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February 5, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Music Under the Stars to go on Hiatus this Summer

EL PASO, Texas – The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) has decided not to present Music Under the Stars this summer due to declining attendance numbers.

After 36 years, the outdoor program will go on an extended hiatus while the future of the program is reevaluated. The difficult decision was made following several years of declining attendance as well as budgetary challenges at the Chamizal National Memorial caused by funding cuts at the national level.

Attendance has decreased 96 percent during the past ten years despite the addition of more touring and Grammy-winning headliners. At its height in the early 2000s, attendance averaged 12,500 people per concert. In addition, last year, federal budget constraints for the National Park Service led to an abbreviated season that drew sparse attendance of a little more than 500 people per show.

The data, coupled with federal budget cuts that affect the National Parks Service/Chamizal have led the Museums and Cultural Department to reconsider the 2020 season.

"We are proud of our long history of showcasing El Paso's talented local musicians as well as bringing nationally and internationally known artists to this concert series," said Deputy City Manager of Quality of Life Tracey Jerome. "As entertainment options across El Paso increased, we started to see a decrease in this program that made it unsustainable at this time."

The City provides other free, outdoor concerts to the community, such as the Summer Concert Series at neighborhood parks organized by the Parks and Recreation Department, Cool Canyon Nights, and Alfresco Fridays.

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MEDIA: Members of the media who want an interview can do so between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., TODAY, at the Administrative Offices of the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, 400 W. San Antonio. There is no need to call the Lead PIO, ask for Erin Ritter upon arrival.

Media Contact: Rick Isaias
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
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