

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2017 at 2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B 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 Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>
Staff Present:	Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Peter Zanon, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Roderick Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Troy Elliott, <i>Deputy Chief Financial Officer & Director of Finance</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Rene Dominguez, <i>Director of Economic Development</i> ; John Jacks, <i>Director of Center City Development</i> ; Colleen Swain, <i>Director of World Heritage</i> ; Orlando Rodriguez, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Stephen Whitworth, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, <i>Tricentennial Commission Vice President</i> ; Brenda Pacheco, <i>Tricentennial Commissioner</i> ; Hector Cardenas, <i>Tricentennial Commissioner</i> ; Faith Radle, <i>Tricentennial Commissioner</i> ; Nettie Hinton, <i>Arts Commissioner</i> ; Jay Podjenski, <i>District 1</i> ; Jed Maebius, <i>District 1</i> ; Chris Villa, <i>District 3</i> ; Susy Romero, <i>District 3</i> ; Mario Hune, <i>District 6</i> ; Liz McLeod, <i>District 7</i> ; Shannon Oster-Gabrielson, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Bo Gilbert, <i>USAA</i> ; Vincent Michael, <i>San Antonio Conservation Society</i> ; Raul Rodriguez, <i>Grupo La Gloria</i> ; Johnny Hernandez, <i>Grupo La Gloria</i> ; Steve McHugh, <i>Cured</i> ; Elizabeth Johnson, <i>Pharm Table</i> ; Deborah Sibley, <i>La Villita Tenants Association</i> ; Mark Navarro, <i>Fisher Heck Architects</i> ; Lewis Fisher, <i>Fisher Heck Architects</i> ; Neal Williams, <i>Citizen</i> ; Rene Hernandez, <i>Citizen</i> ;

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the October 17, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee meeting.

Councilmember Shaw moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017 Arts, Culture and Heritage Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. A briefing and possible action on a culinary concept and program plan for Mayor Maury Maverick Plaza, La Villita. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager]

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston provided an overview of the solicitation timeline for Maverick Plaza's Culinary Plan and stated that the concept was expected to be fully operational by 2020. She noted that the plan included development of three restaurants for a total of \$7.6 million and that the restaurants would be operated by local chefs Johnny Hernandez, Steve McHugh, and Elizabeth Johnson with Chef Hernandez as the concept lead. She stated that Chef Hernandez's restaurant would be Mexican Cuisine, Chef McHugh's would be German Cuisine, and Chef Johnson's would be Native American and Spanish Cuisine. She noted that programming would occur in Maverick Plaza throughout the year to incorporate culinary concepts. She provided an overview of the current site conditions and proposed site plan including repaving, kiosk and demonstration kitchen construction, removal of non-historic features, and the addition of parking. She stated that the city would sign a Development Agreement to invest \$4.4 million into Maverick Plaza with funds available through the Inner City Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ). She noted that Chef Hernandez would have a 49-year lease for the space at a rate of \$100,000 a year with a yearly 2% increase. She added that they would also sign a Tri-Party Programming Agreement with Chef Hernandez and Centro San Antonio to support coordinated programming and events. She stated that the overall cost for programming would be \$400,000 yearly with 25% coming respectively from Centro San Antonio, Chef Hernandez's lease payments, San Antonio Conservation Society, and the Inner City TIRZ. She noted that they anticipated \$514,000 in sales tax revenue and \$350,000 in property taxes over 10 years as a result of the development in addition to other dollars generated by increased visitation in the area. She stated that the proposal would go before the Inner City TIRZ Board on December 8th with full City Council consideration on December 14th, design of the public improvements and restaurants during 2018, construction of public improvements from January 2019 to January 2021, and restaurant construction from July 2019 to January 2021.

Councilmember Viagran highlighted the designation of San Antonio as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy and asked how many restaurants were currently operating in the area. Ms. Houston replied that there were currently three restaurants but they aimed by make La Villita more of a culinary destination. Councilmember Viagran asked if any current tenants would be moved as a result of the proposed plan. Ms. Houston replied that they would not. Ms. Viagran asked of the timing of receipt of funds for programming. Ms. Houston stated that all funds except those from Chef Hernandez would be received in advance to begin a process of community engagement regarding potential programming. She added that Chef Hernandez would contribute his portion following the opening of the restaurants. Councilmember Viagran asked of the potential impact to Night In Old San Antonio (NIOA) as a result of construction. Ms. Houston stated that they were coordinating to find temporary replacements during the disruption.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked that special focus be given to ensure that the concept is accessible to citizens across San Antonio and not solely for tourists.

Councilmember Shaw asked if partnerships had been considered with St. Philip's College. Ms. Houston replied that a partnership had been discussed and there were opportunities for collaboration in the demonstration kitchens.

Councilmember Shaw moved to forward the Culinary Plan to a City Council B Session. Councilmember Brockhouse seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Treviño asked that a Moment of Silence be observed in recognition of the one year anniversary of the passing of Detective Benjamin Marconi.

3. A briefing to the Committee on Tricentennial commemorative activities, discussion of recent organizational changes and provide an overview of the budget. [Carlos J. Contreras, Assistant City Manager]

Councilmember Treviño read a prepared statement regarding the recent events surrounding leadership changes at the Tricentennial Office and asked that the city work together to support continued planning and execution.

