

**NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**June 14, 2018 at 1:30pm
National Hispanic Cultural Center
History and Literary Arts Building, Salon Ortega
1701 4th Street, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102**

A meeting of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Board of Directors was held on Thursday, June 14, 2018, in the Salon Ortega in the History & Literary Arts Building of the National Hispanic Cultural Center at 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

I. Administrative Actions

Call to Order and Roll Call..... Christopher Saucedo

The meeting was called to order by NHCC Board of Directors President Christopher Saucedo at 1:38 pm with the following individuals in attendance:

Board Members: Christopher Saucedo, Sarah Brown, Albert Gallegos, Annette Garcia, Margie Huerta, Paul Maestas, Brookes McIntyre, Bill Miera, Sarah Brown and Rebecca L. Avitia (non-voting, ex-officio). (The following Board Members were not present for the meeting: Phil Archuleta, Kirk Clifton, LeeAnna Fresquez, Darren Cordova and Yvett Vazquez- Elias.)

Guests: DCA Cabinet Secretary Veronica Gonzales, NHCC Visual Arts Director Tey Marianna Nunn, NHCC History and Literary Arts Program Director Valerie Martinez, NHCC Deputy Director Alberto Cuessy, NHCC Board Administrators Alicia Tenorio and Nicole Larrañaga, NHCC Foundation Interim Director and Chair Emeritus Edward Lujan, Dyron Murphy Project Manager Oscar Tovar, and LEH Consulting team Linh Nguyen, Ian Esquibel and Dr. Manuel Montoya.

Public & Staff: NHCC Staff David Gabel, Annette Lujan, Troy Bradley, Kinsey Cooper, Elena Baca, Juanita Ramirez, Kristin Garcia, Elsa Menendez, Anna Uremovich, Renee Lovato, Santiago Candelaria, Jadira Gurule; Albuquerque Journal Reporter Adrian Gomez; Orae Dominguez; Brian Fitzgerald; Alan Peter; Pauline Anaya; Ericka Romero, Damian Montiel, Sara Montiel, John Lopez, and Anthony Romero.

Approval of Agenda..... Christopher Saucedo

Saucedo called for a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Gallegos made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a public comment opportunity at the end of the meeting. Miera seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes..... Christopher Saucedo

Saucedo presented the March 15, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes, as contained in the Board materials.

Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

II. Business Items

New Business

- Presentation & Approval of Visual Arts Acquisitions.....Tey Marianna Nunn

NHCC Visual Arts Program Director Tey Marianna Nunn presented the Visual Arts acquisitions, as contained in the board materials, which includes 38 items that are mostly from New Mexico and Mexico, and including items that were donated by Ellen Landis and Frank McCulloch. The items were all reviewed and approved of by the Visual Arts Collections Committee.

Gallegos asked a question about the item identified as IL26-2018.2, believing the Virgin was wearing sunglasses. Nunn explained that the Virgin depicted in the artwork is not wearing sunglasses, and the photo is simply low resolution. Gallegos then asked a question about the item identified as IL26-2018.3, believing the Virgin depicted was costumed as a clown. Nunn explained that the artwork is made of natural clay materials, and the Virgin is not wearing a clown costume. Gallegos also asked a question about the item identified as IL26-2018.5, believing the Virgin had a beard. Nunn explained that the artwork is on tin and does not depict the Virgin as having a beard. Brown asked if we have anything in our policies to ensure that traditional religious iconography is respected in artwork we accept. Avitia noted that we do not have such a provision in our policies and stated her concern about an effort to do so as it would blur the line between church and State, which is legally unacceptable given that the NHCC is a State institution.

Miera made a motion to accept the Visual Arts acquisitions contained in the Board materials. Brown seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor except Gallegos who voted against.

Saucedo then encouraged all members of the Board to contact Visual Arts staff if they would like to see works in person, in the future, in advance of Board meetings or if they would like to attend the Visual Arts Collections Committee meetings, which includes an opportunity to view the artwork.

The artwork identified by Gallegos in his questions was then brought into the room for Gallegos to review, and he requested that a second vote be taken to amend his earlier vote.

