



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City Art Board** held at 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2024, at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM, Conference Room 2007-A.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Adam Amador, Chair  
Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Vice Chair  
Melanie Brown, Secretary  
Kayla Blundell, Member  
Susan Polka, Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Katrina Chandler, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Yvonne Flores, City Councilor  
Ceci Vasconcellos, Public Art Coordinator  
Megan Connelly, Public Art Co-Op  
Lani Bradley, Progressive Club Member  
Tina Ballew, Chalk the Plaza committee lead  
Jason Smith, Fire Chief

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Amador called the meeting to order.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Those present introduced themselves.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted after correcting Lani Bradley's name.

**4. APPROVAL of January 11, 2024 MINUTES**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**5. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

Ceci Vasconcellos gave a video presentation describing the new workshop initiative. ALICE stands for Artists + Libraries Innovative Collaborative Entrepreneurship. The workshops are intended to help people start their own arts and crafts businesses. The Branigan Library is creating a maker space that will be equipped with various tools and machines for these artists' and crafters' use. There is no age limit to attend workshops. The first one will be held February 29, 2024. Ceci Vasconcellos determined workshop topics based on previous conversations with the Board. She believes there will be enough funding left to squeeze in some other workshops as well. Ceci Vasconcellos requested Board Members come to the workshops and help out. Forecast, an outside consultant, is coordinating speakers for the 2-day workshop. Branding and publicity are currently being worked on. The 2-day workshops are free and include

○ Ask ALICE Workshops

The contract is in place with Anthony Pennock for remedial work on the mural. His assessment is that it needs to be redone due to such extensive damage. Ceci Vasconcellos will have more to report and possibly pictures at the next meeting.

○ La Llorona Park Mural Repair

There are no updates and no apparent progress. Ceci Vasconcellos will ask Diego Medina to give an update on the project in person at the next meeting.

○ Klein Park Project

Ceci Vasconcellos reported that the posters are up and look great. The plexiglass on a few of the frames needs to be replaced after removing graffiti! scratched them. There is a webpage that presents all the information about the artists and their art pieces. Ceci Vasconcellos has been trying to set up a reception for this project, but none of the dignitaries nor artists have an open day in common between their schedules. It was suggested to pick 2 or 3 days in March and let the relevant people choose which one works. Ceci Vasconcellos hopes to hold the reception at the Intermodal Station. She will ask the Communications Department to contact the Bulletin to ask them to run a story. She also suggested starting to think about next year's Art Stop now to get a jump on the project.

○ Art Stop Installation and reception

- Ceci Vasconcellos, Art Project Coordinator

**STAFF UPDATE AND ACTION**

6.

lunch. Advertising will start as soon as all the contracts are in place. A suggestion was made to use DAARTS to find artist contacts for marketing.

- GO Bond Projects

Ceci Vasconcellos reported that she, Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Melanie Brown, and Greg Smith visited the East Mesa Recreational Complex site to consider alternate locations for public art. She showed photos of some possibilities and discussed with the Board where the best place for art might be. She hopes to get the spot chosen so the Call for Artists can be announced in March. The Board is considering two spots suggested by Streedevi Mohanraj, Architectural Administrator for the City, which could be encircled with walkways. One of these locations is near the power panels. The mound formerly preferred on the corner is not feasible due to underground utilities there. The Board also considered choosing two alternate spots in case the preferred spot is not available.

There is \$100,000 available for purchasing art for the Complex and it must be spent by 2025.

- CAB Vacancy

Ceci Vasconcellos reported that the Board has one vacancy. She submitted four applications for Board review January 26th. Those applications represent all that were received in 2023 that are still valid. The Board will wait until the next Executive Committee meeting to determine the best applicant.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

- Pinwheels in Albert Johnson Park - Lani Bradley

Representing the GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces, Lani Bradley requested CAB consent for an awareness display in Albert Johnson Park. This display is for the International Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Campaign. She reported that Parks & Rec has already agreed to this display as long as it does not interfere with lawn irrigation. Last year there were almost 900 pinwheels. Some of those were made of paper and did not survive the elements. More robust new pinwheels will be added this year to those that made it through last year's display. The display would be put up on April 1, 2024 and taken down on April 10, 2024. Other countries such as Taiwan, Canada, and Aruba participate in this activity.

