



**City Art Board Meeting  
January 14, 2020**

The following are minutes for the meeting of the **City Art Board** held at 10:00 a.m. on January 14, 2020 at City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM on the second floor in Las Cruces Conference Room 2007A.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Meg Freyermuth, Chair  
Rebecca Courtney, Vice Chair  
Robin Hutchins  
Edward Schmitt  
Christina Ballew  
Susan McNeill

**ABSENT:**

Susan Frary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Lorenzo Zepeda, Art Program Coordinator  
Yvonne Flores, City Council  
Tony Trevino, Engineering Architecture Administrator  
Leticia Soto, Museums

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Freyermuth called the meeting to order.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Robin Hutchins moved to approve the agenda and Edward Schmitt seconded.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**IV. APPROVAL of DECEMBER 10, 2019 MINUTES**

Rebecca Courtney moved to approve the December 10, 2019 minutes and Christina Ballew seconded.

1  
2 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3  
4 **V. STAFF UPDATE AND ACTION**

- 5 • Tony Trevino, City Architect / Public Works
  - 6 ○ Fire Station 3
  - 7 ○ Animal Service Center
- 8 • Lorenzo Zepeda, Art Program Coordinator
  - 9 ○ Las Cruces Public Art Budget
    - 10 - Operational Budget
    - 11 - FY 2021 planning
  - 12 ○ Public Art Master Plan Update
  - 13 ○ City Hall Lobby Art
  - 14 ○ Acequia Tile Project
  - 15 ○ Calle Abuelo Park
  - 16 ○ Klein Park Project Plan

17  
18 Tony Trevino discussed the progress on Fire Station 3 which is a GO Bond project,  
19 which means there is a very limited time to complete the entire project. The architect for  
20 Fire Station 3 want the art piece to be stand-alone and not connected to the building.  
21 Mr. Trevino asked the Board to provide instructions for a plinth, utilities, etc. for the new  
22 art. The prospectus for the artist commission can then include the infrastructure that is  
23 built during the construction. The budget will be 1% of the building project total, in the  
24 area of \$40,000. The new monument for First Responders will also be near the new  
25 firehouse. Mr. Trevino will consult with the architects regarding restrictions on the  
26 dimensions of the commissioned piece. Chair Freyermuth assigned Edward Schmitt  
27 and Robin Hutchins to the committee for this project. Construction on the project should  
28 begin this summer and be complete by next summer. They hope to have the artist's  
29 concept ready within six to nine months so the piece will be complete by June 2021.  
30 Chair Freyermuth asked Edward Schmitt and Robin Hutchins to find people from the  
31 firehouse area to include on the committee.

32  
33 Tony Trevino discussed the Animal Services Center which is also a GO Bond project.  
34 He showed the Board the site plan and floor plans for the new building. The old building  
35 will still be used. Rebecca Courtney reported that the architects had suggested a  
36 hanging art piece in the lobby because of the high ceiling and tall windows. The fence  
37 along Bataan might present a good opportunity for art. The dog park behind the Animal  
38 Services Center is included in the GO Bond project. The Board asked Mr. Trevino to  
39 find out if the budget for art on this project could be split up so that several smaller  
40 pieces could be commissioned instead of only one large piece. Christina Ballew  
41 suggested that the smaller pieces share a theme. Mr. Trevino reported that the budget  
42 for art for this project will likely be in the area of \$70,000 and the time frame will be the  
43 same as for Fire Station 3. Chair Freyermuth assigned Rebecca Courtney and  
44 Christina Ballew to the committee for this project. Any new information Mr. Trevino gets  
45 about dimensions, locations, etc. can be sent to Lorenzo Zepeda to be passed on to the  
46 Board.

1  
2 Lorenzo Zepeda reported on the Las Cruces Public Art Budget. Currently the budget is  
3 integrated with the City budget, but next fiscal year the Art Program operational budget  
4 will be separated into its own department. Currently operations are being funded by  
5 Quality of Life and they are fine with continuing that until the new fiscal year. The  
6 maintenance budget and funding sources are still in discussion with Legal, Purchasing,  
7 and the Budget Office. Fiscal Year 2021 begins on July 1, 2020. Mr. Zepeda has no  
8 planning documents as of yet because the departments have not finished their  
9 discussions. He reports that the Board's input has been taken into account. Mr.  
10 Zepeda will bring the budget for Board approval before it goes before City Council.

11  
12 Lorenzo Zepeda reported on the Public Art Master Plan. The timeline has been  
13 adjusted so that the first presentation will be introduced to City Council during a work  
14 session in late January or early February. Meredith McKinley from Via Partnership will  
15 be here to conduct the presentation. Christina Ballew designed the City Art Board's  
16 logo and chose the color scheme for the completed Public Art Master Plan. On  
17 February 18, 2020 Council will be asked for a resolution to approve the plan. Mr.  
18 Zepeda will e-mail the completed Master Plan and the relevant dates to Art Board's  
19 members and members of the committees that worked on it.