Gallegos then moved to accept the Visual Arts acquisitions as presented. Miera seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Presentation & Approval of History and Literary Arts Acquisitions.....Valerie Martinez

NHCC History and Literary Arts Program Director Valerie Martinez presented the History & Literary Arts acquisitions as contained in the Board materials, which were donated by Joe Sabatini, Martinez herself and anonymous members of the public. These items were not reviewed by the HLA Acquisitions Committee as they are not subject to the Collections Policy. Martinez also invited the Board to an upcoming book sale at the NHCC, with proceeds to support the program's operations.

Gallegos made a motion to accept the HLA acquisitions contained in the Board materials. Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Presentation & Approval of Naming Opportunity for REDCPA Box Office.....Rebecca Avitia

NHCC Executive Director Rebecca Avitia reported that Delta Dental of New Mexico would like to move forward with a naming opportunity for the box office within the Roy E. Disney Center for Performing Arts. With this naming, the following signage would be placed above the box office windows: “Delta Dental Box Office”. The naming would be in consideration for a gift of \$50,000, for a term of five years, subject to renewal at the same amount for an additional five years. The gift would be paid over five years, with the first payment being split between Foundation operating and Center restricted use, and all future payments being placed into an endowment fund for the benefit of the Center’s programmatic and capital needs. Avitia explained that the terms of the naming would be memorialized in the draft Donor Agreement, which is contained in the Board materials. The Agreement and naming opportunity have been presented to the Naming Rights Committee of this Board and to the Board of Trustees of the NHCC Foundation, and both have approved of the Agreement and opportunity.

Gallegos moved to accept the Donor Agreement. McIntyre seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Presentation & Approval of Naming Opportunity for Central Corridor Fountain.....Rebecca Avitia

Avitia reported that the Lujan Family, consisting of Edward Lujan and his four children LouAnne, Larry, Jerry and Joe, would like to move forward with a naming opportunity for the proposed fountain in the new Central Corridor area in honor of Edward’s beloved wife Virginia Lujan. With this naming, the to-be-installed fountain would be known as the “Virginia Lujan Fountain”, and signage would be installed to this effect. The naming would be in perpetuity in consideration for a gift of \$100,000, to be paid over three years, with the first payment being split 20/80 percent between Foundation operating and Center restricted use, respectively, and the two future payments being placed into an endowment fund for the benefit of the Center’s programmatic and capital needs. Avitia explained that the terms of the naming would be memorialized in the draft Donor Agreement, which is contained in the Board materials. The Agreement and naming opportunity have been presented to the Naming Rights Committee of this Board and to the Board of Trustees of the NHCC Foundation, and both have approved of the Agreement and opportunity.

Miera moved to accept the Donor Agreement. Gallegos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Presentation & Approval of Nature Explore Collaboration.....Rebecca Avitia

Avitia shared with the Board that the NHCC had received a grant to create a children’s garden as part of the Nature Explore program. Many staff and community members of all ages participated in a two-day gathering to discuss ideas and opportunities for this children’s garden at the NHCC, and a location for the site was identified within the curved wall to the east of the Pete V. Domenici Education Building. A conceptual rendering of the site is contained in the Board materials, and Avitia requested the Board’s

approval of this alteration to the campus site. Miera asked if there are any plans to include programming related to the cultivation and preservation of heritage seeds in the proposed children’s garden, and Avitia indicated that there are such plans and there is even a family event this coming Saturday specifically focused on this.

Miera moved to approve the proposed children’s garden. Gallegos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Presentation & Approval of Recommendation on Plaza Mayor Artwork.....Tey Marianna Nunn

Nunn presented the proposed artwork to be commissioned for the Virginia and Edward Lujan Plaza Mayor, which is being funded with \$80,000 appropriated to the NHCC from the City of Albuquerque for this purpose. The artwork was selected through a public RFQ process in compliance with the NHCC’s policy on commissioning artwork. The selected artist is Paula Castillo, and her proposed artwork has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Board by both the RFQ’s local selection committee, which included Virginia and Edward Lujan’s daughter LouAnne Byrd, and the Visual Arts Collections Committee.

