

## Retreat Minutes TEMPE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION February 3, 2020

Minutes of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) retreat recorded at 4:00pm on February 3, 2020, within the Carter Lounge, Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, 85281.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jeff Davis  
Lisa Hobson  
Maureen Kobierowski  
Kiyomi Kurooka  
Peggy Moroney  
Jennifer Song  
Justin Stewart - Chair  
Ginny Sylvester  
Aaron Thacker – Vice-chair

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Michael Bennett  
Michael Rohd

**City Staff Present:**

Brenda Abney, Visual Arts & Culture Manager  
Eileen May, Managing Director of TCA  
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Director of Public Art  
Maja Aurora, Director of Arts Engagement  
Joy Higgins, Administrative Assistant  
Ralph Remington, Deputy Director of Arts & Culture  
Keith Burke, Community Services Director

**Guest(s) Present:**

None

**Agenda Item 1 – Greeting**

**Justin Stewart, Tempe Arts & Culture Commission Chair**, called the TACC meeting to order at 4:10pm, introduced himself, Ralph Remington and Keith Burke.

- a) **R. Remington, Deputy Director of Arts & Culture** welcomed members to the TACC retreat and conveyed the following:
  - The new policies and procedures for TACC will be implemented this year.
  - There has been a year-long process with AMS, a consulting group, to research and advise on best practices for the Arts & Culture Division.
- b) **Keith Burke, Community Services Director**, conveyed the following:
  - Introduced himself and welcomed the Arts & Culture Commission.

**Agenda Item 2 – Introductions**

- a) Staff introduced themselves.
- b) Commissioners introduced themselves.

**Agenda Item 3 – Division overview**

- a) **Rebecca Blume Rothman** presented information about Tempe Public Art and Tempe Galleries. Tempe Public Art encompasses the following:
  - Public Art projects are funded primarily through a percentage received from capital improvement projects within the City of Tempe, typically with Transportation, Water, and Parks departments. TACC members are often called upon to serve on selection panels as TACC liaisons. [www.tempe.gov/publicart](http://www.tempe.gov/publicart)
  - Neighborhood art projects are funded through the Marianne Corder Neighborhood Grant program, through Neighborhood Services. Tempe Public Art oversees those that are public art projects. [www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodgrants](http://www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodgrants)