Assistant City Manager Carlos Contreras provided a history of the Tricentennial Commission and an overview of the Tricentennial Initiatives. He stated that one of his first activities as Interim CEO was to examine the budget and that the Tricentennial would likely be executed for \$21.7 million, less than the adopted budget of \$22.5 million. He noted that 87% of that amount had already been raised from public contribution, in-kind contributions, funds from the city and Bexar County, and private sector contributions. He stated that the remaining balance was \$2,895,000 that could be raised throughout 2018 to support event programming. He stated that the city would contract with a third party to conduct a financial audit of the Tricentennial Office and examine current contracts. He said that while he had identified elements of the contracting process that he might have done differently; he saw nothing that would raise concern.

Councilmember Treviño asked of the responsibilities of the Tricentennial Commission. Mr. Contreras replied that Articles of Incorporation for the Commission's status as a Local Government Corporation were filed in June 2015 and authorized the Commission to plan, develop, identify potential partners, fundraise, manage, finance project activities, and carry out any other governmental purpose in connection with the project including acquisition of land, sales agreements, loans, lease, grants, trusts, or operating agreements in accordance with Texas Local Government Code. Councilmember Treviño asked if any of the fundraising agreements raised concerns. Mr. Contreras replied that a number of lawyers had reviewed the contracts and there were no concerns. Councilmember Treviño asked of the audit process. Mr. Contreras replied that an audit had already been planned would be expanded to include examination of contracts and would begin as early as the following week with an anticipation presentation of results to the Committee in January 2018. Councilmember Treviño asked of the media contract. Mr. Contreras stated that all media outlets were welcome to participate in Tricentennial Events throughout the year to encourage public engagement. He stated that the current KSAT contract had come under scrutiny but that all processes had been followed legally and all agreements would be reviewed under the upcoming audit.

Mr. Contreras acknowledged the presence of Bo Gilbert, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, and invited him to speak. Mr. Gilbert stated that while there had been some challenges to the fundraising process, response was strong and planning was headed in the right direction. He stated that there were several entities that wished to get involved on a small scale and the Commission was examining a crowdsourcing opportunity. He thanked the Committee and the City Council for their support and acknowledged the Mayor's outreach efforts.

Councilmember Treviño asked if it was anticipated that any events would be postponed or canceled due to fundraising shortfalls. Mr. Contreras replied that they did not anticipate the need to alter or cancel any events.

Councilmember Treviño recognized Lionel Sosa, District 1 Tricentennial Commissioner. Mr. Sosa stated that the Commission continued to be excited about their work and welcomed scrutiny to ensure public trust. He highlighted upcoming museum events and noted that the website would be updated by mid-December with a public events calendar. Councilmember Treviño asked of community partnerships and branding. Mr. Contreras replied that the deadline for partnership applications had passed on August 1, 2017 and city staff would assist with the review effort so partners could be approved and listed on the website. Councilmember Treviño asked that the deadline be extended for cases of events that were already fully funded.

Councilmember Shaw asked if the city had ever executed an event of similar scale. Mr. Contreras replied that the only event he considered comparable was the 1968 World's Fair in terms of global showcasing and legacy opportunities. Councilmember Shaw stated that he viewed current events as a learning opportunity and wanted to focus on execution rather than criticism.

Councilmember Brockhouse expressed his support for the Tricentennial but expressed concern that the presentation made no acknowledgment of systemic issues that led to current events. He noted issues with bidding processes, lack of public trust, and the continued absence of financial information requested by the Committee since August. He requested more detailed financial information and asked who had oversight of former CEO Edward Benavides. Mr. Contreras replied that all requested financial information could be provided that day. He stated that Mr. Benavides reported to and was evaluated by the City Manager and that Mr. Benavides resigned because he believed it would be best for the Tricentennial moving forward. Councilmember Brockhouse asked if the agreement with KSAT could be canceled immediately and the contract bidding process restarted without significant impact to Tricentennial programming. City Attorney Andy Segovia replied that rights of the city in terms of contract termination would need to be discussed in an Executive Session. Mr. Contreras expressed the validity of the current partnership agreement and reiterated his invitation to all media outlets to participate in events. Councilmember Brockhouse asked what processes were in place to stop Commission Members from bidding on contracts. Mr. Contreras replied that in cases of conflict; Commissioners had recused themselves from the selection process. Councilmember Brockhouse asked that accountability be addressed in addition to execution of Tricentennial Events.

Councilmember Treviño asked that Councilmember Viagran be recognized in the interest of time and to focus on execution rather than criticism. Councilmember Viagran expressed concern that Commissioners were not given ample notice of agenda items and preparation materials before

items went to a vote and asked that staff and Commission roles and responsibilities be clarified. She asked of the role of Bexar County in Tricentennial programming. Mr. Contreras replied that the County had five appointments to the Tricentennial Commission including two of the five Chairs and that they were primarily involved in Commemorative Week Activities. Councilmember Viagran asked for an update regarding the sale of Tricentennial merchandise and to provide details regarding secured funds restricted to certain events or projects. She also asked Mr. Contreras what he would have done differently had he been CEO previously. Mr. Contreras replied that he supported competition because he felt it led to better products and value and therefore would have had a bidding process for all major events or agreements. He added that he would have improved communication with Commissioners and would do so moving forward. Councilmember Viagran expressed her support for staff and the Tricentennial Commission in celebrating the rich cultural history of San Antonio and was confident in the execution of commemorative events.

Councilmember Treviño expressed his gratitude and full support to staff and Commissioners and asked what action City Council could take immediately to assist with planning and execution. Mr. Contreras asked that Councilmembers share Tricentennial information in their communities and highlight projects and partnerships.

Councilmember Treviño wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman

*Cecily Hope Pretty
Office of the City Clerk*