Gallegos moved to approve the proposed artwork. Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Presentation & Approval of Strategic Plan.....Rebecca Avitia, LEH Consulting

Avitia introduced Linh Nguyen, LEH Consulting team member, to present the proposed plan. The LEH Consulting team was introduced, along with the NHCC and NHCC Foundation staff members who were involved in the work. LEH Consulting team members Nguyen, Ian Esquibel, and Manuel Montoya, NHCC Foundation staff member Kristin Garcia and NHCC staff members Nicole Larranaga, Kinsey Cooper, and Reeve Love presented the plan and the work that went into preparing it, as set forth in the PowerPoint presentation and plan document contained in the Board materials. Miera commended the plan, and asked how the work plans would set metrics and ensure the plan continues as a living, utilized document. Avitia stated that there will be specific work plans developed and the Board will receive reports at its quarterly meetings. Maestas asked if there were additional details on the drill-down strategies, and Avitia pointed to the draft plan in the Board materials, beginning at page 8. McIntyre asked if anything new was learned in the process, and Avitia indicated that many, many new insights were learned with some tangible impacts already and many more to come. Cabinet Secretary Veronica Gonzales commended the LEH Consulting team on their work, including the way that the team engaged the staff and stakeholders, and sees the plan as a model for the way other DCA Divisions can look to, particularly in the way it aligns the Division with the Foundation.

Saucedo commended the whole team on the plan and the hard work leading to its creation and presentation.

Gallegos moved to approve the strategic plan as presented and contained in the Board materials. Brown seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Update and Discussion on Campus Master Plan.....Rebecca Avitia,
Dyron Murphy Architects

Avitia presented the schedule for the facilities assessment and campus master plan that is being performed by Dyron Murphy Architects, and introduced Oscar Tovar who is the Senior Project Manager for this effort. Tovar then reported to the Board on his teams work over the last month to assess the campus, including through physical walkthroughs and examinations as well as review of documents. The facilities assessment is now being put together based on that work, and will address needs and enhancements. In addition, the team will be putting together a campus master plan based on the strategic plan and end-user needs, and it will include site plans and drawings. Miera asked if the campus master plan will include the Annex, and Tovar stated that it would not.

- Presentation & Approval of Renewal for General Operating Agreement with NHCC Foundation.....Alberto Cuessy

NHCC Deputy Director Alberto Cuessy presented the one-year extension of the General Operating Agreement between the NHCC and the Foundation, as contained in the Board materials. Other than extending the agreement, no other changes are being proposed. The NHCC Foundation Board of Trustees approved the agreement yesterday.

Garcia moved to approve the Term Extension to the General Operating Agreement. Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with two abstentions from Miera and Brown.

- Presentation & Approval of Renewal for Membership Agreement with NHCC Foundation.....Alberto Cuessy

Cuessy presented the two-year extension of the Membership Agreement between the NHCC and the Foundation, as contained in the Board materials. Other than extending the agreement, no other changes are being proposed. The NHCC Foundation Board of Trustees approved the agreement yesterday.

Maestas moved to approve the Term Extension to the Membership Agreement. Garcia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with two abstentions from Miera and Brown.

- Presentation & Approval of NHCC Foundation Lease & Resolution
.....Alberto Cuessy

Cuessy presented the new Lease Agreement with the NHCC Foundation. A new agreement was needed given the change in location of the Foundation's offices, at the NHCC's request. An appraisal was completed of the new location, and the value determined in the appraisal is the rental amount called for in the agreement. The appraised amount is slightly less now than it was

under the previous agreement. The appraisal, Lease Agreement and a resolution accepting the Lease Agreement are contained in the Board's materials, and both the Lease Agreement and the Resolution will need to be voted on. The NHCC Foundation Board of Trustees approved the Lease Agreement yesterday.

Gallegos moved to approve the Lease Agreement with the NHCC Foundation. Brookes McIntyre seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with two abstentions from Miera and Brown.

Gallegos moved to approve the Resolution on the Lease Agreement with the NHCC Foundation. Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with two abstentions from Miera and Brown.

- Presentation & Approval of Opera Southwest Lease Renewal.....Alberto Cuessy

Cuessy presented the one-year extension of the Lease Agreement with Opera Southwest. Other than extending the agreement, no other changes are being proposed.

Maestas moved to approve the Lease Agreement Renewal with Opera Southwest. Gallegos seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

III. Reports

Board President's Report.....Christopher Saucedo

Saucedo noted that, by statute, the Board is required to do a review of the NHCC Executive Director. This was done at the end of the last meeting. The scope of the discussion was then included in the minutes. Although not required to, the Board wanted to make its evaluation public, with Avitia's approval. The Board expressed its overwhelming support of the work Avitia has done, even within the last year but especially over her whole tenure. Avitia's positive work is quantitatively demonstrated by looking at attendance and revenue, but the best indicator of Avitia's performance is the support and excitement within and of the Center. In making this evaluation public, the Board wanted to express their support of Avitia for her work. Miera echoed the sentiment as a representative of the Foundation Board, stating that Avitia is a consummate professional, has an incredible work ethic and is effective. Gallegos also complimented Avitia on her good work and congratulated her. Avitia thanked the Board very much for their kind words.

