



The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces Quality of Life/Arts Board Committee** held at 4:30 p.m. on January 12, 2023, at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM, Conference Room 2007-A.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christina Ballew, Vice Chair
Melanie Grey Brown, Secretary
Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Member
Greg Smith, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Katrina Chandler, Chair
Yvonne Flores, Councilor
Dr. Adam Amador, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ceci Vasconcellos, Quality of Life, Art Project Coordinator
Christine Rivera, Las Cruces City Clerk
Veronica Quezada, Visit Las Cruces, Event Manager
Carol Brey, Quality of Life, Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Christina Ballew called the meeting to order.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

4. APPROVAL of November 10, 2022 MINUTES

On page 2, line 4 reads "Line 6 on page 23 should state the City Art Board should go through the database of submittals yearly." The sentence should continue with "then pick six and assess where the art pieces should go based on where they would best fit." Line 7 says "Line 9 on page 7 should read ...". The sentence should begin with "Regarding Klein Park" for clarity. Revise Line 9 to read, "At line 25 on page seven..." and add "or artist group" at the end. On page 3, line 20 reads "Cruces as the Arts Capital of Southern New Mexico; to be in process of the public art calls and application to bring art into more accessible places." It should be

changed to read "... to be *included* in the process of the public art calls and applications to help bring art into more accessible places." At line 28, replace "City" with "local and regional artists,...". On line 40 "degeneration" should be "denigration." Page 4, line 6 reads "Project schedule includes the proposal done by the Rotating Art Subcommittee will collaborate and work with RoadRUNNER Transit to see how the installation process will work which is already done." It should read "Project schedule includes the proposal done by the Rotating Art Subcommittee that will collaborate and work with RoadRUNNER Transit to see how the installation process will work, which is already done." Page 4, the last line reads "The event would focus on tourism. They would like to get the community involved. Not too much communication with schools to get them involved." It should read "Visit Las Cruces is communicating with schools to get them involved." On page 8, line 26 says "The Board said they would like to get a quote to see ..." It should read " The Board said they would like to get a quote to see; Mr. Medina offered and was tasked with estimating the cost of the prep work." On page 9, line 17 needs to say that Chantelle Yazzie-Martin did the proposal and Christina Ballew did the art call.

The minutes were accepted as amended.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

6. STAFF UPDATE AND ACTION

Ceci Vasconcellos, Art Project Coordinator

- CAB meeting documentation - Christine Rivera
- Fire Station #3 Art Project
- ASCMV Art Project
- CIP Funded Project
- Budget Update

Christine Rivera discussed the Open Meetings Act; how to run meetings and record minutes, quorum and rolling quorum, and provided a PowerPoint presentation. Ceci Vasconcellos will receive the presentation via email for distribution to Board Members afterward.

The Fire Station #3 artist is fabricating the art piece now. He is working with an engineer to ensure the piece is securely anchored to the building. He reports he is on track to be finished before the end of March.

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley project is getting on track now, with the cement pad being fabricated. Installation is planned for some time in February.

The CIP Fund currently has \$108,000 available to purchase permanent artwork. The Board needs to spend some of it to show progress. Some of the money can be earmarked for Klein Park during the last six months of this fiscal year. Parks

and Rec suggests Buena Vida Park off Telshor Boulevard as candidate for public art spending. Ms. Vasconcellos will create a project plan/budget and make it an action item for next month. La Llorona Park and the dog park at Burn Lake are also possibilities.

Ms. Vasconcellos and Carol Brey are working on the budget now. They plan to request the same amount as last year, with an additional \$25,000 for existing public art maintenance. Inventory of the City's artworks is underway.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- Mira Las Cruces CAB Participation

Christina Ballew and Veronica Quezada presented plans for ¡Mira! Las Cruces, which includes a "Chalk the Plaza" event. It is similar to the event from 2014 to 2016 called Avenue Art. The Board watched a YouTube video from the previous event. This new event fulfills several goals of the Master Plan. Visit Las Cruces hopes to make it a long-running annual event. Visit Las Cruces plans to cover expenses for supplies/equipment, printing, and advertising and hopes the City Art Board will volunteer the manpower to organize and manage the event, including soliciting artists, developing info sheets for artists, reviewing proposals, soliciting other volunteers, setting up a booth/tents, creating signage and voting tabs, etc. The event will take place on Organ Avenue adjacent to the Plaza on April 29th. There will be kids' activities and public interaction. Suggestion was made to provide a stipend for an artist to teach the children and include a featured artist each year. The event will be free to the public. Question was raised as to whether an MOU is needed. Parks and Rec has been consulted and has approved the event. It was suggested to update the Arts and Cultural District Coordinating Council with this event information to encourage their participation.

