

**\* REVISED**

**City of Phoenix  
General Obligation Bond Committee  
Arts & Culture Subcommittee  
Summary Minutes  
Friday, August 12, 2022**

City Council Chambers  
200 W. Jefferson St.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Subcommittee Members Present

Ms. Devney Preuss, Chair  
Ms. Teniqua Broughton, Vice Chair  
Ms. Gretchen Freeman  
Mr. Sam Gomez  
Mr. Alfredo Gutierrez  
Ms. Annette Musa  
Mr. John Owens  
Mr. Ron Price  
Dr. Donna Reiner

Subcommittee Members Absent

None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Preuss called the Arts & Culture Subcommittee to order at 9:01 a.m. with committee members Teniqua Broughton, Gretchen Freeman, Sam Gomez, Alfredo Gutierrez, Annette Musa, John Owens, Ron Price, and Donna Reiner present.

**2. Introductory Remarks**

Chair Preuss gave an overview of the subcommittee's responsibilities for the \$500 million bond program and explained the highest priorities would be rehabilitation and replacement of existing facilities due to significant deferred maintenance needs. Chair Preuss also passed the direction from the executive committee that the subcommittee needs to avoid growing the total through this process since the prioritized projects identified by City staff are already over \$500 million.

**3. Appointment of Vice Chair**

Chair Preuss proposed subcommittee member and past Chair and Commissioner of the City's Arts & Culture Commission Teniqua Broughton be appointed Vice Chair.

Committee member Price made a motion to approve the appointment of Committee member Broughton to Vice Chair. Committee member Freeman seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 9-0.

#### **4. Capital Needs Study**

Chair Preuss introduced Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson, who thanked the subcommittee and noted significant capital needs for the GO Bond program. Mr. Stephenson introduced Arts and Culture Director Mitch Menchaca and Phoenix Convention Center Director John Chan for the presentation.

Mr. Menchaca and Mr. Chan gave a presentation on the Arts and Culture Capital Needs Study, prioritized projects, and future capital needs.

Mr. Menchaca invited questions from the Subcommittee.

Chair Preuss opened discussion for any Subcommittee questions.

Committee member Freeman asked if the subcommittee would receive detailed and specific information on the costs of each project, how costs are applied, and which organizations are involved, and which tenants are included in the \$10 million project.

Mr. Menchaca respond provided the list of tenants for the seven facilities managed by the Office of Arts and Culture.

Committee member Freeman asked if each of those listed tenants needed improvements to facilities.

Mr. Menchaca confirmed that, through facility assessments, they found maintenance and deferred maintenance issues.

Committee member Gutierrez discussed the significance of the Latino Cultural Center project for the community and requested further discussion and commitment to the project. Mr. Gutierrez identified Santa Rita Hall as one possible alternative location for the Center, stating the property would have historic significance to the Mexican Americans throughout the United States. Mr. Gutierrez stated he was not asking for more funding and expressed support for the other projects.

Vice Chair Broughton asked if the document from the 2020 Latino Cultural Center Ad Hoc Committee could be shared with the subcommittee to understand recommendations compared to the 2016 capital needs assessment feasibility study.

Mr. Menchaca stated both studies could be provided to the committee members.

Committee member Freeman asked if funds were set aside for the Latino Cultural Center from the 2001 bond and, if so, how much.

Mr. Menchaca stated \$1.4 million was given to Museo Chicano, some funds were used for the 2017 Capital Needs Study and the Ad Hoc Committee's assessment of the North building, and approximately \$900,000 remain for the project.

Chair Preuss asked for clarification and direction that both studies can be provided to the subcommittee at the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Menchaca confirmed he could legally share both studies through an email to the subcommittee.

Acting Chief Counsel Patricia Boland confirmed Mr. Menchaca could send the studies through email as long as the subcommittee members do not reply to all.

Committee member Owens asked if the City had any preferred sites identified for the Valley Youth Theater Project.

Mr. Manchaca stated his office had been working with Arizona State University (ASU) to find land in and around Downtown and explained bond funds would be used to build it.