DCA Cabinet Secretary's Report.....Veronica Gonzales

Gonzales reported that DCA is at around 100 staff vacancies and, despite efforts, has not been able to gain traction on reducing this due to attrition that has kept pace with new hires. At the same time, the Department has identified the most critical permanent positions for moving forward and is simultaneously addressing a series of critical positions with temporary employees, utilizing one-time appropriations from prior legislative session. Gonzales commended the staff of DCA for their hard work to keep delivering services to the public in the midst of fiscal restraints and vacancies. She also noted the importance of key alliances and partnerships, which have helped the Department to continue to grow its impact. Gonzales also wanted to thank Avitia for how hard she works. Gonzales indicated that it has been a real pleasure to be in the Board

meetings and learn about all of the wonderful things happening at the NHCC, and it is so different from how it was at the beginning of Gonzales' tenure. Gonzales led a round of applause for the staff of the NHCC, stating that the State of New Mexico should be proud of their work. Finally, Gonzales indicated that the Administration is working very hard on completing legacy projects during the Governor's remaining tenure, which includes addressing critical capital priorities and preparing for DCA to secure a restoration of its full budget and capital appropriations in the next legislative session.

Board Secretary's Report.....Brookes McIntyre

Saucedo reported on behalf of McIntyre, who had to leave early. Saucedo stated that Daniel Gallegos and Carolyn Ortega have resigned from the Board, thanked both for their service on this Board, and congratulated Gallegos for his appointment to the NM Court of Appeals.

Executive Director's Report.....Rebecca Avitia

Avitia expressed her sincere gratitude to the NHCC staff, sharing the strong care and trust that exists between the entire team and makes coming to work a joy.

Deputy Director's ReportAlberto Cuessy

Cuessy reviewed the attendance and revenue report and capital projects update contained in the Board materials. Cuessy noted that revenue targets have been exceeded and attendance is on par with the prior year.

NHCC Foundation Report.....Edward Lujan

NHCC Foundation Interim Director Edward Lujan shared the following with the Board:

- The Foundation's financials are very strong. For this year, the Foundation's goal was to have 180-days cash on hand. It is almost there as of April 30th, with 168-days cash on hand. In the next year, the Foundation will continue to work toward a goal of 365-days cash on hand.
- The Foundation has filed its 990 Form for FY2017 with the IRS in May, and will be conducting its FY2018 audit at the end of September.
- The new accounting firm, Baca and Howard is doing great.
- Maravilla 2018 will be on September 8th, and Board members are encouraged to purchase tickets or sponsorships. The Foundation is currently 59 percent to goal on sponsorships pledged.
- The Foundation's new Membership and Development Manager, Kristin Garcia, has revamped the membership program and added some very exciting benefits, like reciprocal, free admission to a network of over 300 museums in North America. The Foundation would like to see all Center Board members join as Foundation members.

IV. Public Comment

Saucedo then opened the floor for public comment. As a reminder to the Board, Saucedo stated that public comment is not a debate or an action item. Saucedo asked that all comments be kept to two minutes or less. Public comment was made by four attendees, whose remarks are summarized herein.

All public comments related to the *Because It's Time: Unraveling Race and Place in NM* exhibit in the NHCC Art Museum, and in particular to a piece entitled "New Mexico Guadalupe" by artist Erin Currier.

Prior to giving public comment, public attendee Orae Dominguez provided written documents to the Board, explaining "One of the documents tells about the tilde, and another has pictures that show how the painting used Buddhist sacred geometry to turn Our Lady of Guadalupe into a different goddess, and that is unacceptable."

