



## **Minutes TEMPE MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION April 15, 2009**

Minutes of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission (TMAC) recorded at 6 p.m. on April 15, 2009, in the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) 201 Lounge, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Linda Sleight, Chair  
Doris Parker Chamberlain  
Nikie Crawford  
Nancy Goren  
Barbara Hanigsberg  
Kate Hanley  
Shirlee King  
Richard Strange  
Frank Williams

**City Staff Present:**

Tom Canasi, Community Services Department Manager  
Don Fassinger, Cultural Facilities Administrator  
Rachael Peterson, Cultural Services Division Administrative Assistant  
Maja Switzer, Arts Administrator  
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager

**Guests Present:**

David Lucier, Tempe Veterans Foundation

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Betsy Fahlman, Vice Chair  
Robert Bortfeld  
Ed Coyoli  
Judy Ellison  
Donna Goyette

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to order**

- Linda Sleight called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Approval of the Feb. 11 Commission Minutes**

**MOTION:** Barbara Hanigsberg moved to approve the minutes.  
**SECOND:** Frank Williams seconded.  
**DECISION:** Minutes approved.

**Agenda Item 3 – Cultural Facilities Administrator's Report**

- Don Fassinger, city of Tempe (COT) Cultural Facilities Administrator, reported that approximately 1000 people attended the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Regional Student Juried Exhibition's artist reception that took place on April 9 in the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) Gallery.
- D. Fassinger further reported that the TCA Theater played host to a sold-out Tempe Symphony Orchestra (TSO) concert on April 6; Fassinger acknowledged and thanked

Dr. Richard Strange, TMAC member and TSO Conductor, for his 34 years of service to the Tempe Symphony Orchestra.

- Frank Williams inquired about the ticketing procedure for the TSO concert that took place on April 6; R. Strange reported that free tickets were distributed at the TCA Theater doors prior to the start of the concert.
- Barbara Hanigsberg inquired about the dissemination of the TCA newsletter; Rachael Peterson, COT Cultural Services Division Administrative Assistant, explained that Mary Fowler, COT Cultural Services Division Management Assistant, facilitates the distribution of the TCA newsletter and monitors the newsletter's listserv. Peterson further explained that individuals may request to have the newsletter forwarded to their mailing address by subscribing online to Tempe arts mailing lists. For additional information related to the various city of Tempe arts mailing lists, visit the following website:  
<http://www.tempe.gov/arts/news/subscribe.htm>.
- D. Fassinger presented the commission members with an edition of METROART2008, a publication put together by the METRO Light Rail Team to demonstrate METRO's commitment to the Federal Transportation Agency and its desire to include public art on light rail systems to contribute to a sense of neighborhood pride near rail stations.
- D. Fassinger reported that the TCA Studio Theater is playing host to A Ludwig Dance Theatre's *Festival 2009* April 16 through 18; *Festival 2009* premiers, "The Cheese Stands Alone," a mixture of dance, music, food and politics.
- D. Fassinger invited the TMAC members to attend Walk-in Wednesdays, a weekly open mic event that takes place from 7 to 11 p.m. Fassinger added that singer, songwriter Walt Richardson headlines the Wednesday performance series; appetizer and drink specials are available in the Lounge at TCA beginning at 6 p.m.
- D. Fassinger further invited the TMAC members to attend the Poetry in April series; Fassinger explained that the TCA Lakeside plays host to the series moderated by Catherine Hammond. Fassinger added that accomplished poets join C. Hammond for readings and discussion in celebration of National Poetry Month; featured poets include Sharon Suzuki-Martinez (April 15), Sheilah Britton (April 22) and Simon Ortiz (April 29).
- D. Fassinger encouraged the TMAC members to view the updated lobby at the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts; updates include modern lighting, fresh paint and new hanging systems to showcase artwork (similar to the existing system in the Art Connections Café – Tempe Public Library). Fassinger stated that the updates create a gallery atmosphere in the Vihel Lobby, a space that emphasizes a goal of creating a campus of culture between the Tempe Public Library, the Tempe Historical Museum and the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts.
- D. Fassinger announced that a city of Tempe Boards and Commissions Thank You Reception is set to take place at 6 p.m. on April 24 at the Tempe Transportation Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), located at 200 E. Fifth Street.
- D. Fassinger reported that the TCA is playing host to the following events:
  - Childsplay - "The Neverending Story" (April 19 – June 17, TCA Theater)
  - Music Under the Stars (7 p.m., April 17, TCA Amphitheater)
  - Friends of TCA – "Performance with a View" (10 a.m., April 21, TCA Lakeside)
  - Paper Cup Exchange – Artist Ryan Huna Smith (April 30, TCA Gallery)
  - Lakeshore Jazz – Tierney Sutton Band (April 30, TCA Studio Theater)
- B. Hanigsberg reported that she attended the Virginia and E.J. Tinsley Promenade Dedication on March 25 at the TCA; Hanigsberg added that it was a very nice event.

