

## Retreat Minutes TEMPE MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION February 27, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission (TMAC) recorded at 12 p.m. on February 27, 2017, within the Tempe History Museum Community Room, 809 E. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ, 85282.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Deborah Bair  
Celina Coleman (called in at 3:30pm)  
Hilary Harp – Vice Chair (departed at 3:30pm)  
Anthony Johnson  
Kiyomi Kurooka  
Charlie Lee – Chair  
Kelly Nelson  
Aaron Thacker

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

David Lucier

**City Staff Present:**

Brenda Abney, Manager- Tempe History Museum  
Maja Aurora, Arts Engagement Administrator  
Rebecca Rothman, Public Art Administrator  
Joy Higgins, Administrative Assistant  
Ralph Remington, Deputy Director of Arts & Culture  
Shelley Hearn, Community Services Director

**Guest(s) Present:**

Peggy Moroney, Tempe History Museum and Library  
Advisory Board member  
Jacque Tobias, Tempe History Museum and Library  
Advisory Board member

**Agenda Item 1 – Lunch, welcome and introductions**

- **Charlie Lee**, TMAC Chair, called the TMAC retreat to order at 12:25pm.
- All present gave a short self-introduction.

**Agenda Item 2 – Performing Arts Presentation**

- **Ralph Remington**, Deputy Director of Arts and Culture/TCA Artistic Director, presented his education, professional history in the arts, and his career trajectory leading up his current position.
- R. Remington described Tempe Center for Arts and Culture as an umbrella title to include Tempe Center for the Art (TCA), Tempe History Museum (THM), Tempe Public Art & Galleries, and Arts Engagement & Art Education as a collective entity. [www.tempe.gov/arts](http://www.tempe.gov/arts)
- R. Remington explained the TCA Vision Plan, shared preliminary planning ideas for the forthcoming art tax drive, provided updates about the TCA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, and implored TMAC to broadcast information about TCA events, festivals and plays.
- R. Remington encouraged TMAC members to voice how they would each like to be involved in Tempe Center for Arts + Culture, and share ideas for continued heightening of arts experiences in Tempe.

**Agenda Item 3 – History Museum Presentation**

- **Brenda Abney**, Manager of Tempe History Museum, presented her education and professional history in the arts and her career trajectory leading up her current position.
- B. Abney described the accomplishments of the past two years, including drafting a 3-year Strategic Plan, the construction of a searchable database with eMuseum, and the recent accreditation award bestowed by the American Alliance of Museums (as of February 2017).  
<http://emuseum.tempe.gov>

- B. Abney led a tour of the THM building & archives, defined the roles and procedures of the THM team, and expressed enthusiasm for the creation of the Arts + Culture Division and the potential impact the entity can accomplish. [www.tempe.gov/museum](http://www.tempe.gov/museum)

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Public art & Gallery Presentation**

- **Rebecca Blume Rothman**, Public Art Administrator, presented her education and professional history in the arts and her career trajectory leading up her current position.
- R. Rothman presented the Public Art GIS Map constructed in collaboration with the Tempe IT-GIS team. She asked that TMAC members review the site and provide her with edits and feedback.
- R. Rothman updated TMAC on what comprises the Tempe Public Art collection, efforts to improve the Art in Private Development procedures, and the inclusion of public art maintenance in the budget. She requested that TMAC members maintain vigilance with public art condition and report any damage to her. [www.tempe.gov/publicart](http://www.tempe.gov/publicart)
- R. Rothman informed TMAC that Tempe Galleries now falls under the purview of public art, and concerted effort to integrate the programs will be forthcoming. [www.tempe.gov/tempegalleries](http://www.tempe.gov/tempegalleries)

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Arts Engagement & Arts Education Presentation**

- **Maja Aurora**, Arts Engagement Administrator, presented her education and professional history in the arts and her career trajectory leading up her current position.
- M. Aurora updated TMAC with changes to select Arts Grants, and requested feedback on them before posting them to the public. Some grants will also be shifted in timing to better accommodate the academic school year. [www.tempe.gov/artsgrants](http://www.tempe.gov/artsgrants)
- M. Aurora reviewed liaison opportunities for TMAC members, and asked that they complete a form stating their top three (or more) choices, and to also make suggestions for other choices.
- M. Aurora is seeking ideas from TMAC for expanding the program offerings at the Edna Vihel Center. [www.tempe.gov/vihel](http://www.tempe.gov/vihel)

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Closing Discussion**

- TMAC members closed the meeting with the following thoughts:
  - Encouraged by the collaborative opportunities that Tempe Arts + Culture can bring forth for the community through the bridging of workgroups within the division
  - Appreciated the in-depth information about the History Museum, the large collection, and the recent accreditation
  - Inspired by life stories given by Ralph Remington, Brenda Abney, Maja Aurora, and Rebecca Blume Rothman, and feel they are all strong and qualified leaders
  - The TCA Forum is interesting and looking forward to that expanded narrative
  - Happy that TMAC and incoming members are enthusiastic and optimistic about merging this commission with the History Museum Board
  - Impressed by the resources that the Tempe History Museum makes available to the community (archives, research, procedures, et al)
- Future agenda items
  - Danelle Plaza communication strategy
  - Private Mural update
  - Poet Laureate
  - On-call artist or artist-in-residence: position interpretation and utility
  - Art in Private Development
  - Tempe History Museum priorities
  - Music Scene: what's working/what's not
  - Communication channels and event coverage

#### **Agenda Item 7 –Adjournment**

- Next meeting: 6pm March 8, 2016 at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Parkway, 85281.
- **Meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.**