



Scottsdale Cultural Council  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 23, 2009

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Linda Milhaven called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees**

Milhaven, Linda, Chair	Present
Wittmer, Karen, Treasurer	Present
Don Cogman, Secretary	Absent
Andres-Schneider, Ellen	Present
Giancola, Paul	Present
Hayslip, Richard	Present
Hiegel, Mark	Absent
Horne, Audrey	Phone
Irvin, Carol	Present
Kidder, Rick	Present
Lovett, Clara	Present
Miller, Mike	Present
Reinstein, Marilyn	Present
Roman, Louise	Present
Smith, Diana	Present
Stern, Phyllis	Absent
Voris, John	Present
Wills, Robert	Present

**Staff:**

Banchs, Bill, President and CEO	Present
Baker, Cory, Director of Performing Arts	Present
Green, Jim, VP and CFO	Present
James, Valerie, Human Resources Manager	Present
Meyerson, Barbara, SMOCA Interim Director	Present
Williams, Marilyn, SCC Executive Assistant	Present
Wilson, Eileen, Director of Development	Present

**Guests:** Michelle Korf, City of Scottsdale

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. May 26, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
2. Report from Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts
3. Report from Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
4. Report from Scottsdale Public Art

**By a single motion made by Ellen Andres-Schneider and seconded by Rick Kidder**, the Scottsdale Cultural Council unanimously approved Consent Agenda items 1. through 4., *including approval of the Scottsdale Public Art (SPA) request for \$125,000 in Art in Public Places Funds (AIPP) for a 25 Year Anniversary Artwork Commission by David Therrien allowing contract authority on or after July 1, 2009*, as presented.

## **Executive Session**

At this juncture, Vice Chair Milhaven excused guests in order to convene an Executive Session of the board to discuss the CEO performance review.

## **Regular Agenda**

When the Board convened in open session, Chair Milhaven continued the regular agenda.

### **5. ARTrageous Report**

Ellen Andres-Schneider referred all to the board packet where all pertinent forms and information regarding ARTrageous were available, including the invitation letter, Auction Contribution Donor Benefits 2009, Auction Contribution Confirmation form, Table Sponsor Benefits 2009, Table Reservation Commitment (Platinum), and Table Reservation Commitment (Gold and Silver). She reported that ticket sales are going very well and that five individuals have provided auction items.

When asked what enticements could be offered to prospective ARTrageous ticket buyers, Andres-Schneider pointed out several entertaining aspects of the event, including the excitement of the opening of the renovated Virginia G. Piper Theater, and asked Jeffrey Babcock to elaborate.

SPCA Artistic Director Babcock reported that staff is planning ARTrageous as a fun event with a good net profit at the end. He said that planning is still in early stages and declined to elaborate on the several surprises that are in store for participants beyond disclosing that Nick Cave will be there to tie in SMOCA to this event and that dancers wearing his uniforms will appear.

Babcock announced that tours of the Virginia G. Piper Theater will be available after the program, and opined that the fact that Kristin Chenoweth is a very highly regarded artist at the top of her field and is making a dedicated performance here, not as part of a tour, is significant. He said that the Cultural Council should take pride in the fact that she is coming back here, and that we were instrumental in the development of her early career.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Karen Wittmer directed attention to the financial report in the board packet and stated that, with the City Council's approval of the budget and the City not surprising us with further reductions, there is really no new business. She asked CFO Jim Green to review the financial report.

CFO Green reported that there was not much change this month and that as of this morning cash on hand was \$700,000, so it will not be necessary to draw on the Wells Fargo credit line. He stated that there was a \$30,000 write-off in May and expects another \$25,000 to \$30,000 in June.

CFO Green said that in the future the financial reports will be distributed to the Trustees at least a week prior to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Linda Milhaven thanked Michelle Korf, contracts administrator between the City of Scottsdale and the Cultural Council, for all of her support over the past year, stating what a vital role she played in the process of our budget approval.

## 7. a. New Trustees

Ellen Andres-Schneider, Governance Committee Chair, introduced the proposed slate of new Board Members for approval and referenced their biographies, which were provided in the Board Packet. Proposed members were:

Michael Meyer  
Andrew Chippindall

She explained that the biography of Dan Schweiker was provided only for review, although the Governance Committee has approved him as a prospective Trustee and he has agreed to serve, contingent upon his availability. It was agreed that if Dan Schweiker is available to serve, the Board of Trustees will be notified and will conduct an email vote in July.

Discussion regarding the two prospective Trustees included the fact that City Councilman Bob Littlefield suggested Mike Meyer and advantages of having Andrew Chippindall on the board, or a professional from the hospitality industry.

**Moved by Ellen Andres-Schneider and seconded by Rick Kidder**, the Scottsdale Cultural Council Board of Trustees unanimously approved the slate of Trustees presented by the Governance Committee as presented.

