

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM**  
December 8, 2015

Present:	Harold “Hal” Behl, Chair	Cathy Wright, Executive Director
	Pamela Chavez, Secretary	Elizabeth Becker
	Kathleen Davison-Lebeck	Andrew Connors
	Dr. Jerome Goss, Vice Chairman	Deborah Slaney
	Dr. Siu Wong	
Absent:	Louise Campbell-Tolber	Beverly Bendickson
	John Cordova	Debra Romero
	Jacobo de la Serna	

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m.  
Snacks were provided by Cathy Wright and the Board expressed appreciation.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 13, 2015, Board of Trustees meetings were M/S/P, as presented.

**Chairperson’s Report – Hal Behl**

- New Board of Trustees Officers for the 2016-2017 term were announced and thanked.
- The outgoing officers were thanked for their service.

**Museum Director’s Report – Cathy Wright**

- Cathy distributed a handout titled “G.O. Bond Summary” detailing potential funding requests for 2016-2023 from the City of Albuquerque Cultural Services Department for the 2017 G.O. Bond. Cathy outlined for the board the “big picture” of what the Albuquerque Museum would like to request, and stressed the need for advocacy efforts from the Board.
- Board of Trustee Advocacy efforts
  - Hal Behl mentioned he has a meeting set up with his City Councilor, Brad Winter
  - Other Trustees expressed intent to set up meetings with their Councilors
- Albuquerque Museum Needs
  - Education Wing (corner of building) expansion = main big capital project with more drop in programs and after hours activities
  - Staff won’t know the budget total until further meetings with the architect
- Casa San Ysidro Needs
  - Visitor’s Center with plaza at approximately \$1.5 million cost
  - A strategic plan for Casa San Ysidro’s sustainability is being started
  - Note: Corrales Village gives \$20,000 a year to support Casa San Ysidro
  - Historical societies, national and local organizations might be a source for funding
  - A suggestion was made that we apply to put Casa San Ysidro on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Museum did this twice in the 1990s but was turned down because of the guidelines and the clarification of what parts of Casa are historic and what parts are a 1950s “romantic recreation”. Deb has continued to investigate, but until the review panel changes or clarifies those guidelines it doesn’t make sense to reapply. We are not presently sending in an application.

## **Museum Director's Report - continued**

- Advocacy Plans
  - Meet in January with Dana Feldman, new Director of Cultural Services Department

A motion was made for Cathy and members of the Executive Committee to meet with Dana Feldman in January to discuss the Bond issue. M/S/P

- Denise Crouse has been hired for 20 hours a week as Communications Manager. The Museum will be reimbursed by the Foundation for the salary.
- An employee was transferred from the Museum Accounting Department to the Main Library.
  - A question was raised as to whether the Museum is losing a position in addition to a valued employee and team member.
  - The Executive Committee will discuss this staffing issue with Dana Feldman

## **Curator Reports**

Andrew Connors

- Andrew presented strong concerns about the departure of Barbara Padilla: the staff feels they are losing a valued team member and dedicated employee
- Andrew mentioned that 26% of the staff have departed since 2007

Deborah Slaney

- There has been a temporary staffing increase at Casa San Ysidro with the addition of a new part-time curatorial assistant, Alyssa Ashbachre, who is working to clean and document exhibits
- Two Loan Requests were presented for approval
  - NM Farm and Ranch Museum, 10 objects for a Weaving Exhibit
  - Museum of International Folk Art, 4-5 objects, Circus Exhibit
- Exhibits: Artistic Odyssey of Higinio V. Gonzales – Opening on 12/19/15 at 1:30

Elizabeth Becker

- Old Town Holiday Stroll event in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Successful night; 1200 attendees, many in the galleries, doing art activities, shopping
- Final program for the Only in Albuquerque exhibit is December 13 on the photography of Breaking Bad by photographer Ursula Coyote. Program received lots of media coverage; expecting a packed house.
- New exhibits opening in December and January. January 9 opening day programming for New Territories: Laboratories for Art, Craft and Design in Latin America includes talk by exhibition curator Lowery Stokes Sims from the Museum of Arts and Design. Also in January, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday programming inspired by the exhibition *Artistic Odyssey of Higinio Gonzales: Poet and Tinsmith*. See tinwork demonstrations, listen to modern day *corridistas* and make your own work inspired by the exhibition.
- Note: Cathy commended Elizabeth on the diverse educational lecture series she has developed for "Only In Albuquerque".

**Unfinished Business - none**

## **New Business**

Hal Behl discussed the scope of responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

- Hal distributed a handout titled “ABQ Museum Board of Trustees required tasks” and reviewed some of the key duties
- Hal encouraged Trustees to attend committee meetings and Museum events, wearing badges (new ones will be available soon).
- Cathy verified that Trustees are welcome at Albuquerque Museum committee meetings
- The Board Committees and membership were reviewed
  - History Committee – Kathleen as the Board Representative, Jerry as a committee member at large, Louise
  - Art Advisory Committee – Siu, Jacobo
  - Casa San Ysidro – Jerry, Pamela
- Board Nominations were discussed
  - The Board of Trustees needs 4-6 Board vetted and approved potential candidates in the pipeline to submit to the Mayor’s Office to replace 2-3 vacant positions
  - The recruitment should be done strategically to match the Board and Museum sustainability and advocacy goals
  - Hal asked the Trustees to submit names of candidates
  - Dick Knipfing’s name was mentioned

Kathleen expressed her intent to submit her letter of resignation, effective January, after many years of service

- Given the upcoming first meeting with Dana Feldman, Kathleen was asked to postpone her resignation until after the meeting; Kathleen agreed
- The Board thanked her for her service

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING February 9, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

## **2016 Board of Trustees Meetings**

February 9

April 12

June 14-

August 9

October 11

December 13