It was moved and seconded to approve the pinwheel display in Albert Johnson Park. Motion passed unanimously.

Tina Ballew reported that Chalk the Plaza is scheduled for April 27, 2024. She plans to reuse last year's plan, with a few tweaks. There will be a Call for Artists; up to 10 will be selected. The Call should go out earlier than the first week of March. Visit Las Cruces has footage of last year's event that they will put on social media to promote the event. Visit Las Cruces can provide volunteers to help with setup, tear-down, and anything else needed for the event. A suggestion was made to use Visit Las Cruces' tents and allow them

- Chalk the Plaza - Tina Ballew

### 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to purchase John Northcutt's sculptures. Motion denied

Ceci Vasconcellos, Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Melanie Brown, and Greg Smith went to view the sculptures being stored at the Unitarian Church. They did not feel that the ones on offer were representative of his best work. There was concern that the kinetic sculptures could cause injuries and may become a liability. Another concern was that all the sculptures needed substantial repair work. Therefore, Ceci Vasconcellos recommended against a purchase. All the sculptures were priced at more than \$10,000.

- John Northcutt Sculpture Purchase

passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to move forward with the Call for Artists. Motion

unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Project Plan. Motion passed

Ceci Vasconcellos presented the Project Plan for Fire Station #9. If approved, it will be used to create a Call for Artists, which will be posted by the end of February or first of March. The architects designated a spot near the sidewalk for art, but if the Board wants a different location, they can alter their plans accordingly. The Board wished to remove the 3,000 square feet reference as it doesn't coincide with the specified 65' x 30" area. Primarily, the art should reflect the ethos, culture, and values of the firefighting community in Las Cruces. It would be nice if the art could reference the 1915 pumper that will be inside the building, but is not necessary. The art should complement the architecture of Fire Station #9. There will be a \$100,000 limit listed in the Call for Art. The artist's stipend will come from the remaining \$100,000 in the GO Bond funds. All other costs will come from the General Fund. The Board is looking forward to adding art to other fire stations.

- Fire Station #9

to do setup and tear-down. Ceci Vasconcellos needs to know what supplies need to be reordered. Tape should be used this year to keep people off the artwork, but preferably not "caution" type tape. This event was conceived as a simple community event rather than a competition. A suggestion was made to digitize the people's choice vote to protect the Board from claims of vote tampering. The Board requested Tina Ballew assign tasks to Board members. The most important request is that Board Members attend the event and help out. Artist stipends or prizes, water availability, posting the selection criteria for the art, and posting artist bios were discussed. Tina Ballew will make the plan shareable so that everyone can note updates about what they have done. Chalk the Plaza updates will be put on the next agenda. The Call for Artists should go out on February 21, 2024. A suggestion was made to add a note to the Call for Artists that artists must adhere to the theme requirements; if they do not, they will not be considered for CAB awards/prizes. A suggestion was made to have a hospitality tent for the volunteers and artists.

- Diversity Policy

Chair Amador has everyone's feedback and will have it ready for the March meeting.

- Committee Updates

- Communication and Outreach

There have been requests for artist lists and photos/addresses of the artwork around town. Ceci Vasconcellos will consider. The Committee will look into creating a brochure for the Mira Las Cruces and Chalk the Plaza event.

- Research and Development

Research and Development has been drafting Fire Station #9's Project Plan. Susan Polka expressed interest in joining the R&D Committee. Melanie Brown suggested a standardized onboarding process be developed. She will e-mail members possible onboarding talking points so Board Members can add their ideas and offer input.

## 9. BOARD COMMENTS

The Board welcomed Susan Polka. A suggestion was made to create a directory of local artists available so people who wish to hire artists can find them. There was discussion as to whether this was within the CAB's purview. DAARTS does maintain a list, but that may only be available to DAARTS' paying members.

## 10. NEXT MEETING – March 14, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

*Charitable Younger-Martin*  
Chairperson