

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 at 2:00 PM
CITY HALL, MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Committee Present:	Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño, <i>District 1, Chair</i> Councilmember William “Cruz” Shaw, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>Director of Arts & Culture</i> ; Edward Benavides, <i>CEO of Tricentennial Commission</i> ; Melissa Sorola, <i>Tricentennial Marketing & Communications Consultant</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Brencia Berry, <i>District 2 Chief of Staff</i> ; Nettie Hinton, <i>District 2 Arts Commissioner</i> ; Henry Brun, <i>District 7 Arts Commissioner</i> ; Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, <i>Public Art Subcommittee Chair</i> ; Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Iris Dimmick, <i>Rivard Report</i> ; Brian Chasnoff, <i>San Antonio Express News</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the August 15, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee meeting.

Councilmember Shaw moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Briefing and possible action on the upcoming Distinction in the Arts Awards Ceremony.

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that the Distinction in the Arts Awards Ceremony would take place October 17th, 2017 at the Tobin Center, a new venue due to having reached capacity the previous two years. She noted that awards were given to artists, organizations, or individuals for one of the following accomplishments: (1) Providing enduring and effective cultural leadership; (2) Displaying exceptional artistic accomplishments; or (3) Making a significant contribution and impact to the San Antonio Arts Community. She stated that awards were distributed in the following categories:

- Visual Arts

- Literary Arts
- Music
- Live Performance/Performing Arts
- Art Patron/Foundation
- Arts Administration

Ms. Racca-Sittre noted that following this year, the DIA Awards Ceremony would be held biennially and would include a public nomination process in addition to the current process of review and selection by the DIA Committee. She stated that there would be a press conference on September 27 to announce the 2017 Awardees.

Chairman Treviño expressed his support for the ceremony and the importance of recognizing local art contributors.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the make-up of the DIA Committee. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that it was a Subcommittee of the Arts Commission. Councilmember Viagran asked whether the point of recognition had to have occurred in the nominating year. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that the accomplishment could have been made at any time and the award was a lifetime achievement.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the budget and sponsorship for the event. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that it totaled \$50,000 and attendance was open to the public and free of charge with no sponsors, but that fundraising would be considered for future events.

Chairman Treviño thanked staff and the Arts Commission for their efforts.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing and possible action on the Cul-Tú-Art Plan (Cultural Plan).

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that a Comprehensive Cultural Plan had not been created since 2006 and that the department desired to develop a new one focusing on cultural equity and policy with regard to investment in Delegate Agencies and Public Art. She noted the planning timeline from September 2017 to January 2018 with the kickoff being a Creative Industries Lunch with partners and public input on October 11. She stated that the department had issued a Request for Proposals to conduct a public art survey and would be conducting community workshops in December 2017. She noted that they hoped to bring a draft of the Cul-Tú-Art Plan to the Committee in December before going before the full City Council for approval in January 2018.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked how equity was defined for the department. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that the primary definition had been adapted from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity but that there was a particular focus on maintaining San Antonio's cultural identity, history, and accessibility. Councilmember Brockhouse expressed concern that the definition was not taken from a local entity and that local organizations such as the Westside Preservation Alliance felt excluded from local art discussions. Ms. Lori Houston stated that this was the reason for reevaluating current processes and funding guidelines and preparing a new Cultural

Plan. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that the department would seek input to establish a common vision and equitable solution for the community that was unique to San Antonio.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the selection and role of the partners. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that the Luncheon was hosted by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce annually and they wanted to utilize additional partners to make it a workshop. Ms. Houston added that the department was focusing on providing technical assistance to smaller organizations to teach them and help them grow toward sustainability.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. Briefing and possible action on the upcoming Tricentennial Commemorative activities scheduled in calendar year 2018.

Edward Benavides provided an overview of the following components of the Tricentennial Commemorative Activities:

- Spark 300 SA (History & Education)
- Shine 300 SA (Arts & Culture)
- Serve 300 SA (Volunteer Projects)

Mr. Benavides noted that outreach was an important element in Tricentennial planning and asked the Committee Members to encourage their constituents to connect through social media and other online resources. He noted that \$10.3 million in fundraising was expected from the private sector with 41% already committed through either received donations or pledges.

Councilmember Brockhouse thanked Mr. Benavides for his presentation but expressed concerns that requests for information from the previous Committee Meeting had not been fulfilled, particularly regarding fundraising strategy and suggestions for City Council involvement. Mr. Benavides replied that materials had been prepared specifically for the Committee presentation and that the Committee could be connected with the Mayor's appointed group for fundraising. Councilmember Brockhouse asked of a contingency plan should all expected funds not be secured. Mr. Benavides replied that they had already identified what programming elements could be cut or modified and would not seek any additional funding from the City Council. Councilmember Brockhouse asked of outreach efforts throughout the city. Mr. Benavides replied that messaging would increase over time as part of a phased process to be reactive to public input. Councilmember Brockhouse asked of measures to prevent Tricentennial Board or Commission Members from benefitting from the events. Mr. Benavides replied that there was a recusal process and no members were receiving funds as a result of event participation. Councilmember Brockhouse asked why fundraising was not further along in its process. Mr. Benavides replied that the Commission had not been created until 2015 nor the plan finalized until August 2016, leading to a short timeline for fundraising.

Chairman Treviño noted the Committee and City Council's support for the Tricentennial Celebration and asked that more in-depth information be provided to assist with fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she had requested a list of expenditures to date during the last Committee Meeting and asked when the list of sanctioned events would be provided to the public. Mr. Benavides replied that the expenditures would be provided and the events calendar was in the process of being updated in addition to an event program book to be distributed throughout the city. Councilmember Viagran asked of sanctioned partner event applications. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that all applicants would receive a response and the final round of applicants had been notified that day. Councilmember Viagran asked that the Commission contact the District 3 Legacy Leadership Initiative to get involved with Serve 300 SA.

Councilmember Gonzales asked that program listings be broken down by Council District.

Councilmember Treviño asked that the Commemorative Book be brought before the Committee for review before going to print. Mr. Benavides replied that the manuscript was still under development with over 50 contributors but Trinity Press could make a presentation to the Committee with an overview of book themes. Councilmember Treviño asked that the Committee have the opportunity to provide input regarding the book's content and reminded Mr. Benavides of his previous request for binders of Tricentennial information for the City Council.

No action was required for Item 4.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman

*Cecily Hope Pretty
Office of the City Clerk*