- Art in Private Development program is part of the municipal code in which developments over 50,000 SF are required to include publicly accessible art or pay money in lieu of the art for arts & culture programs within the city. TACC members are called upon to serve on committees to review art designs as TACC liaisons. [www.tempe.gov/aipd](http://www.tempe.gov/aipd)
  - Temporary art is accomplished through programs such as IN FLUX and Arts in the Parks. These projects are good for new artists trying to do work outside of the studio, or are short-term smaller projects. [www.tempe.gov/artsintheparks](http://www.tempe.gov/artsintheparks); <https://influxaz.com/>
- Tempe Galleries is led by Michelle Dock, Visual Arts Curator. Tempe Galleries includes:
- the Gallery at TCA puts on three exhibits per year. The summer exhibit includes an artist in residence program that offers public workshops.
  - the Community Galleries are found on the Library's second floor, at the downtown Tempe Post Office, and in front the Connections Café inside the Library
  - [www.tempecenterforthearts.com/gallery](http://www.tempecenterforthearts.com/gallery)
- b) **Maja Aurora** presented information about Arts Engagement. The community-initiated programs planned and facilitated by the Arts Engagement workgroup include:
- Edna Vihel Arts Center programs (ceramics, visual arts, theater, dance, music, etc.) [www.tempe.gov/ednaarts](http://www.tempe.gov/ednaarts)
  - Arts in the Parks, a community focused event. The first event is on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Harelson Park. [www.tempe.gov/artsintheparks](http://www.tempe.gov/artsintheparks)
  - Arts Grants [www.tempe.gov/artsgrants](http://www.tempe.gov/artsgrants)
  - Studio Artists Program is a partnership with the Tempe Elementary School District where the City provides support for the artists to be in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. The district provides studio space for each artist.
  - Special projects with grant funding, such as Tempe Playlist [www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist](http://www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist)
  - Engagement programs at Tempe Center for the Arts in conjunction with productions & presentations
  - Community Programs include Music Under the Stars and Arts Career Day with a focus on dance, and Tempe Playlist. [www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist](http://www.tempe.gov/tempeplaylist); [www.tempe.gov/artengagement](http://www.tempe.gov/artengagement)
  - Details on all programs can be found at <https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-services/arts-culture-history/arts-engagement>
- c) **Brenda Abney** presented information about the Tempe History Museum and historic houses.
- The Tempe History Museum was begun by the Tempe Historical Society more than 50 years ago. It was transferred to the City of Tempe in 1985.
  - Then Tempe History Museum accomplished accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums in February 2016.
  - The main area of impact is in preserving collections for the community's history and culture. The exhibitions tell the stories about Tempe's people and places.
  - The collection includes about 75,000 cataloged items which can be searched through the eMuseum: <http://emuseum.tempe.gov/>
  - A committee makes decisions about what goes into the collection and keeps the collection focused.
  - The changing exhibit generally changes out once per year. These exhibits require much research and preparation, so a lengthy exhibition period allows the museum to tell a creative story.
  - The community room gallery features two-dimensional works and is changed out 5-6 times per year.
  - The museum manages two historic houses:
    - Petersen House at Southern and Priest, a Victorian farmhouse [www.tempe.gov/petersenhouse](http://www.tempe.gov/petersenhouse)
    - Elias Rodriguez House on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, the oldest remaining traditional adobe structure in Tempe
  - Education programming for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders is an important part of the mission of the Tempe History Museum.
  - Performance and lecture programs include discussions with the artists and local professionals.
  - [www.tempe.gov/museum](http://www.tempe.gov/museum)
- d) **Eileen May** and **Ralph Remington** presented information about Tempe Center for the Arts.
- Tempe Center for the Arts has about 19 full-time staff, and with part-time, docent, and volunteers the total is approximately 150 people.

- IDEA Campus next to TCA has its first tenant, Becton Dickenson (BD), moving in. The garage will open soon. Rebecca Blume Rothman is working on the Art in Private Development requirements. TCA is working on forging a strong community partnership with BD.
- The Gallery Sculpture Garden is open for events.
- TCA is trying to boost audience development and create an environment that is attracting people to visit often and create memories.
- AMS planning and research has been studying and researching Tempe and is tasked with helping TCA assemble business practices and marketing plans, strengthen policies and procedures.
- Intrinsic Impact has been collecting feedback on select shows and programs over the last year and a half. Using this to analyze our overall customer service philosophy as well as all aspects of a customer experience from the garage through the event.
- 10 local, resident artists are housed at the TCA and are supported through reduces fees and staff to be sure that the TCA is maintaining focus on local talent and local voices. TCA will be working on an application process and what it means to be a TCA Resident Artist.
- Approximately 800 events in three performance spaces are held at TCA annually, with over 200,000 visitors
- [www.tempecenterforthearts.com](http://www.tempecenterforthearts.com)

