



SAY Sí ignites the creative power of young people as forces of positive change. We value artists, empower marginalized communities and advance culture.

Say Sí

Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES

Friday, October 13, 2023, noon-1.30pm

Location: Good Samaritan Community Services, 1600 Saltillo St, San Antonio, TX 78207

Board Members Present:

Kathy Armstrong (Interim Executive Director), Mike Schroeder (Founder), Jason Moran (Chair), Mario Moreno, Léo Lee (12.12pm), Guillermina Zabala, Jim Mendiola

Quorum: yes

Board Members Excused: Ana Cude, Treasurer

Guests/Staff: Stevan Zivadinovic (New Media Director), Ashley Perez (Visual Arts Studio Director), Sabine Senft (Board Liaison)

- 12:03 **Intro**
Kathy gave a brief overview of Good Samaritan Community Services. They offer school programs and after school programs and are a valued non-profit partner on the West Side.
- 12:05 **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from Aug 11, 2023 – Jason Moran**
Motion by Mario to approve minutes, seconded by Mike. Unanimous approval.
- 12:06 **Presentation by Jason Moran, Chair in lieu of Jon Hinojosa (excused), Vamos Abrazos Construction and Capital Campaign Update**
- Vamos Abrazos and Building Campaign update**
Total NMTC account funds: \$3,170,018
Frost campaign funds: \$283,143
Total Vamos Abrazos balance: \$3,453,162
Total construction fees: \$1,062,772
- Phase 2 Construction Update:**
Exterior: roof 100 % complete, exterior infrastructure 60% complete. Biweekly Architect Owner Contractor meetings (AOC). Two pay applications approved by PNC, Blue Hub and AOC. Payments made to vendors. 3rd application pending approval.
- Interior: Chris Huang (ACCION Opportunity Fund) committed to support Phase 3 with NMTC. Blue Hub (bridge loan lender) also stated they were committed to additional funding for interior construction.
- Discussion about Blue Hub support and redirecting Phase 3 funds after finishing Phase 2. Kathy relayed Ana’s concern about funding and Ana requesting a motion. Blue Hub



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requires a certain amount raised before committing to Phase 3 and seem to want to see the current Phase 2 successfully completed first. The temporary student space will be home for longer than anticipated. Consensus: create a list of immediate needs to allow students to work efficiently and set meeting with Jon.

Motion by Leo, seconded by Guillermina, approved unanimously, "to shift focus to current spaces and explore how funding for phase 3 may need to be redirected".

12:30

New Media Update – Stevan Zivadinovic, New Media Director

HIVE Studio trailer summarized their activities, showing 21 students in middle school and 14 in high school programs.

Since 2014 Hive has expanded from a video game design program to innovative computer arts like creative coding, animation and more. They use tools like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and Pico.

Current projects: high school storytelling program; goal is to participate on Dec 9 at SA Zine Fest and sell their Zines as part of entrepreneurial training. Middle school Zine project: *Dungeons and Dopamine*, learning to understand what leads to drug abuse, also to be sold at Zine Fest. Sample shown. Stevan also showed the SA Addict Simulator, a program that creates stories based on user input.

Middle schoolers are creating their own websites. Jim asked how AI is being addressed. Stevan pointed out that Say Sí computers are 10 years old and not adequate for AI work. AI requires hundreds of hours of data collection and entry. AI may be a topic for future explorations.

12:46

Executive Director Search Updates – Jason Moran, Chair

84 applicants tracked in a database created and maintained by Board Liaison. Six interviews conducted by Executive Committee, staff representative and community representatives. Three finalists have been selected. Board Liaison gave a brief summary about each finalist. Finalists will hold a presentation for board and staff and attend Round 2 interviews on Oct 19th and 20th.

12.52

SAY Sí Scenarios – Presentation by Kathy Armstrong, Interim Executive Director Management Report

Kathy voiced continued concern about inherited debt, low cash balances and the need to grow operation funds in order to grow programs and student offerings. She praised the Small Scale Fundraiser noting it did not meet its fundraising goal yet earned more than the previous year. She commended Mario for the catering. Kathy also noted that artistic and admin staff are very engaged and that the atmosphere in the house and among students feels positive. She highlighted Denise Thieme's impressive work for new grant opportunities, increased external communication and submission of applications. Unsolicited gift of \$2k by Miguel Gutierrez. Kathy reminded the board of ways of giving via stocks, old cars, online, checks, cash, sale of art collection, food donations etc.

Kathy encouraged transparency about Say Sí's situation to attract more funding and support. Grant applications take time, so cashflow is an issue. Credit card debt 50K renegotiations were not successful but still in progress. Kathy has been working to inform



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staff and board about current costs and available funds. Top expenses YTD: pay roll and benefits. She is proposing to make cuts asap in order to be able to continue the programs and mission longterm. She invites ideas from the board to cover the shortfall. She emphasized that temporary changes will help meet the end goal: Say Sí's mission.

Q3 Financial Report

Kathy presented Q3 budget vs actuals. Kathy noted that in businesses management institutes cuts to preserve a long-term goal. Jason added that working with union and staff, it should be possible to work through the shortfall together.

Fiscal Situation and UPO Union Work

Lindsay Byrnes, Operations, is making good progress separating Vamos Abrazos and Operations accounts. Next steps are to open a separate account for Vamos Abrazos and transfer due funds back to Operations. The overlapping accounts are complicated to untangle and cloud transparency.

Board and Union are fully involved in interest-based bargaining. Judy Cortez is facilitating the mediation meeting on Nov 8. Kathy has addressed the Union regarding financial shortfalls to make them aware of the situation.

13:16 **Meeting Adjourned**

13:30 **Executive Session**