- D. Fassinger presented the TMAC members with a book of TCA photographic images by artist Filippo Tagliati. Fassinger added that the TCA is also featured in a publication titled, Where Guest Book AZ.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Chairperson’s Report**

- Linda Sleight, TMAC Chair, reported that the 2009 TMAC subcommittees have been updated to reflect newly-appointed TMAC member participation. Sleight encouraged the TMAC members to view the subcommittee membership document included in their meeting packet.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – New Business**

- Linda Sleight introduced and welcomed David Lucier, president of the Tempe Veterans Foundation, as well as Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager.
- D. Lucier and N. Ryan presented the TMAC members with an update in regards to the Tempe Veterans Memorial project and concept. Lucier explained that the proposed location for the project is the west corner of Tempe Beach Park. Lucier further explained that the project incorporates elements of transportation, history, renovation, restoration, as well as a memorial to veterans.
- D. Lucier reported that the main part of the memorial titled, “Veterans’ Parade,” is 525 feet in length and runs along the Ash Avenue approach. Lucier added that the element includes 80 steel panels that are 4’ by 8’ and runs the length of the approach representing veterans through the ages.
- D. Lucier stated that an additional element, the “Overlook and Visitors’ Plaza,” is a renovation of the Mill Avenue bridge abutment. Lucier added that the overlook will include two staircases on each side.
- D. Lucier further explained that a third element, the “Court of Service,” is a proposed memorial to all services. Lucier reported that the construction of the project elements will occur in three phases; the phases are as follows:
  - Phase One: “Veterans’ Parade” as well as the renovation and restoration of the bridge abutment
  - Phase Two: “Court of Service”
  - Phase Three: “Completion of the Visitors’ Plaza”
- D. Lucier reported that the proposed project completion date is Nov. 11, 2011. Lucier encouraged the TMAC members to contact him with any questions or concerns via telephone call at 480.703.4008.
- Frank Williams inquired about the total cost of the project; D. Lucier stated that the project received funding in the amount of \$3,000,000.
- Nancy Goren inquired about the maintenance of the memorial site; N. Ryan stated that the city of Tempe will be responsible for maintaining the property.
- Barbara Hanigsberg expressed the need for low-water usage shade trees and shade structures to be integrated into the project; N. Ryan stated that shade trees will be located near seating areas within the memorial.
- N. Ryan asked the commission for a statement of support for the Tempe Veterans Memorial project and concept; L. Sleight stated that it is the consensus of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission to support the Tempe Veterans Memorial project and concept.

