



# CITY OF LAS CRUCES

1  
2  
3 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Las Cruces **City Art Board** held at 4:30  
4 p.m. on June 13, 2024, at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM, Conference Room  
5 2007-A.

6  
7 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

8 Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Vice-Chair  
9 Melanie Brown, Secretary  
10 Kayla Blundell, Member  
11 Susan Polka, Member  
12 Cecilia L. Vargas, Member  
13 Angel Velasquez, Member

14  
15 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

16 Adam Amador, Chair

17  
18 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

19 Ceci Vasconcellos, Public Art Coordinator, Quality of Life Dept.  
20 Megan Connelly, Public Art Co-Op  
21 Rebecca Slaughter, Assistant Director, Quality of Life Dept.  
22 Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect, Parks & Recreation  
23 Carol Brey, Director, Quality of Life Dept.  
24 Liz Vega, Events Coordinator, Visit Las Cruces

25  
26 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

27  
28 Chantelle Yazzie-Martin called the meeting to order.

29  
30 **2. INTRODUCTIONS**

31  
32 Those present introduced themselves.

33  
34 Article VII of the City Art Board Bylaws was read aloud by Chantelle Yazzie-Martin  
35 to remind everyone of the protocols for public attendance at and participation in  
36 Board meetings. This includes their decorum.

37  
38 **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

39  
40 The order of the agenda items was corrected and accepted.

41  
42 **4. APPROVAL of May 9, 2024 MINUTES**

43  
44 The minutes were accepted as presented.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**5. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

**6. STAFF UPDATE AND ACTION**

- Ceci Vasconcellos, Art Project Coordinator
  - 1. GO Bond Projects
    - Fire Station #9 Art Selection
    - EMPRC Call for Artists

Fire Station #9 art presentations are scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2024. All three finalists have accepted their invitations. Presentations will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be 30 minutes each, with 15 minutes between for discussion. The Selection Committee will then make their selection. The entire meeting should be finished by 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public. Chantelle Yazzie-Martin and Susan Polka are the CAB representatives on the committee.

The East Mesa Call for Artists closed on June 4, 2024. 154 entries were received. Ceci Vasconcellos removed the mural artists from this project due to the Call specifying that murals will not be considered. The Selection Committee is jurying the remainder. Adam Amador and Melanie Brown are the CAB representatives on the committee. The three finalists will be chosen on June 18, 2024. Ceci Vasconcellos suggested that the Selection Committee members go through the entire group of submissions very quickly and choose the 20 or 25 that they like best in preparation for the June 18th meeting. Board Members were reminded that the space is very large and needs art of a scale that can occupy the space. Practical considerations such as vandalism and safety were mentioned. Ceci Vasconcellos will check with Dr. Amador to see if he will be available to participate on the Committee.

2. Lift Up Block Party

Ceci Vasconcellos reported that the party was a great success with many people joining in the picnic table painting and filling out surveys. The majority of the neighborhood's residents are excited about having more murals and functional art in the neighborhood; however, they were very concerned about vandalism. The completed picnic table was installed in the park and Ceci Vasconcellos has not heard any reports of damage from Parks & Rec. Ceci Vasconcellos suggested doing more of these activities. Functional art can include tables, shade structures, bike racks, and anything else that can be used as well as be beautiful.

3. End of Fiscal Year

1  
2 Ceci Vasconcellos asked the Board to look at the Annual Plan for the past  
3 year and see what has been completed, what is still in progress, and start  
4 thinking about projects for next fiscal year. This will help her with planning  
5 the next year. Board Members reported that they were pleased with this  
6 year's progress.  
7

8 **7. ACTION ITEMS - None**  
9

10 **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 11 • Chalk the Plaza Future - Melanie Brown