Greg Smith moved to approve that the City Art Board be a public art partner with Visit Las Cruces' ¡Mira! event and continue as an ongoing partnership pending outcome evaluation. Seconded by Chantelle Yazzie-Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

- NMSU Partnership/Internship

The NMSU representative was not available today to help determine the specifics of the partnership. The students can become City volunteers and would be covered by the City's liability insurance so they can participate in public art maintenance and evaluation studies on City property. The partnership is planned for the Spring 2023 semester, January 18th to May 12th. There should be 14 students in the program. Options were suggested to either wait until the next meeting and try to get the representative to attend before voting, or just vote to approve the partnership contingent upon further development of a specific syllabus.

Melanie Brown moved that the Board vote to accept the proposed premise of a partnership/internship with NMSU based on the draft collaboration proposal presented by the NMSU Sculpture Department. Greg Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Annual Work Plan
 - Review
 - AIPP Funded Public Art Opportunities

Ceci Vasconcellos reviewed the AWP for fiscal year 2023-2024 with the Board Members. She greyed out completed items and highlighted projects she believes are doable in the next year. Rotating Art and repairing the Earth and Cosmos mosaic will definitely be done. Greg Smith suggests talking to Andy Hume about art at the airport, as activity is increasing there. Items not highlighted on the AWP are just there to be considered. Greg Smith suggests that both Dona Ana Arts Council and Cruces Creatives can be partners in the Professional Artist Development Workshops and that there are artist and resident components in the Arts and Cultural District for a collaboration. The CIP has \$108,000 and needs to be used for something. The parking structure monies were reappropriated, but the funding for art is still available for use Downtown. The funding from Art in Public Places rolls over from year to year. Ceci Vasconcellos stated that this Annual Work Plan is ready to go to a work session with City Council. Regarding the airport, Greg Smith suggested the ugly yellow water tower could be improved with public art. Ceci Vasconcellos is unsure if that falls into the Utilities Department's responsibilities. The vote to send the AWP to Council will be placed in next meeting's Action Items. The Grants Office keeps track of how much money the Board has coming in and they help to strategize where and when to spend. Greg Smith expects the Amador Hotel will require a new, modern addition to accommodate an elevator and other required equipment, which may present an opportunity for public art spending. The airport has \$11,000 available now, but there are also Federal and State monies expected. Andy Hume will have better information available.

- Committee Updates
 - Communication and Public Outreach
 - Research and Development.

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin gave a presentation including a pdf specifying her proposed schedule for press releases and social media regarding Board activities. Press releases are sent out a month before the event. Chantelle Yazzie-Martin proposed participation in the Farmers' Market rather than Fine Arts Market, as Farmers' Market is more well attended. She proposed having an archive of photos of art pieces around town for Board use. Melanie Brown liked the idea of a press release about the upcoming year's activities in

December and suggested one be made now to re-cap last year's activities/awards/accomplishments for Ceci Vasconcellos's use as part of the executive summary when she goes before Council to present the Annual Work Plan and request the extra \$25,000 budget for maintenance. Christina Ballew has some ideas for the workshops. Suggestion is made to add a press release regarding the NMSU partnership.

There is no new news for Research and Development.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Greg Smith believes there will be a new Executive Director appointed this week, as his seat is an appointment from the Mayor. He plans to coach the new appointee in Board duties to encourage interaction. Board Members hope he will stay as long as possible.

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin is glad to be back and see everyone in person. She is curious about term length and when each person's term ends. The information shown on the City Art Board's website does not appear correct/up to date. She looks forward to all the awesome projects.

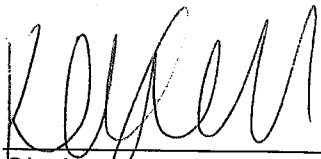
Melanie Brown wishes everyone a Happy New Year and thanks everyone for a positive meeting. She is excited about where the Board is heading. There was more discussion about terms and whether Members can reapply to serve again. Board Members are unsure if the information on the website is accurate, and Christine Rivera will be requested to verify it.

Christina Ballew thanks Board Members for a nice meeting and apologizes for not being a good Chair tonight. She is excited about Mira and the internship with NMSU.

Ceci Vasconcellos says Christina Ballew was an excellent Chair tonight and thanks the Board for their hard work. She suggests that the Board contact Dr. Adam Amador to see if a different time would be better for him to come to meetings.

10. NEXT MEETING – February 9, 2023

11. ADJOURNMENT



Chairperson