Mr. Dominguez then stated: Normal procedures were not followed with the *Because It's Time* exhibit and it needs to be taken down. The committee on culturally sensitive materials meets quarterly and I would like to know what their assessment of the image was. The painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe should be treated with the same reverence as one of a Hopi Kachina. The *Because It's Time* exhibit opened on eve of Karl Marx' birthday, and is scheduled to close on the anniversary of the death of Henry Casso, a vocal opponent of the Bikini Virgin. Marxist ideology appears throughout the exhibition, in its purpose, the selection of artists, and the artwork. The NHCC is spreading Marxist propaganda to an American audience. The NHCC's stated mission is to preserve Hispanic culture, which includes historic Catholic religion. Iconoclasm was denounced by the Catholic Church in 798. And those who destroyed sacred objects, even by repurposing or recasting them, were judged and ... Our Lady of Guadalupe is a sacred image was deconstructed in this painting with a Marxist goddess put in her place. This is form of neo-Iconoclasm is blasphemy. The image must be removed from the exhibit and blasphemy should not be permitted in a publically funded venue. It is not possible to take down all of the offending works in the exhibit without leaving the museum almost bare. This exhibit has no place in the NHCC of New Mexico or in the nation and needs to be taken down and out of public view.

Richard Willis stated: I am not a Native New Mexican or of Spanish descent, but in the eleven years I've lived in NM, I've come to embrace my adoptive state. When I told my friends I was moving from New York to New Jersey, they all asked "why"; when I told my friends in New Jersey I was moving to New Mexico, they all asked "where". In addition to becoming an apologist for the State of New Mexico, I have told my friends all about the natural beauty, the climate, the culture, the history, the food – chile, biscochitos - and most of all the people who have been very welcoming to me and my family, particularly my friends of Spanish descent. I am not Spanish but I am a Catholic. I was born a Catholic, but I don't think I became a Catholic until I moved to New Mexico and therefore I felt compelled to speak to you today. When I first saw the article in the Journal that contained the image that we are discussing, my first thought was that it was so different from a traditional depiction of Our Lady of Guadalupe, that I didn't even realize that's what it is supposed to be. My second thought was that compared to a lot of other things I've seen, it's not that bad. If you look at other things, including a current exhibit at the Met in New York, this is really not anything in comparison to that. But this is not an issue of relativity and there are some things that are absolute. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has existed for 500 years and is not meant to be altered in any way. There are lots of things I wanted to say in coming here today, but I have edited my comments to address only two questions and answers today. One gentleman asked if there was a policy for exhibiting these items, and the answer was about being subject to federal guidelines on separation of church and state. I think that once you decide to display any type of religious content, whether it be reverent or irreverent, that separation has been breached or at least made ambiguous. The second question asked was

whether the artist intended any disrespect. I don't know the artist, or the artist's intent, but I think the artist's intent is irrelevant. . . . Like with workplace harassment and company ethics, the question is not intent but impact. It doesn't matter if you don't intend to offend someone with an off color joke or thought you were being a nice person when you asked your coworker for a date for the eighteenth time, the thing you consider in this exhibit, is where the artist has both artistic freedom and first amendment free speech rights, your decision to give a piece, any piece, a public forum makes the intent of the artist irrelevant as compared to the piece's impact.

Pauline Anaya stated: I am here today because I understand that the NHCC has worked very hard to have an international and national presence, and is placed here in New Mexico. With that and because your mission includes preserving Hispanic traditions, and as a decedent of 1598 colonists to New Mexico who came to settle this area, part of the tradition is our Catholic tradition. My ancestors having introduced Western civilization in this area, including the tenents of Catholicism and Christianity, I really do believe that the cultural center being housed here in NM does have that added responsibility to see that the traditions of New Mexicans and Hispanic NMs are preserved and defended. To me the word preservation includes defense and with the art that is introduced here we do have to ask if this is in defense of the culture and the people where you are working around.

Brian Fitzpatrick stated: Top of the afternoon to you all. I am Irish-American; I am a gringo; and I love New Mexico and have lived here almost all my life. I have a comment and a question. The question is: before you select religious art, is the Archdiocese consulted? Do you get feedback from the Bishop before you display something as reprehensible as this? In 2001, there was a display of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a bikini, which resulted in public outcry, negativity, which I think could have been avoided by approval of the Archbishop or Archdiocese. As a Roman Catholic, I find a display like this degrading to Our Lady, disrespectful and reprehensible. It should never, never be displayed in a cultural center as great as this; it's degrading.

V. Adjournment

Garcia made a motion to adjourn, Maestas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4pm.

Board President _____ **Date** _____

Board Secretary _____ **Date** _____