

Meeting Minutes

Chandler Museum Foundation

Regular Meeting

April 7, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.

Chandler Museum, Agave Room

300 S. Chandler Village Drive, Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Meyerson at 5:32 pm.

Roll Call

Board Member Attendance

Barbara Meyerson, Chair

Richard Feely, Vice-Chair

Gregory Herriman, Treasurer

Joshua Askey

Mary Cimaglio

Joan Clark

Susan Crabtree

Shatavia Elder

Gretchen Pace

Martin Sepulveda

Staff Attendance

Niki Tapia, Cultural Development Assistant Director

Jody Crago, Museum Manager

Peter Bugg, Museum Operations Manager

Dani Schulze, Museum Management Assistant

Absent

Devin Moreno

Heather Patterson

Jacki Ryan

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes from March 3, 2026, Chandler Museum Foundation Board Meeting
 - Board Member Joan Clark made a motion to approve minutes from the March 3, 2026, Chandler Museum Foundation Board Meeting.

- Board Member Mary Cimaglio seconded the motion.
- Motion carried unanimously (10-0). The minutes were approved as presented.

Action Agenda

None.

Discussion

2. Introduction of New Board Member Gretchen Pace
 - Mrs. Pace introduced herself to the board. She is a sixth generation Arizonan and fourth generation from Chandler.
 - The board members introduced themselves to Mrs. Pace.
3. Recap of the *Being Eddie Basha* Opening Event
 - Museum Manager Jody Crago shared that it was an amazing event. There were many wonderful comments, memories, and tears. The Foundation raised money and found leads for future fundraising. Signarama agreed to reduce the total price for printing by \$2,000.
 - Board Chair Barbara Meyerson shared that Nadine Basha liked the event. Mrs. Basha thanked multiple board members before she left.
 - Mrs. Cimaglio shared that registration was smoother than at past events.
 - The Basha truck was a highlight of the event.
 - Board Member Martin Sepulveda would like to see if it is possible to capture those who visit *Being Eddie Basha* and their comments. Mr. Sepulveda also suggested that another event could happen before the exhibition closes.
4. Report on Chandler Museum Strategic Planning
 - Mr. Crago shared the executive summary of the strategic plan, including a vision statement, mission statement, values, and strategic priorities. Mr. Crago shared that he has presented the strategic plan to Mayor Kevin Hartke and City Council, and there were no substantial changes requested.
 - Mr. Crago plans on scheduling a one-day workshop over the summer with Keen to compare the strategic plans of the Museum and Foundation to find synergies. After the workshop with Keen, the board will have a retreat to develop new board priorities.
 - The goal is to have periodic reports to the board about staff progress on the strategic plan. A Museum workplan will be sent to Cultural Development leadership.
 - Mrs. Meyerson suggested that other board members read the Foundation's strategic plan if they are unfamiliar with it.

- Mrs. Clark shared that the governance subcommittee completed a SWOT analysis, which could be used when evaluating the Foundation’s strategic plan.
- Board Member Joshua Askey asked how comparative institutions were chosen. Mr. Crago explained that the comparisons were chosen based on different components of what the Museum does and resources the Museum has.
- Mr. Askey was disheartened by Keen’s summary of Chandlerpedia. Mr. Crago shared that the platform that Chandlerpedia is on was changed to Atlassian, and all pages were hand-transferred. Many links were broken. In 2023, the Department of Justice decided that all government websites as of April 24, 2026, need to be accessible by any type of reader that a visitor uses. Staff is currently considering multiple factors to determine if Chandlerpedia should remain on Atlassian’s platform or find a new one.

5. Celebration Plaza Committee Meeting Volunteers

- Every year, the City of Chandler accepts nominations for Celebration Plaza, which honors people that have made significant contributions to the community. A committee inducts up to two people per year, and the committee decides who is inducted without staff involvement. Two members of the Foundation board are on this committee. Board Member Shatavia Elder volunteered to be on the committee.

6. OA+D Private Opening Event

- In October 2026, OA+D will collaborate with the Museum on an exhibition focused on Frank Lloyd Wright. OA+D would like to host a fundraiser as an opening reception similar to the opening event for *Being Eddie Basha*. The executive subcommittee had previously determined that the Foundation would waive the rental fee, but OA+D would pay the staff and custodial fees.
- There was continuing discussion about whether the Foundation would participate in the event monetarily. Board members shared concerns about setting a precedent and urged caution before moving forward.
- Mrs. Clark requested that the decision be conveyed in writing once it is made.

7. Board Chair’s Report

- Mrs. Meyerson shared that the *Being Eddie Basha* exhibition has been wonderful.

8. Museum Manager’s Report

- *Radio that Rocked the Valley* – a collaboration between the Museum and House of Broadcasting, Inc. – opened on March 24, 2026.
- *Artists in Schools: America the Beautiful* opened on April 4, 2026. The City Council paid for artists to go into schools to facilitate art projects with 400 students. There will be an opening reception on April 10, 2026.
- As all gallery spaces are open, the Museum has seen increased visitation.

- On April 7, 2026, Jim West presented about Phoenix broadcasting for History Bites. Pat McMahon will speak at a future program.
- Since February 26, 2026, multiple press releases have been sent out regarding Celebration Plaza, *Being Eddie Basha*, *Radio that Rocked the Valley*, and *Artists in Schools: America the Beautiful*. Mr. Crago and Storytelling Coordinator Sarah Biggerstaff have been interviewed by Arizona Family, Fox 10, KJZZ, and SanTan Sun News. Upcoming interviews are scheduled for Mrs. Biggerstaff and Community Engagement Specialist Caroline Hudson-Naef with Phoenix New Times, Fox 10 AZAM, and AZPBS Arizona Horizon.
- The part-time Gallery Assistant position at the Vision Gallery will be filled soon.
- A part-time Installer position will have interviews soon.
- The hiring process for part-time Educators will commence soon.
- The Marketing Coordinator and Program Coordinator positions will be moving to permanent full-time roles.
- Mr. Crago encouraged the board members to fill out the Annual Museum Goers Survey and to tell others to fill it out. The Museum needs to get over 100 responses and currently has 79.

Briefing

None.

Member Comments

None.

Member Announcements

None.

Calendar

1. Calendar of Exhibitions and Events

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Barbara Meyerson, Chair

Jody Crago, Staff Liaison