

## Minutes TEMPE MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION June 14, 2017

Minutes of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission (TMAC) recorded at 6 pm on June 14, 2017, within the Carter Lounge at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ, 85281.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Deborah Bair  
Hilary Harp – Vice Chair  
Anthony Johnson  
Kiyomi Kurooka  
Charlie Lee – Chair  
David Lucier  
Kelly Nelson

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Celina Coleman  
Aaron Thacker

**City Staff Present:**

Brenda Abney, Tempe History Museum Manager  
Maja Aurora, Arts Engagement Administrator  
Joy Higgins, Administrative Assistant

**Guest(s) Present:**

Peggy Moroney, Tempe History Museum & Library  
Advisory Board member  
Jacque Tobias, Tempe History Museum & Library Advisory  
Board member  
David Brant, Artist; Freedom Rio 2100 – Art in Private  
Development  
Theodore Troxel, Artist; Emerald Center – Art in Private  
Development  
Tom Tait, CIO of Tait Development; Emerald Center – Art  
in Private Development

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

- **Charlie Lee**, TMAC Chair, called the TMAC meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

- None

**Agenda Item 3 – Introductions**

- **C. Lee** welcomed **Peggy Moroney** and **Jacque Tobias** to the meeting as they will become members of the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission as of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, having served on the History Museum and Library Advisory Board. All members and staff present introduced themselves.

**Agenda Item 4 - Approval of the May 10, 2017 Commission Minutes**

- **Charlie Lee** asked the TMAC members to review an **unapproved TMAC minutes document dated May 10, 2017**.
- **MOTION:** **Kelly Nelson** moved to approve the **May 10, 2017 Tempe Municipal Arts Commission Meeting Minutes**.
- **SECOND:** **David Lucier** seconded.
- **DECISION:** **Approved as presented**.

**Agenda Item 5 – Freedom Rio 2100 Presentation, Art in Private Development**

- **David Brant**, artist, shared information and plans for the Art in Private Development project to be installed at Freedom Rio 2100, 2100 E Rio Salado Parkway. Details include:

- The phase III project within the Rio 2100 development totals 318,000 SF of commercial structure sited at the northern-most side of the property adjacent to Loop 202 and the Rio Salado (Salt River).
- The art installation site is located on a pathway within the development that connects directly to the pathway that runs along the south bank of Tempe Town Lake. This section of pathway overlooks the river that runs below the junction of Loops 202 & 101, where an abundance of riparian vegetation can be found.
- The art project design continues the theme of over-scaled plants fabricated in metal, as found in the Art in Private Development projects for phases I&II. The phase III design, titled *Reeds, Rushes and Ripples*, consists of 44 abstracted reeds in three colors that will tower over the pathway and a bench to provide shade. The bench is designed in a basket weave style, harkening the work of Indian tribes of centuries past that resided along the waterway. A retaining wall measuring approximately 120 lineal feet and 4 feet tall will feature a two-layer application of precision-cut steel depicting abstracted water ripples and bubbles and have a cobalt blue finish.
- Fabrication will begin in September 2017 with planned installation in early 2018.
- [www.tempe.gov/aipd](http://www.tempe.gov/aipd)

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Emerald Center Presentation, Art in Private Development**

- **Tom Tait, CIO for Tait Development, and Theodore Troxel, artist**, presented information and plans for the Art in Private Development project to be installed at Emerald Center, at the NEC of 1-10 and Warner Road. Details include:
  - Emerald Center is a 140 acre campus that includes Ikea, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Main Event Entertainment. The current phase of construction will add 60,000 SF of retail space.
  - The art installation site is located at the SWC of Jewel Street and Emerald Drive within the development, a highly visible location.
  - The art project design addresses the topic of global warming. *Earth Thermometer*, an 11.5' sculptural thermometer of stainless steel with internal lighting extending out of a raised base depicting a flat world map. The internal LED lighting rises to indicate the correct atmospheric temperature on the thermometer which is enumerated with only two temperatures: 1. 32°, signifying freezing, and 2. 98° signifying a healthy body temperature. The sculpture is intended to communicate the idea of taking the planet's temperature.
  - Fabrication and installation dates are yet to be determined. Local studio Bollinger Atelier will fabricate the sculpture. [www.bollingeratelier.com](http://www.bollingeratelier.com)
  - TMAC members appreciate the originality of the design and the provocative subject matter.
  - [www.tempe.gov/aipd](http://www.tempe.gov/aipd)

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Art & Culture Deputy Director's Report**

- None

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Arts & Culture Commission Format Discussion**

- **B. Abney** initiated discussion about changes and expectations upon the appointment of the Tempe Arts & Culture Commission (TACC) after the effective date of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, thus dismantling the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission and absorbing the History Museum portion of the Tempe History Museum & Library Advisory Board.
  - **Joy Higgins**, Administrative Assistant, will assume the role of the first point of contact for commission communications. [joy\\_higgins@tempe.gov](mailto:joy_higgins@tempe.gov), 480.350.2816
  - The four main areas of focus for the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission will be culture, performing arts, visual arts (including arts education and arts engagement), and public art.
  - TACC is the connection to the community, which allows members to weigh-in on subjects and issues involving local arts and culture.
  - TACC can act as a think tank and collaborate on ideas for arts and culture programs and initiatives for the community.
  - TACC duties will be of an advisory capacity in which each member will be part of an arts or cultural liaison project and present pertinent information to the commission during

- meetings following the project. These could be short-term liaison projects or long-term commitments.
- **M. Aurora** presented a list of TACC liaison opportunities for fall 2017 and asked all members to list their top three choices. She welcomed members to add ideas for other opportunities to the form.
  - **K. Nelson** presented two ideas: 1. A TACC produced newsletter containing current arts and culture events and reports, 2. A liaison opportunity that would focus on events to promote artists and recently installed projects or exhibits.
  - TMAC ruled in favor of maintaining meeting day and time of the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm.
  - TMAC ruled in favor of maintaining meeting location primarily at Tempe Center for the Arts, and occasionally meeting at other locations, such as the Edna Vihel Center or Tempe History Museum, during major events.
  - TACC meeting agenda will include an item during which members can voice topics to be added for discussion to future meeting agendas.
  - Future agenda items: **H. Harp** would like discussion about the Art in Private Development ordinance; **K. Nelson** would like discussion about artist advocacy; discussion about the TACC role to promote and support the Arts Tax will be on the September 2017 agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Update: Public Art**

- None

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Liaison Reports**

- **K. Nelson & K. Kurooka** attended the Tempe Streetcar 30% Design Update public meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. All artists presented their public art plans and received minimal feedback from the public. [www.valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar](http://www.valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar)
- **K. Kurooka** served on the Tempe Arts Grants panel for the Youth & Family Arts Grants. She was encouraged by how many organizations are trying to create arts events or projects, though she did observe that the number of music grant applicants far exceeds any other type of art. [www.tempe.gov/artsgrants](http://www.tempe.gov/artsgrants)

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Commission Members' Announcements**

- **C. Lee** recently visited New York City and shared photos of public art he took while there.
- **H. Harp** reminded TMAC members to visit the TCA Gallery's exhibit "Biodiversity" which includes artists-in-residence for at least 10 hours per week.

#### **Agenda Item 10 –Adjournment**

- Next meeting: 6 p.m. September 13, 2017 at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Parkway, 85281.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.**

Prepared By: Joy Higgins

Reviewed By: Brenda Abney, Maja Aurora, Rebecca Blume Rothman