

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2019 at 9:00 AM
PLAZA DE ARMAS, CULTURE COMMONS**

Committee Present:	Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño, <i>District 1, Chair</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	Councilmember Art Hall, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>Director of Arts & Culture</i> ; Veronica Garcia, <i>Assistant Director of Center City Development & Operations</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Denzel Maxwell, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Yadhira Lozano, <i>San Antonio Arts Commission</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 11, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee

Councilmember Brockhouse moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Council Committee. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Briefing on the Centro de Artes component of the Cul-TÚ-Art Cultural Plan

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that Centro de Artes' mission was to tell the story of the Latino experience in the United States with a focus on San Antonio and South Texas. She noted that City Staff took over management and operation of the center in October 2016 and visitor volume had increased significantly. She provided an overview of public engagement efforts since 2017 and stated that the Centro de Artes Committee was appointed by the San Antonio Arts Commission to oversee execution of the center's Strategic Plan. She noted the importance of transparency in exhibit selection and described programming planned for 2019 and 2020. She stated that staff would conduct an open call in Fall 2019 to select exhibits for 2021 and 2022. She noted that staff intended to align exhibit plans with industry standards for advance booking practices. She stated that the Centro de Artes Committee; Arts Commission; Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee; and City Council would approve the final selections and staff would negotiate contracts for exhibit installation.

Chairman Treviño thanked Mrs. Racca-Sittre and her staff for the success of the center and asked of partnerships with the Mexican Cultural Institute. Mrs. Racca-Sittre replied that staff would discuss connections for future programming. Chairman Treviño asked of plans for the office

space within the center. Lori Houston replied that necessary improvements would be performed and space would be filled in alignment with the gallery's needs.

Councilmember Viagran asked what contributed to increased foot traffic. Mrs. Racca-Sittre replied that staff increased advertising efforts and the Centro de Artes Committee was active in community outreach. She added that increasing the number of local artists in the gallery strengthened community interest. Councilmember Viagran offered City Council support for outreach efforts.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Briefing on Alameda Theater Complex Restoration Project

Veronica Garcia stated that the Alameda Theater was developed in 1949 as the largest movie palace dedicated to Spanish-language films and performing arts. She noted that the City acquired the building in 1994 and it remained vacant for many years. She stated that the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas Public Radio (TPR), and La Familia Cortez collaborated to relocate TPR's headquarters to the back of the theater and reopen it as a performing arts facility. She noted that the Alameda Theater Conservancy (ATC) was created in 2017 to oversee the theater's management and programming. She stated that the ATC would expand following the design phase of the project. She noted that the City and County each contributed \$9 million to the project and TPR contributed \$5 million to the headquarters component. She provided an overview of design plans for the theater. She noted that the project would allow TPR to expand its employee base and they would construct a black box theater as an additional performance space. She reviewed the project timeline with construction to begin in Fall 2019 and concluding in early 2021. She stated that there was significant involvement from the community and the Henry Ford Academy during the design process. She noted the following priorities based on community input: inclusivity/accessibility; flexibility; youthful voice; celebration/collaboration; honor and respect; beacon for the arts. She stated that TPR celebrated their groundbreaking earlier in the month and groundbreaking on the rest of the project would occur in Fall 2019.

Councilmember Viagran asked of leased space in the facility. Mrs. Houston replied that office space may be made available if needed by the Henry Ford Academy and revenues would be dedicated to supporting the theater's operations. She noted that there was limited space so retail leases were not considered.

Councilmember Treviño expressed concern with renderings of modifications to the theater's balcony due to its impact on existing murals. He noted the importance of ensuring new construction did not encroach on historic portions of the site.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the length of TPR's lease at the property. Ms. Garcia replied that it was 40 years.

No action was required for Item 3.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman

Cecily Hope Pretty
Office of the City Clerk