12  
13 Ceci Vasconcellos discussed the Chalk the Plaza competition with Liz Vega of  
14 Visit Las Cruces. After two years, Ceci Vasconcellos did not feel that the Mira!  
15 festival was the right fit for the competition and did not achieve the desired  
16 outreach. Liz Vega suggested that in the future, the CAB do a Chalk event  
17 before the Mira! festival. The CAB could promote the upcoming Mira! festival  
18 and have a booth at Mira! to focus on outreach. The winner of the new Chalk  
19 event could be celebrated at the Mira! festival as well. This would give the CAB  
20 double exposure. Ceci Vasconcellos reported that Museums has invited the  
21 CAB to join them in March for their Chalk the Walk event and maybe expand  
22 the whole event. This would allow for promotion of the Mira! festival as well.  
23 The Museums event in March pays the artists a stipend. Susan Polka  
24 suggested creating a sandwich board with a poster promoting the CAB that  
25 could be displayed at festivals and other outreach events. Angel Velasquez  
26 added that including a QR code would be effective. Ceci Vasconcellos agreed  
27 that this would be good advertising, but not at the Mira! Festival because of  
28 festival distractions. Board Members agreed that a new committee should be  
29 created to advise the Board whether an alternate venue for a Chalk event be  
30 explored or if it should be continued at all. This will be added to next month's  
31 agenda as an action item.  
32

- 33 • Mural Best Practices & Guidelines - Chantelle Yazzie-Martin, Susan Polka

34  
35 Chantelle Yazzie-Martin discussed the guidelines regarding mural life  
36 expectancy. She thanked everyone for their input. There was further  
37 discussion regarding making the guidelines less specific and more readable.  
38 The suggestions for the lifespan of different types of wall art were accepted for  
39 now and it was decided to modify them as needed in the future. There were  
40 specific mentions of applications to the program and RFP instructions that  
41 confused Board Members and should probably be removed. The edits  
42 suggested by Ceci Vasconcellos were very helpful. The definition of mural was  
43 accepted by Board Members. Chantelle Yazzie-Martin will work on the edits  
44 and send the clean copy to Board Members for review so they can bring their  
45 comments to the next meeting.  
46

- Art Stop - Chantelle Yazzie-Martin

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin reported that the success of last year's pilot project for an Art Stop at one bus stop in each Council District was cause for the Board to do it again this coming year. A suggestion was made to use a theme next time. Chantelle Yazzie-Martin will have the Call for Artists ready for the next meeting.

## 9. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Communication and Public Outreach
- Research and Development

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin had projects in the works and asked if anyone wanted to join her. She had no plans to do new projects in July due to the heat. Cecilia Vargas and Angel Velasquez offered to join the Committee. The committee was renamed "Engagement and Public Outreach."

Research and Development had no updates other than its members being busy on Selection Committees and assisting other committees with ongoing projects.

## 10. BOARD COMMENTS

Kayla Blundell welcomed Angel Velasquez to the Board and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin welcomed Angel Velasquez and Cecilia L. Vargas to the Board. She was very happy to have help on her committee. She thanked Board Members for their edits on the mural document.

Susan Polka welcomed the new Board Members.

Cecilia L. Vargas was pleased to be on the Board and welcomed Angel Velasquez. She reiterated that the "L" is important in her name.

Angel Velasquez thanked everyone for their welcome and is looking forward to working together.

Melanie Brown welcomed the new Board Members and was glad that Chantelle Yazzie-Martin has help on her committee.

Ceci Vasconcellos reminded the Board that July is Officer Elections month and to think about what positions they would like to volunteer or be nominated for. She reminded them also that officers can only serve two consecutive terms. There will be an open house reception at the library on Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. as a closing celebration for the Ask Alice maker space program. Light refreshments will be provided and hopefully some of the participants' work will be on display in the maker space.

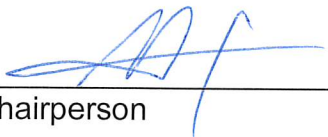
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

Chantelle Yazzie-Martin reported that she went to a picnic at Young Park and visited the decorated arch. She and her coworkers felt that it was awesome. Some of the bottle caps are still on it.

**11. NEXT MEETING – July 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

