

CITY OF GLENDALE
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY BOARDROOM – SECOND FLOOR
5959 WEST BROWN STREET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
6:00PM

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:11pm by Chairperson Carrie Richards. Vice Chair Eva Ndavu and Commissioners, Bernadette Bolognini (arrived at 6:20pm), Mark Fast, Thomas Cole and Helen Fokszanskyj-Conti (arrived at 6:16pm) were in attendance.

Representing city staff: Mojgan Vahabzadeh, Arts & Culture Program Manager; Mike Beck, Chief Librarian

Special Guest attending: Elaine Adamecyk, Interim City of Glendale Community Services Director; Jon Froke, City of Glendale Planning Director; Randy Huggins, City of Glendale Economic Development Specialist; Jean Moreno, City of Glendale Strategic Initiatives & Special Projects Executive Officer; Brian Maticic, Executive Director of Brelby Theatre Company

Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2016

A MOTION was MADE by Commissioner Fast to APPROVE the Arts Commission meeting minutes from the June 23, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Cole SECONDED the MOTION, which carried unanimously.

Business From the Floor

At this time the Commission will hear comments from the public. There were no comments.

Loyalty Oath of Office -Commission member Helen Fokszanskyj-Conti

This item was moved to the next Arts Commission Meeting on October 27, 2016.

Downtown Mesa Arts Presence

Mr. David Crummey, Cofounder of RAILmesa: Retail, Arts, Innovation & Livability, along with Mr. Robert Schultz, Assistant Director of Arts & Culture for the City of Mesa, provided a presentation about the arts in Mesa and the active role

of the community, small business and corporate support, which have helped spur the latest growth in the arts economy in the downtown area.

Mr. Schultz presented information about the Mesa Arts Center. He noted that the \$95 million facility, completed in 2005, is the largest comprehensive arts campus in the state and the Southwest. He said this helped propel the city's reputation in the community as well as the value of art in the city.

He discussed some of the Mesa Arts Center performing arts lineup using local artists performing mix of dance, music, poetry and theatrical performances. Additionally, he talked about Mesa Arts Center's architecture and how it sets a vibrant tone, contrasts with its surroundings which makes it stand out.

He noted that the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum is equally impressive, with its collection of more than 500 works in diverse media, exhibition spaces dedicated to showing works by local artists, and shows featuring edgy, nationally renowned artists. He added that exhibitions are always free. This venue also boosts the city's arts and culture standing in the city.

Mr. Crummey also presented information on RAILmesa. He said this was started as a registered neighborhood group that advocates for increased citizen participation in developing housing, transit and the creation of jobs along the Mesa's Light Rail Corridor. He explained that RAIL began in 2012 with a group of residents, business owners, and elected officials interested about the future of Mesa's downtown and light rail corridor. He added that he believes RAIL is retail, arts, innovation and livability that will bring great growth and vitality to the city. They are focusing on the retail experience to be an enjoyable walkable neighborhood destination feel. Since Downtown is for everyone, their plan is for the community where people of all backgrounds and life-stages feel welcome, can safely and conveniently walk, bicycle, take transit or drive where they need to go.

Another development that is due to strong local momentum for the arts is the new concept of Artspace a live and work project. Mr. Schultz stated that based on the strength of the market survey results, Artspace, in collaboration with local partners, has moved forward with plans to develop a new, affordable live and work facility for artists and arts oriented businesses. The Mesa Artspace Lofts, located at 155 South Hibbert in downtown Mesa, will include up to 50 units of live and work space for artists and their families. The project is a transit oriented development site located one block from the new light rail corridor, major arts and culture assets and other downtown amenities.

Downtown Glendale Arts Incubator Concept

Jean Moreno, City of Glendale Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects Executive Officer presented information on the exploration of a concept to reuse an existing city-owned building in the downtown area for the creation of an Arts Incubator project. She noted that this site was currently being examined to see how viable it would be for this endeavor. She explained the site was the vacant Vincent De Paul building. The building if accepted, will need much work done to get it up to standard. She indicated that this was a great opportunity that may bring great growth and vitality to the city using the arts as a vehicle to spur growth in the arts economy in the downtown area.

Staff asked for feedback regarding whether the Arts Commission would be willing to consider a future request for funding capital improvements to this city-owned building upon the outcome of the continued research and analysis.

Chairperson Richards expressed her support for this concept, however, would like to explore other sites that become available as well. Everyone agreed.

The Commissioners agreed to move forward with exploring this concept further.

Centerline District Arts and Cultural Initiative – Applicant Presentation

Ms. Vahabzadeh stated the Centerline Arts and Cultural Initiative is a new application-based funding opportunity. She explained that as qualifying applications are received, the applicants are invited to present their proposals before the Glendale Arts Commission for funding consideration.

Brian Maticic, Executive Director of Brelby Theatre Company presented his proposal to the Arts Commission for funding consideration.

Mr. Maticic presented his proposal of presenting the classic story, William Shakespeare's Macbeth with performances to be held at Murphy Park, Downtown. His proposal included four performances.

Commissioner Bolognini inquired if he was thinking of having food vendors at the performances. Mr. Maticic replied that it was short notice to include that element at this point. She asked if they had already considered how they were going to market this project. Mr. Maticic said he was already working on it. Ms. Vahabzadeh commented that if approved, the city's marketing department will also be supporting it.

A MOTION was MADE by Vice Chair Ndavu to Approve The Brelby Theatre Company's proposal for funding. Commissioner Bolognini SECONDED the MOTION, which carried unanimously.

Staff Updates

Gallery Glendale Update

Ms. Vahabzadeh noted that as most already know, the Gallery Glendale project at Westgate is in dormancy until such time that another suitable space at Westgate may become available.

Commissioner Cole commented there was not a lot of foot traffic at the Saint Vincent De Paul building like at Westgate, which was troubling. He suggested looking at other vacant spaces around the downtown area.

Summer Arts Camp

Ms. Vahabzadeh stated that the Summer Arts Camp was a great success. She noted that attendance was high and the feedback was very positive. Artist, Christy Puetz did an exceptional job as the arts instructor presenting five one-week camps at each of the Glendale Community Centers.

Commission Comments

The Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Helen Fokszanskyj-Conti who will be sworn in at next month's meeting.

Adjournment

Chairperson Richards asked for a motion to adjourn.

A MOTION was MADE by Commissioner Fast to ADJOURN the meeting Commissioner Cole SECONDED the MOTION, which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

The next meeting of the Glendale Arts Commission will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2016 @ 6:00p.m., at the Large Meeting Room, first floor, Glendale Public Library, 5959 West Brown Street, Glendale, Arizona.

Respectfully submitted,

Mojgan Vahabzadeh, Arts & Culture Program Manager