### **Agenda Item 3 – Binder Content Review**

- a) TACC informational binders were distributed to each new member and the sections reviewed; continuing members were given updated information to place in their binders.
- b) **B. Abney** explained that new members are joining the commission at an exciting time as the division moves into a different funding model due to the Arts & Culture Tax starting in January 2021. This brings new responsibilities and opportunities for staff and for commissioners.
  - Commissioners were given budget projections showing how current cost centers will merge to create a single cost center and how it will be broken down. B. Abney reviewed revenues and expenditures.
- c) Commissioners see their role as the following:
  - Ambassadors of the arts and of the city; finding ways to help advise city council on certain development projects and how our city shapes up artistically.
  - To be a bridge between the city and artists who may be wary of association with city projects.
  - To advocate and support artists and recognize them personally and through the Arts & Culture Awards.
  - Act as a channel for communication to the community and from the community to city staff.
  - To be immersed in arts and culture in Tempe, learning more to then advocate for those efforts.
  - To be a liaison to our neighborhood associations or the communities that we represent; to listen to what our communities are saying and share that to the commission.
  - Represent the community opinion on local arts and culture.
  - See that the Arts & Culture Plan is implemented and monitor those initiatives.
- B. Abney reiterated the role of Arts & Culture Commissioners by encouraging them to:
  - attend TACC meetings
  - attend events and programs offered by Tempe Arts & Culture
  - communicate to the community the events and programs offered by Tempe Arts & Culture through word-of-mouth and social media
  - share feedback of your experiences, both good and adverse, to aid in future decisions on programming and training
  - communicate the desires of the community to Tempe staff
  - follow the social media pages of Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe History Museum, and Public Art/Arts Engagement
  - be arts and culture ambassadors and liaisons by serving on selection panels, serving as a docent at public events, and attending public meetings and City Council meetings when arts and culture is featured.
  - advise city staff on arts and culture initiatives
- d) The TACC ordinance, the official legal document located within the Tempe City Code, articulates the commission's composition, officers and Powers and Duties in Chapter 2, Article V, Division 3. The group reviewed:
  - the list of criteria used to build a professionally diverse commission (sec. 2-200)

- each of the Powers and Duties, 1-7 (sec. 2-204)
  - [https://library.municode.com/az/tempe/codes/city\\_code?nodeId=CH2AD\\_ARTVBOCOET\\_DIV3\\_ARCUCO](https://library.municode.com/az/tempe/codes/city_code?nodeId=CH2AD_ARTVBOCOET_DIV3_ARCUCO)
- e) Open Meeting Law was reviewed for the clarification of all members, as well as the location of the City Clerk's Member Resource Page on the city website where this information can be found. Things to be aware of include:
- Our commission meetings are open to the public, therefore they are recorded and documented for the public view.
  - TACC members should not discuss commission issues outside of commission meetings. Anything a member would like to discuss should be communicated to Tempe staff so that it be added to a meeting agenda.
  - The commission's quorum number is six. Should there be a chance that six or more members attend the same event, a notice of quorum must be posted for the public by the Clerk's Office.
  - Do not email all members of the commission or "reply all" to announcement emails that include all commissioners. If there is information you would like to send out to the commission, forward it to staff who will then email it out as an announcement if appropriate to do so.
  - <https://www.tempe.gov/government/city-clerk-s-office/boards-and-commissions/board-and-commission-member-resources>
- f) Tempe Arts & Culture Plan and its implementation strategy are provided in the TACC binder. B. Abney gave an overview of the Arts and Culture Plan and recounted the points that have been accomplished or implemented since it's passing in 2015. 54 items (almost half) of the implementation strategy have been completed since 2015.
- [www.tempe.gov/tempeartsplan](http://www.tempe.gov/tempeartsplan)
  - Implementation Strategy document attached

#### **Agenda Item 5 – 2020 Planning**

Commissioners were asked to number the following goals in order of importance to them:

- Advise and recommend on the elements of operating and capital improvement budgets
- Advise on performance standards for arts and culture and recommend public involvement mechanisms to assure arts and culture initiatives follow the Arts and Culture Plan
- Support integration of historic properties into arts and culture programming
- Support arts integration at Danelle Plaza
- Advocate for programming in south Tempe
- Enhance promotion of arts and culture activities through a variety of strategies to champion Tempe's current arts and culture landscape
- Support staff initiatives that address recommendations in the Arts and Culture Plan and Tempe's General Plan 2040

Commissioners were then asked to provide an idea of how to move any of the above goals forward.

#### **Agenda Item 6 - Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 7pm

Prepared By: Joy Higgins

Reviewed By: B Abney