20  
21 Lorenzo Zepeda reported that the contract for the City Hall lobby art piece has been  
22 drafted with Legal's help. The artist has sent the scope of work so now the next step is  
23 the official contract and purchase order. He hopes that some time in late February or  
24 early March the artist will begin work on the piece. It will be done at the artist's studio  
25 and then they will bring it and install it once it is completed over a three- or five-day  
26 period.

27  
28 Lorenzo Zepeda reported that the artist working on the Acequia tile project would like to  
29 finish the entire project herself with the colors approved by the Art Board at the last  
30 meeting. The artist e-mailed Mr. Zepeda that she will be able to finish the work in the  
31 summer, as she has a program to do in the spring.

32  
33 Lorenzo Zepeda reported that he has been coordinating with the Santa Fe gallery GVC  
34 who are the agents for Jeffie Brewer. They provided the dimensions for the base of the  
35 art piece for Calle Abuelo Park called "Tree of Knowledge." Cathy Mathews and Sonya  
36 Delgado will be modifying the plinth and Mr. Zepeda is not sure about purchase and  
37 delivery/storage logistics. The artist may want to create a plaque for the sculpture.

38  
39 Lorenzo Zepeda reported that the Klein Park project is on a similar timeline as Animal  
40 Services Center and Firehouse 3. There are three work plans involved and Mr. Zepeda  
41 is working to coordinate all the departments and project leaders to keep lines of  
42 communication open. Mr. Zepeda hopes to have the three projects with prospectus and  
43 call for art voted on in February and Board Members agreed as Susan Frary is not  
44 present and they would like her input and vote as well. He will bring this information to  
45 the next ACD meeting. The budget expected is \$40,000 plus \$1,500 from CIP and

1 \$900 from Museums or Quality of Life budget. The projects will hopefully be presented  
2 to Council in March.

3  
4 Chair Freyermuth requested Board Members to review all the projects that have been  
5 discussed in this meeting and Mr. Zepeda will send e-mails around with any new  
6 information so that the Board Members may provide feedback and be better prepared  
7 for next month's meeting.

8  
9 **VI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

- 10 • City Hall Art Committee
- 11 ○ "1,000 Cranes" Donation

12  
13 Rebecca Courtney reported that she and Edward Schmitt visited City Hall to decide on  
14 where and how to display the memorial "1,000 Cranes" that was given to the Mayor and  
15 Council by the people at Center for Spiritual Living. Mr. Schmitt and Ms. Courtney both  
16 feel that the mezzanine looks to be a good place to display this and other memorials.  
17 The windows may not be blocked, so that does present a challenge to placing art and  
18 memorials on the mezzanine. Susan Frary and Lorenzo Zepeda contacted the Center  
19 for Spiritual Living and got permission to rearrange the cranes on their display. Ms.  
20 Courtney recommends placing the cranes on a new rod and hung standing out from the  
21 wall by four or five inches so they can swing freely. Susan Frary suggested plexiglass  
22 to protect the display but that would be expensive and general consensus is that the  
23 display is meant to deteriorate and be removed afterwards. Susan Frary also  
24 suggested rotating the art displayed in the City Hall lobby and possibly reinstating the  
25 "art on loan" program. Ms. Courtney does not recommend the "art on loan" program but  
26 does recommend eventually having public art available in a permanent collection to  
27 display in City Hall.

28  
29 Susan McNeill moved that "1,000 Cranes" and other memorials be placed on the  
30 mezzanine of City Hall and Christina Ballew seconded.

31  
32 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

33  
34 Lorenzo Zepeda will take the Board's recommendation to use a longer rod and  
35 rearrange the cranes and place the display as discussed to Eric Martin so it can be  
36 done.

37  
38 **VII. BOARD COMMENTS**

39  
40 Rebecca Courtney is thrilled that Councilor Flores has been appointed to represent the  
41 City Council on the Art Board.

42  
43 Robin Hutchins said, "fabulous meeting."

44  
45 Edward Schmitt feels that it is good to be moving forward with things.

1 Susan McNeill is sorry she was late.

2  
3 Christina Ballew said, "great meeting" and she will finish the logo in the next few days.

4  
5 Councilor Flores is thrilled and honored to be on the Board and thanks the Board  
6 Members for welcoming her. She misses Councilor Smith. She loves the work the  
7 Board does and feels that we cannot exist without art.

8  
9 Lorenzo Zepeda reports that all the business owners were excited about the window  
10 paintings over the Christmas holidays and he hopes to repeat it next year with even  
11 more participants and possibly awarding prizes.

12  
13 Chair Freyermuth thanks Councilor Flores for being present and that Greg Smith is now  
14 the Executive Director at Doña Ana Arts Council so the Board may see him in the  
15 future.

16  
17 **VIII. NEXT MEETING, February 11, 2020**

18  
19 The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 11, 2020 at City Hall, 700 N.  
20 Main St., Las Cruces, NM on the second floor in Las Cruces Conference Room 2007A.

21  
22 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

23  
24 Robin Hutchins moved to adjourn the meeting and Rebecca Courtney seconded.

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26 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Chairperson