Committee member Reiner agreed with Committee member Gutierrez's comments on the Latino Cultural Center, stating she was not sure the old historic church would be the right place for the concept and did not lend itself to expansion due to limited space. Dr. Reiner asked how much all projects would total with 1% for the arts and whether it would make more sense for 1.5% or 2% for art.

Mr. Menchaca responded 1.5% or 2% could be discussed at a future budget process, but there is 1% built into all Arts and Culture project costs.

Committee member Owens stated the 181-spot parking lot for the Latino Cultural Center seemed to be a surface lot and that a large surface lot in the downtown Phoenix area would be something to consider for land usage in the heart of the Latino community.

Mr. Menchaca responded the plot was drawn in 2016, and if this bond is successful for the Latino Cultural Center, more conversations and plans be needed due to the passage of time since the studies were done in 2016, 2019 and 2020.

Committee member Gomez requested consideration on the relocation for the Latino Cultural Center to South Phoenix at Rio Salado to allow for investment and building cultural bridges for the Arts and Cultural district to South Phoenix.

Vice Chair Broughton asked Mr. Menchaca if there were other considerations or proposals put forward for other districts.

Mr. Menchaca stated the projects presented were the Prioritized and Future Capital Needs, and there were other submissions that did not make it, which were all within the central core.

Committee member Musa requested more information on what it means for the Latino Cultural Center to be an administrative and artistic conduit for the Latino arts groups compared to other organizations like Xico.

Mr. Menchaca explained the Latino Cultural Center would not compete with groups like Xico, and that it would be for office space, rehearsal space and equipment, as well as a place for the community to have participation in arts and culture.

**\* 5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chair Preuss opened the floor for public comment and Ms. Boland explained the rules for public comment.

Lauren Kennedy requested support for arts in South Phoenix and Rio Salado.

Sandra Bassett requested an extension of time for group comments. Chair Preuss granted an extension of time by combining time of other group members registered to speak.

Sandra Bassett advocated for funding for the Phoenix Center for the Arts (PCA).

Cyndy Gaughn requested funding for the PCA.

Michael Barnard requested funding for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) improvements to Phoenix Theater.

Matthew Schaefer requested funding for ADA improvements to Phoenix Theater.

Oskar Knoblauch advocated for a Center for Holocaust Education.

Mark Mettes from the Herberger Theater Center requested funding for a new Pavillion stage.

Kate Wells expressed support for funding the Children's Museum of Phoenix project to complete renovation.

Gennaro Garcia expressed support for funding for the Children's Museum of Phoenix.

Sandra Flores advocated for funding for the Latino community for inclusivity in the arts community.

Tony Valdivinos expressed support for ADA improvements to Phoenix Theater.

Joseph Benesh expressed support for ADA improvements to Phoenix Theater.

Rabbi Jeffrey Schesmol advocated to fund the Jewish Heritage Center to aide in educating youth, tourists, and residents for generations to come to promote hope for a more equitable society while fulfilling the State of Arizona's requirements for teaching the Holocaust.

Lawrence Bill requested funding for the expansion of the Jewish Heritage Center, which he stated could not be delayed until a future bond.

Suzanne Willison expressed full support of the project for Phoenix Symphony Hall, and advocated for collaboration with the Phoenix Symphony, Ballet Arizona, and the Arizona Opera as well as other organizations.

Dennis Johnsen requested support for infrastructure to improve connectivity to the downtown area from the Rio Salado area in South Phoenix.

Camryn Norwood-Pearson advocated for funding for PCA.

Cadel Frisinger expressed support for funding for PCA to upgrade signage, lighting, painting, and sound.

Sarah Gaumont expressed support for funding for the PCA building to make it safe and welcoming.

Kimberly See expressed support for funding for the PCA to showcase its activities and to improve equity for the community.

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Preuss opened the floor for subcommittee discussion of future agenda items.