- L. Sleight introduced and welcomed Tom Canasi, COT Community Services Department Manager.
- T. Canasi provided the TMAC members with an update in regards to the COT Community Services Department's vision that includes renovation of the Tempe Historical Museum, the Tempe Public Library and the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts to establish a campus of culture. Canasi explained that the Tempe City Council, through a bond election, had the authority to generate revenues and capital projects for the Tempe Historical Museum and the Tempe Public Library. Canasi further explained that construction for the museum renovation is set to begin in late April, 2009; construction for the library renovation is set to begin in early July, 2009.
- T. Canasi announced his retirement effective late June, 2009. Canasi stated that he began his service to the city of Tempe in 1975. Canasi added that a COT staff member is set to be appointed to serve as the interim Community Services Department Manager; Canasi stated that he intends to revisit the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission in May, 2009, to welcome and introduce the interim manager to the TMAC members.
- T. Canasi assured the TMAC members that the interim Community Services Department Manager will continue to fulfill the department's vision to create a complex synergy between the Tempe Historical Museum, the Tempe Public Library and the Edna Vihel Center for the Arts so that Tempe's Cultural Complex may be widely-recognized as being a hub of culture. Canasi envisions a free, friendly, family environment; three buildings will work together to provide Tempe citizens with art, stories and historical programming that will best meet their needs and improve their quality of life.
- Canasi announced the possibility of presenting a regular series of Friday evening events that may include visual art exhibition openings, guest author presentations, poetry readings, historical presentations and performing arts opportunities. Canasi has a holistic view of the arts and would like the Tempe Cultural Complex area to become part of the surrounding neighborhood fabric with an ultimate goal of making Tempe an art-embracing community that celebrates art.
- L. Sleight inquired about the Tempe Public Library Renovation Project; T. Canasi stated that the library will be updated to include the following:
  - Central service counters
  - Expanded customer access to technology
  - Adult computer commons and teaching lab on the main floor
  - Family computing center in the Youth Library
  - Expanded Youth Services
  - New Teen Services designed by Teen Friends of Library
- Shirlee King inquired about restricted access to the Youth Library; Canasi stated that the Youth Library is being temporarily relocated to the library's main level and that the summer reading program will continue as scheduled.
- T. Canasi reported that despite the present status of the city of Tempe budget, it's the Tempe City Council's approach to balance the budget and avoid layoffs. Canasi further explained that in an effort to avoid layoffs, positions were identified and slated for elimination within the city of Tempe. Placement options are being offered to the employees presently in positions slated for elimination; Canasi added that three positions within the COT Cultural Services Division have been identified and slated for elimination. Canasi also explained that the city management team wishes to balance the budget as well as protect the integrity of staff, programs and services within the city of Tempe.

- Canasi announced that the city of Tempe Opportunities Brochure is going green; effective fall, 2009, the Tempe Opportunities Brochure will not be mailed to Tempe residents. Tempe residents may view the opportunities brochure online at [www.tempe.gov/brochure](http://www.tempe.gov/brochure); a paper copy of the brochure may be picked up at any designated city of Tempe class registration site. Canasi added that a limited number of paper brochure copies will be printed; citizens wishing to receive the brochure via mail, to receive a copy, may call 480.350.5315 and provide their name, mailing address and zip code.

#### **Agenda Item 6a – Public Art/AIPD Committee**

- No report.

#### **Agenda Item 6b– Grants Committee**

- Nancy Goren presented the TMAC members with a city of Tempe Arts MiniGrant Application submitted by the Arizona (AZ) Flute Society for a project titled, “Jim Walker Flute Recital and Masterclass.” Goren explained that the AZ Flute Society is a Tempe-based non-profit organization that has planned a four-day flute camp for students of all ages taking place May 27 through 30, 2009, at the Tempe Church of the Nazarene. Goren further explained that as part of the four-day camp, the students will work with guest artist Jim Walker.

**MOTION:** Nancy Goren moved to approve the mini-grant application.

**SECOND:** Kate Hanley seconded.

**DECISION:** AZ Flute Society MiniGrant Application approved.

#### **Agenda Item 6c– Communications/Advocacy Committee**

- No report.

#### **Agenda Item 6d– Facilities Committee**

- No report.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Commission Member’s Announcements**

- Doris Parker Chamberlain reported that she attended the “Petersen House Art Festival” on March 21, a collaborative project between the Tempe Artists Guild and the Tempe Historical Museum organized to celebrate, showcase and support Tempe’s vibrant art community. Chamberlain added that the event was successful; it was established to embody the spirit of the art classes that were taught on the grounds of the Petersen House by Arizona State University (ASU) art professor, Tom Harter, more than half a century ago.

The next TMAC meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 20 in the TCA 201 Lounge, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**

Prepared by: Rachael Peterson

Reviewed by: Adrienne Richwine

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Authorized Signature  
Position/Title