Chair Milhaven pointed out that there are still three open seats on the Board of Trustees and encouraged the Trustees to offer suggestions. Mike Miller said that he had someone in mind, and Ellen Andres-Schneider asked him, should that person express interest, to ask him for a bio and let him know that the Governance Committee will be interviewing him.

Chair Milhaven announced that over the summer a list of Board of Trustee committees will be distributed to the Trustees to provide an opportunity for them to determine which ones they might prefer to serve on.

**It was agreed that the vote on the 2010-2009 slate of SCC Board of Trustee Officers would be conducted following a discussion in executive session at the end of this agenda.**

## **8. Renovation Update**

Jeffrey Babcock, Vice President and Artistic Director of SCPA, reported that the City Council approved an additional \$902,000 in contingency funds to complete the renovation of the Virginia G. Piper Theater. He thanked Michelle Korf for her work in facilitating this accomplishment. Babcock listed some of the phase II items that these funds will make possible: Center speaker console, mezzanine completion, café bar in configuration that will serve us well in the long term and reflects more of the permanent café in phase III, but fully functional in phase II.

Director Babcock reported that the riggers are in the theater now, and he believes that although the completion may not be until the first of October, the opening will be on schedule.

Renovation progress includes the following;

- Marks for seating locations are in now.
- Cable is being run for the control room at the rear of the theater.
- The technical functionality of the theater has been greatly improved.
- Sheet rock is in and finish work will begin shortly.

Director Babcock said that at the Season Premiere a preview of the theater will be offered. He is impressed with the attitude of the people working on the theater.

Before the opening, Babcock wants to plan two test events; one short program with all boards and sponsors and one with only high level donors.

Director Babcock discussed the atrium acoustics, stating that less than 2 ¼ seconds reverberation is a good solution; at present reverberation is at 4 ½ seconds. A meeting with Gary Meyer has been scheduled to see what can be done and what our options are.

By "happy coincidence," Babcock reported, the Orpheum has 14 acoustic shell towers they can't store anymore, and we need 14 towers for the full orchestra. Discussions with the Orpheum have included the possibility of our storing them indefinitely, and if that is possible it will constitute a savings of from \$167,000 to \$200,000.

## **9. FY09-10 Community Arts Grant Panel Meeting Results**

Trustee Carol Irvin, who chaired the Community Arts Grant Panel meeting on May 29, 2009, gave a verbal report in addition to the minutes of this meeting, which were included in the Board Packet. She thanked Shelley Cohn, who did such an excellent job facilitating this meeting, and Marilyn Williams, Community Arts Grant Coordinator, for her contribution. Irvin applauded SCC staff member Lauren Svorinick, who stepped in to take Marilyn's place the day of the panel meeting. Marilyn Williams affirmed that Lauren's work and attitude had been "amazing."

The amount available for distribution this year was \$57,300, which was divided among seven of the twenty grant requests submitted. Irvin said that the focus of the panel was on those applicants who impacted the city of Scottsdale the most.

**Moved by Rick Kidder and seconded by Marilyn Reinstein**, the Trustees of Scottsdale Cultural Council approve the Community Arts Grant Panel's grant funding recommendations for the 2009-2010 funding cycle and authorize the President and CEO to sign and send grant award letters for fiscal year 2009-2010 as presented.

#### **10. Executive Committee Report on Governance Discussion**

Chair Milhaven reviewed the progression of events regarding the recent governance dialogue, which included the letter sent to the Board of Trustees by the Division Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the Governance Committee's consideration of that letter, and the decisions reached by the Executive Committee at their June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

She reported that it has been agreed that Operating Division Boards will continue to be called Boards with Bylaws, and Operating Division Boards' Bylaws will be revised in accordance with the Board of Trustees bylaws, which are currently under revision. Until that time, current Bylaws will remain as governing instruments, and the revisions of all 4 sets of Bylaws are to be completed by the end of the 2009 calendar year.

#### **11. Chair's Report**

Chair Milhaven commented on the year in review, highlighting a few of the many events and milestones, such as our new CEO completing his first full year, the Virginia G. Piper theater closing for renovations and the huge challenges that presented, the loss of two key staff members, our hiring a new SCPA Director, the new Strategic Plan, and addressing governance issues. She said she is looking forward to the opening of the Virginia G. Piper Theater, and she thanked everyone for their hard work and participation in meeting the challenges of FY2008-2009.

#### **12. President's Report**

President and CEO Bill Banchs reflected on FY2008-2009, offering the following remarks:

- The end of his first full fiscal year Scottsdale Cultural Council marks a year of changes, transitions, new appointments, and a year of discovery.
- He met hundreds of people and achieved a real sense of comfort and belonging in this new city.
- He thanked the Board for their support and encouragement.
- The year started with the announcement of the IT Upgrade \$350,000 grant from the Piper Trust which has already made a huge difference for SCC in efficiency and capacity, and the bulk of the work has not yet been completed.
- It was a challenging year because of the renovation, the enormous effort that went into the creation of a new strategic plan, the departure of two operating division directors, and the economy.
- We are fortunate that we had planned for an unusual year and we can thank the City of Scottsdale the additional funding made available to help us with our operations during the renovation.
- SMOCA is enjoying its tenth anniversary with its third-highest annual attendance record in history. This is very interesting because:

- As a cost cutting measure we postponed the last exhibition opening until the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- We also replaced the last newsletter of the year in favor of a greatly trimmed down version. And we still attracted what our of our third highest attendance record in history.
- Culture Pass helped, but is not the answer because income is also among the highest.
- Very strong exhibitions and related events, and the fact that Leslie Oliver was free to focus on promoting attendance had a dramatic impact.
- Radical Lace and Subversive Knitting was a superb exhibition that proved very popular. Having an innovative architectural program such as Flip a Strip attracted great attention in this valley in which architecture is valued and appreciated so much. This was followed by the Callahan Siskin Summer exhibition, three icons of American photography, which also has proven immensely popular.
- Thursday's Season Preview will reveal next year's exciting season, which CEO Banchs hopes will perpetuate this trend.
- In Public Art:
  - Nightlights and Beautiful Lights, and Hyperbolic Crochet proved immensely popular, with Beautiful Lights traveling to Toronto as part of our collaboration with that City's prestigious program.
  - Terraced Cascade won a national award.
  - The current crochet exhibition at the library was the result of broad community participation in creating it and has already attracted 13,883 viewers which is truly remarkable.
  - Sunday morning's birthday celebration for Paolo Soleri drew attendance of over 100 including the mayor and four council members, and was also a public presentation of the bridge site and of the artist rendition of the Soleri Bridge.
  - Plans for next year will be revealed on Thursday afternoon at the Season Preview.
- And as for SCPA:
  - It was a year of home away from home. Programs presented downtown were by and large very successful. We have learned from this experience. These performances downtown proved to be very powerful marketing tools and their potential for significant net income was verified. Attendance at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church was not as high as expected and the offer of a shuttle service did not help; in fact we canceled it because there was no demand for it. We did gain new audiences up North and we are going to be exploring alternative performance venues that will bring cultural experiences closer to home for those who live in the northern half of Scottsdale.

- The festival exceeded last year's attendance which, in this economy, was quite an accomplishment.
- We finally made the decision not to renew our lease for theater 4301 this venue proved impractical both in logistical and financial terms.
- One more highlight for SCPA was that despite the renovation and the economy, fundraising is on track to meet contributed budgeted revenues.
- The city renewed our contract in the same base amount of last year and also approved an additional \$902,000 to complete phase 2 of the renovation. Our partnership with the city is at an all-time high in terms of trust, confidence and communication. The fact that Bob Littlefield would even nominate someone to our board speaks volumes. At least three council members will be attending Thursday's Season Preview.
- Thursday is indeed the beginning of the new season as our new artistic director of the performing arts center, Jeff Babcock, will present next year's season in a new light along with SMOCA and the Public Art Program. We may have as many as 200 people attend, including the Mayor and three council members, so it appears that the buzz is out about next year. If anything, the very format of the evening heralds a new era of collaboration among the three operating divisions of the Scottsdale Cultural Council.

CEO Banchs expressed hope that this collaboration will be one of the most prominent defining qualities of the future of the Scottsdale Cultural Council.

### **13. Announcements from Committees**

There were no announcements from committees.

### **14. Announcements from the Floor**

President and CEO Bill Banchs announced that a Soleri Bell will be sent to Fran Cohen in honor and remembrance of Marvin Cohen.

### **15. Thank You to Outgoing Trustees**

Chair Linda Milhaven expressed gratitude to Louise Roman and Marilyn Reinstein, who are leaving the board, for their years of service and presented them with tokens of appreciation from the Board in the form of Soleri Bells. Everyone was invited to gather at AZ88 after the meeting for a celebratory drink.

### **Executive Session**

At this juncture, staff and guests were excused in order to convene an Executive Session of the board to discuss the slate of officers.

## **Regular Agenda**

When the Board convened in open session, Chair Milhaven continued the regular agenda.

### **7. b. Officers**

Ellen Andres-Schneider, Governance Committee Chair, presented proposed slate of officers for FY 2008-2009 as follows:

Chair:	Linda Milhaven
Co-Vice Chair:	Don Cogman
Co-Vice Chair:	John Voris
Secretary:	Mike Miller
Treasurer:	John Voris

Governance Committee Chair:	Ellen Andres-Schneider
Executive Committee Appointee:	Ellen Andres-Schneider
Executive Committee Appointee:	Karen Wittmer

Moved by Rick Kidder and seconded by Mike Miller, the Scottsdale Cultural Council Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Officers presented for FY 2009-2010 as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Williams, Recording Secretary