Vice Chair Broughton commented that the process would be difficult, especially due to the amount of time that has passed since the last bond program, and requested three future agenda items:

- Consideration of the Jewish Historical Society's desires for a Holocaust Center.
- Conversation regarding accessibility issues at Phoenix Theater and discussion on ADA inclusivity.
- Evaluation and a tour of the North Building at Phoenix Center for the Arts for the Latino Cultural Center.

Committee member Freeman requested more information to help with decision making and the subcommittee's role in prioritizing the existing list of prioritized capital needs as well as new projects, including a full understanding of project costs, the responsibilities of organizations that may be receiving funds from the bond

program, and why Phoenix Center for the Arts was not listed as a City-managed project.

Chair Preuss stated her direction to City staff would be to provide presentations for projects the subcommittee requests and then further discussion and direction would follow.

Mr. Stephenson confirmed Chair Preuss's comments were accurate and stated funding for ADA-related capital needs could be considered by other subcommittees.

Chair Preuss commented she would be interested to hear about projects for other subcommittees, how they are prioritized and how they may possibly impact the Arts and Culture projects.

Mr. Stephenson commented that once other subcommittees make their recommendations there would be further discussions for this subcommittee.

Chair Preuss asked subcommittee members for input on projects they would like presentations on for their next meeting and mentioned there was already a request for Phoenix Theater accessible office and theater space.

Vice Chair Broughton requested consideration for further Information from the Jewish Historical Society, the Phoenix Theater for ADA compliance, and an evaluation and tour of Phoenix Center for the Arts.

Committee member Price requested a presentation and in-depth information on the Latino Cultural Center.

Committee member Gutierrez requested information on the analysis and graphics of cultural centers for Albuquerque, Dallas, San Antonio to be shared with the subcommittee for comparison to similar sized cities.

Mr. Menchaca confirmed that information could be provided to the Subcommittee along with other studies that were done.

Committee member Owens requested a presentation on the Jewish Heritage Center project and where the costing information came from for the Children's Museum of Phoenix project.

Committee member Musa commented that there were parameters for this particular bond where funds could not be increased for projects and asked if Children's Museum or Jewish Heritage Center could self-source if partial funding could be provided by the City.

Vice Chair Boughton asked that as the City considers a bond every five years if the City has information or analysis on the needs for those companies asking for funds for current or future priorities.

Ms. Boland suggested that all requests from the Committee members for information be sent to Mr. Stephenson who will have the information provided to them.

Dr. Reiner asked Ms. Boland if she is allowed to take part in discussions and voting for funding for the Jewish Historical Society since she is on the Board for the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Ms. Boland stated there is only a conflict of interest if Dr. Reiner has monetary interest, but if she only sits on the board, she does not have a conflict of interest and can enter into the discussion.

Chair Preuss provided subcommittee members with the criteria for new projects to be considered for the prioritized list:

- Must not be already covered under the scope of an existing project or program.
- Must result in the City owned assets.
- Must have a complete scope and source of estimated costs, including operating costs that the City would be impacted.
- Must demonstrate an urgent need.
- Must demonstrate the ability to expand the approved funding within the five-year period.

Chair Preuss also required more information on alternate locations for the Latino Cultural Center and a tour for evaluation of the Phoenix Center for the Arts.

Mr. Stephenson stated City staff will have to look into a tour of Phoenix Center for the Arts and will let the Committee know if it is possible.

Chair Preuss stated direction for the next meeting is that the subcommittee get a presentation and will discuss if a tour is possible.

Mr. Menchaca stated they will work to obtain images to present to the subcommittee, in case a tour of the center cannot be done.

Chair Preuss requested additional information on Phoenix Theater accessibility concerns, the Arizona Jewish Historical Society proposed renovation and expansion, clarification on public and private estimated costs for the Children's Museum expansion, and information on the proposed Herberger Theater Outdoor Pavilion Stage.

Mr. Stephenson stated Mr. Menchaca would send an email to the subcommittee to follow up with requested information.

Chair Preuss thanked staff for gathering additional information for the next meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Preuss adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.