandez advised the Board that Martha had sent a letter and it was in the member's packets. Martha had spoken to the Bond Committee to ensure the MACC was not passed up. Because the Downtown Puzzle did not make it through the budget process this fall, the next opportunity is the Bond Election in November 2019. There is a Bond Committee and Martha has proposed that it be put on the agenda for the Bond Election and the Board will need to develop a working committee.
  - Member Vale-Castillo stated there are four additional community forums with the last one on January 19<sup>th</sup> at the ACC South Austin Campus on Stassney Lane and she would be attending. She stated the MACC needs to establish a working group. She stated that Council can add any item to the Bond as long as it gets six votes. Even if the MACC is not on what is presented to the Council in the final presentation, the final decision by the Bond Review Committee, Council can add to it, they can adjust the recommendation. She stated it is important for the Working Group to start meeting with individual Council Members to secure the six votes for Council to support the MACC alone or possibly include all three of the cultural centers to receive funding.

- Chair Hernandez stated a Working group would be established at this meeting for the Bond Election. Member Goujon made a motion to establish a Working Group for the Bond Election with a second by Co-Chair Maciel. Motion passed. ( 8-0). Members of the Working Group will include Members Maciel, Goujon, Sarabia (maybe), Aguilar (for now), Chair Hernandez and also inclusion of community members.
  - Sylvia Orozco, Executive Director, Mexic-Arte Museum read a letter asking for the MACC to consider participating with Mexic-Arte in the 2018 Bond Package.
  - Michael Torres, President, Board of Directors at Mexic-Arte Museum also attended the meeting with Sylvia in support of Mexic-Arte and the MACC on the bond package.
4. Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Site Manager provided the Board Members with the January 2018 calendar and pointed out two important receptions on the same day on January 20<sup>th</sup>, the MasMACC presentation and the Youth Caminos Photo Exhibit. The art exhibit opening on January 27 is by Efren Gonzalez. She also included a report of the October, November and December quarterly attendance between the LARP and the MACC that Member Oyervides requested.

#### **E. BRIEFING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Martha Cotera presented to the Board information on the ESB-MACC Master Plan and the 2018 Bond Election Campaign process.
  - Martha suggested and recommended the following to the Board: The Advisory Board has the responsibility to get the MACC on the Bond Election; the Board should attend the meetings and become experts on the Master Plan and what will be included in the Bond; Members should invite the Bond Election Advisory members which are Yasmiyn Irizarry, Estrella de Leon, Santiago Rodriguez and Rachel Stone; Members should attend public hearings; Members should call or email the Bond Task Force members on placing the MACC on Bonds and be ready to lobby City Council by attending their meetings and hearings.
2. Member Oyervides spoke on behalf of Member Cerda-Prazak and reported on possible action regarding the creation of a Working Group to appeal to the City Council and CapMetro Board of Directors to expedite the development and implementation of improved citizen access to the ESB-MACC through the placement of a bus stop near or adjacent to the facility. At a meeting with CM Renteria he expressed that it probably will not happen. It costs \$1 million a year for a route on Capitol Metro. He suggested smaller vehicles that travel from the MACC to other bus stops and back.
  - A motion by Member Oyervides was made to establish a working group to work with CapMetro with a second by Member Sarabia. Motion passed 8-0.
3. Carlos Cordova gave an update on Austin Energy substation public art project.
  - Council has approved a 1.4 million dollar contract with Stanley Consultants to start the process for the substation. There is not a pre-selected artist for this project. The Project will be complete by the summer of 2020.
4. Member Oyervides spoke regarding LARP and the proposed Residency Program. He stated he was in support of it, but glad he waited due to all the feedback from the

community. He was concerned the Board was not involved, lack of transparency, and no inclusion of the Board, LARP members or the community.

- Luis Ordaz gave details of the timelines and dates received regarding the new contract.
- Ordaz stated the contract received was never seen by the City Attorney.
- Member Oyervides stated that Council did not pass the program.
- Ordaz stated Agenda Item #13 in the packet was the agenda item that was voted on December 14 for \$240,000 funding to expand cultural center hours. That is what Council voted on. PARD is now saying that due to that ordinance they are implementing this artist access program. Luis stated when he reached out to City Council during Xmas break to try and get an extension and investigation they stated they had no involvement in the actual program and they only approved the funding – stating it was more City Manager and departmental issues that they did not get involved in. This created the issue and now the struggle between City Council not being able to really do anything because they only approved funding. PARD stated verbatim in letters they had to sign the contract by a motion directed by Council. The misleading clause is what forced Los Bohemios Perdidos to sign the contract that was never reviewed by legal.
- Ordaz stated if the contract was not signed they would lose access to the MACC and in danger of losing cultural funding.
- Co-Chair Maciel expressed she was very uncomfortable with the situation and did not think the Board should allow the Artist Access Program to proceed.
- Ordaz stated this was the second breach of contract.
- Ordaz urged the Board to ask City Council why Laura Esparza said she had worked with the Board to create this program when in fact she had not. The Asian American Center Quality of Life and the African American Board were not informed. Chair Hernandez stated that Laura told him about it, but the Board did not have any involvement in it.
- Co-Chair Maciel asked to postpone the action of the Artist Access Program and the program should not go any further until the Board had more information and how it's going to affect all the centers.
- Chair Hernandez advised the members to take immediate action to suspend the program.
- Chair Hernandez recommended the Board make a motion to write a letter to City Council Members, PARD Board and staff stating objection to the implementation of the Arts Access Program and that the original contract with LARP artists until Sept 2019 be honored. It was also of importance to make a statement that the Board was not fully informed and/or had the opportunity to participate in the program development and neither were the artists or members of other cultural centers Boards.
- Member Oyervides made a motion to write a letter to City Council with a second by Member Banda. Motion passed. (8-0).
- Co-Chair Maciel requested a meeting be set up with City Council and she would like to attend.

5. No further discussion

6. No further discussion.
7. No further discussion.

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

1. Discussion and action on the Mural Program.
2. Discussion and possible action on the Awards of Excellence.
3. Discussion and action on Board Meeting calendar for 2018.

**G. ADJOURNMENT:**

Member Banda motioned to adjourn with a second by Member Aguilar. Motion passed. (8.0). Members Vale-Castillo and Cerda-Prazak were not present. Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 10:07 pm.