

Albuquerque Museum Board of Trustees

City of Albuquerque Cultural Services

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:30am

Via Zoom Videoconference

Board Members Present

Pamela Weese Powell
Beverly R. Bendicksen
Helen Atkins
Judith N. Suiter
Wayne G. Chew
Alan F. Weitzel
Sherri Burr
Paul Mondragon

Board Members Excused

Joni Pierce

Albuquerque Museum Staff Present

Andrew Connors, Associate Director
Josie Lopez, Art Curator
Leslie Kim, History Curator

Cynthia Garcia, Assistant Director
Denise Crouse, aMF Communications Manager
Julie Valdez, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Shelle Sanchez, Director of Cultural Services
Sherri Brueggemann, Manger, Public Arts Urban Enhancement
Ann Travelstead, Interim Executive Director, Albuquerque Museum Foundation

Request to Record

Request to record meeting was made by Andrew Connors.
Request approved unanimously.

I. Call to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by Pamela Weese Powell at 11:32am.

II. Special Session Agenda: La Jornada Monument Discussion/Recommendation with Public Art Urban Enhancement Division Manager Sherri Brueggemann

Pamela Weese Powell Welcomes Sherri Brueggemann

- Sherri gives a summary of the process of the Community Dialogue sessions regarding the La Jornada Installation.
- Cultural Services and the City of Albuquerque will manage dialogue sessions for the Race, History and Healing Project.
- The Public Arts Program and the Public Arts Staff will be the neutral receivers of the community recommendations and their process will kick-in at that point.

Pamela Weese Powell Introduces Paul Mondragon as a new member of the Board of Trustees

- Paul is the Regional President of Bank of America

There was significant discussion among Sherri Brueggemann, Josie Lopez and the Trustees regarding the history of the Cuarto Centenario Project, La Jornada Monument and the community involvement during the period from 1996 through 2006.

Additionally, there was discussion about the Race, History and Healing Project initiated recently by the City of Albuquerque to convene groups of community members to engage in dialogue regarding La Jornada and larger issues of race, identity and history in Albuquerque and New Mexico.

Once these current community dialogue sessions have been completed, conclusions or recommendations will be provided to the Arts Board along with other public comments regarding the La Jornada Monument. Then the Arts Board will begin the decommissioning process. This is a standardized process where the Arts Board evaluates all of the options available for the artwork, and it includes feedback from the user agency, the public and the artist. It also includes a legal review and a financial review.

Beverly Bendicksen makes a motion that the Board write a letter of recommendation to the Arts Board regarding the La Jornada monument recommending that the La Jornada monument be removed from the Albuquerque Museum grounds and that we acknowledge the public process that is currently underway by the City of Albuquerque to provide further comment to the Arts Board about the ultimate disposition of the monument. We should make it clear in the letter that we are making a recommendation as part of that public process and dialogue on behalf of the Museum Trustees. We understand that we are not the decision-making body. The letter will be reviewed by the Board before it is submitted. Sherri Burr seconds the motion. There is significant discussion by Andrew Connors, Sherri Brueggemann and the Trustees with the conclusion that Beverly Bendicksen and Sherri Burr withdraw their motions, as it was determined this was not the appropriate time to make a recommendation. The Board will wait until the community dialogue results are made public, then revisit its recommendation. There was no vote and no action taken by the Board at this time.

Pamela Weese Powell:

- If you are inclined, please take the survey I will be sending you.
- Prior to the meeting today, an email was received from the Assistant City Attorney stating that there has been a law suit filed against the City of Albuquerque and referencing the Board of Trustees. We do not know from whom, or what the claim is yet. The Assistant City Attorney has asked for a draft of our August 2020, minutes and the summary from the June 2020, meeting. I will keep everyone updated.

III Adjourn

Next meeting will be October 14, 2020, at 11:30am

Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm