

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Advisory Board convened in a special called meeting via video conferencing.

Board Members in Attendance:

David Goujon, Chair

Olga Campos-Benz, Member

Diana Gomez, Member

Wayne Lopes, Member

Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member

Claudia Massey, Member

Tomas Salas, Member

Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member

Board Members Absent:

Gerardo Gandy, Member

Art Navarro, Vice Chair

Endi Silva, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Lucas Massie, PARD Assistant Director

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Manager

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Goujon called the Board Meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Campos-Benz motioned to approve the minutes. Member Lopes Seconded. Vote Passed. (8.0)

2. CHAIR REPORT:

Chair Goujon presented the chair report. Thanked previous Chair Salas and Vice Chair Cerda-Prazak for their leadership. Encouraged board members to actively communicate and engage community members.

3. PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ana Maciel thanked and congratulated Chair Goujon and Vice Chair Navarro for their recent appointment. Maciel spoke with regards to the Music Commission discussion of allocation of the Creative Spaces bond. Maciel discussed the need for more available spaces for Mexican-American musicians. She discussed her support of creating Music Hub at ESB-MACC to alleviate disparities of under representation of Mexican-American musicians in Austin. She explained that the space could be used for instruction, education and professional development and possibly be supported by hotel occupancy tax funds. She asked that the board take action on the issue.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Supervisor Tamzarian presented the staff report outlining the previous and future programs of the ESB-MACC. Member Massey congratulated MACC staff on their ability to adapt and create digital programming during pandemic.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and approve Annual Report. (Goujon, Navarro)

- Member Salas presented the Annual Report to the board. He discussed the need for the board to set goals and objectives for the coming year. Member Salas stated that his goal for the board was to increase participation and support from all board members including support for digital programming and in person programs when they resume.
- Chair Goujon presented his goal to promote collaborations between other boards and commissions, private and nonprofit groups that share the MACC's mission.
- Member Campos-Benz spoke about setting a goal to increase brand recognition and visibility and to increase exposure of the MACC to improve the public's perception.
- Member Maga Rojas proposed that the board be more inclusive of Latinos of diverse backgrounds especially Afro Latinos. He proposed to expand opportunities for communities that might not have accessibility to programs and space.
- Member Lopes proposed as a goal to increase promotion and cultivation of outreach services for youth.
- Member Cerda-Prazak proposed collaborating more with the other cultural centers throughout the City.
- Chair Goujon proposed reaching out to other boards and commissions and other cultural center advisory boards to establish and maintain strong connections.
- Member Gomez proposed as a goal to reach out to communities that have been pushed out of central part of Austin, including immigrant families that may not have access to transportation. She proposed to explore ways to assist with transportation issues. She also proposed a goal to incorporate civic engagement for youth so they can become more engaged.

b. Discussion and possible action on a proposal being drafted by the Latino Mexican American Music Coalition, a local non-profit, for possible funding from the Creative Spaces bond for the ESB-MACC CIP for a music hub. (Goujon, Navarro)

- Chair Goujon summarized the 2018 12 million Creative Spaces Bond package. He proposed following this project closely and taking action at a future meeting to support the possible allocation of funds to Phase II and to potentially create a music hub at the ESB-MACC.
- Member Salas would support funding going directly to MACC but not support funding going to a non-profit that would run the space at the MACC.
- Manager Rojas summarized that the spaces at the MACC are not adequately set up as recording studios or rehearsal spaces and that a music hub would be a benefit to the MACC community.

c. Discussion and possible action on all working groups. (Goujon, Massey)

- Chair Goujon described the purpose of working groups.

1. Latino Artist Access Program (LAAP)

- Member Campos-Benz provided an update and asked for other members to join the working group. She also asked board members to provide recommendations for community members to join working group.

- Dialogue ensued about potentially having too many goals as part of the LAAP working group.
 - Chair Goujon motioned to change the name from LAAP to the Arts Working group and change the mission to review contracts and selection process of exhibits, review the LAAP contract, and advise the MACC on the arts of the Phase II project. Seconded by Campos-Benz. Unanimous vote. (8.0) Motion passed.
2. Budget
 - Chair Goujon dissolved working group until FY22 budget discussions arise.
 3. Transportation
 - Nothing to report at this time. Chair Goujon asked to join working group and proposed two topics of discussion. The first was the potential expansion of Red River Street and also Project Connect.
 4. Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase II Construction Project
 - Chair Goujon provided update from Project Manager Heidi Tse. On July 30 City Council approved the recommendation to begin contract negotiations with Miro Rivera Architecture firm in collaboration with Mexican Architect Tatiana Bilbao.
 5. Ethnographic Research
 - Chair Goujon volunteered to be added to the working group. Member Salas provided update that the project had been halted but would resume soon.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None provided

Newly appointed members Maga Rojas, Gomez, Lopes and Campos-Benz gave a brief summary on their professional and personal background. Chair Goujon welcomed them to the board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Goujon motioned to adjourn with a second by Member Campos-Benz. Unanimous vote. Motion passed. (8.0) Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.