

**RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (RACC)
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)
In-Person Meeting
450 Civic Center Plaza, 1st Floor Conference Room
Richmond, California
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair Lynson Beaulieu, and Commissioners Ted Bell, Phillip Mehas, Carole Porter and Kaelen Van Cura

Absent: Melody Kozma-Kennedy, Council Liaisons Soheila Bana and Doria Robinson

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day, Information Technology (IT) Department Richard Lee and Deputy Chief of Staff Mayor's Office Tony Tamayo

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The RACC/PAAC Regular Meeting was called to order by Chair Beaulieu at 7:02 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

a. APPROVE April 13, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Mehas stated during the March 9, 2023 RACC/PAAC meeting, he had requested the budget be included as a standing agenda item and not presented as a staff report since the public should be aware that the budget would be discussed.

Chair Beaulieu advised the budget would be added to the agenda in the future.

Motion by Commissioner Van Cura, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the April 13, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, as modified, with the budget to be included in future agendas as a standing agenda item, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

b. APPROVE March 9, 2023 RACC Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the March 9, 2023 RACC Special Meeting minutes, as submitted, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER: None

V. PRESENTATION VOTING ITEMS

a. Love Your Block – Kids for the Bay Project

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day clarified that the Kids for the Bay Project involved a California State Grant and was not a Love Your Block Project.

Yvette Diaz Samayoa, Kids for the Bay, Program Coordinator/Environmental Educator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Kids for the Bay Project. She explained that Kids for the Bay was a 30-year environmental education non-profit that traveled to many cities in the East Bay teaching students about the environment, and collaborated with teachers to inspire environmental consciousness in children and cultivate learning. The non-profit was committed to equal access in environmental education and preserving a healthy environment for all communities.

Kids for the Bay had four key goals, to connect students with nature in their local watershed and on field trips to creek, Bay and ocean habitats; get students excited with hands-on science learning by engaging science experiments; empowering students to take environmental action with class projects; and sharing what they knew with their friends and family. Kids for the Bay also provided professional development and ongoing support and resources for their partner-teachers, schools and school districts.

For 2023, Kids for the Bay would start a two-year program to be based in the City of Richmond, titled the *Richmond Parks and Watershed Rangers Program*, to be funded by a Clean California Grant, and would work with three local schools; Peres, Lincoln and Grant Elementary Schools in their parks and local green spaces. Two different art projects had been planned and included the drafting and design of an environmental poster and a gallery walk to class sharing the posters around campus or a local business. The other art project involved the creation and design of an environmental image onto a tile, rock or potential paver, to be installed in the school's green spaces. Given the two-year program, it was hoped that Kids for the Bay would be able to work with the same partners-teachers in the next year. The program was currently working with 4th, 5th and 7th grade teachers in nine classes with a total of 239 students.

Needed materials for the different art projects were identified with the goal for the art installation to give the students a lasting impact and sense of community within the City, and the hope the artwork would last between five to ten years. Kids for the Bay would maintain the different site areas and cement the rocks or pavers to avoid theft. The current budget was \$2,400 for the two-year program, with \$1,200 each year for the art supplies from the grant. Sample images of a rock path and paver tiles were provided with the intent for the theme to be environmentally friendly and with the posters to include friendly and fun environmental slogans.

Chair Beaulieu asked of the paint and sealing to be used to ensure the durability of the environmental images as described, and Ms. Samayoa explained that there was no access to a kiln but acrylic paint with an acrylic sealant would be considered to provide protection from the weather.

Ms. Samayoa clarified the possible locations at each school where the environmental images could be displayed and in response to Commissioner Mehas explained that the inspiration of the project had come from an idea from the Founder of Kids for the Bay to work more with Richmond schools. In 2022, Kids for the Bay had done a less intensive program and the desire was to piggyback on that project and use the state grant to help beautify local green spaces through a local art installation or art path.

Chair Beaulieu asked staff to clarify what was being asked of the RACC for this project and the RACC's relationship to the project.

Ms. Day explained that Stephanie Ny, who managed the Love Your Block Program, had presented this project as one of those presented to the Love Your Block Program. Any project that had some percentage of public art interface must also be presented to the RACC/PAAC. The RACC/PAAC was not handling the project, it would not require any RACC/PAAC funds and this was just a presentation asking the RACC/PAAC to accept the project as is.

Commissioner Bell asked for more details on the overall approach to schools as part of the beautification efforts, and was informed by Ms. Samayoa that Kids for the Bay conducted outreach with various schools and had worked with school districts including those located in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The project as described for the three local elementary schools in the City of Richmond was because those schools were close to the locations that were desired to be beautified. Outreach would include emails sent to teachers, principals or administrative staff with the intent to encourage them to work with Kids for the Bay. Some of the beautification efforts included campus trash cleanup and the five R's to "refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and then recycle." There were also action projects with an option for potential off-campus activities.

Commissioner Porter asked whether any funds received would be reserved to maintain the artwork, to which Ms. Samayoa commented that Kids for the Bay was working on a budget for art supplies and any leftover funds could be used for maintenance. If not they would have to apply for another grant opportunity.

Corey Chan, Kids for the Bay, Education and Outreach Manager, explained that a local art organization did a lot of work with youth in community projects and art installations and they planned to reach out to that organization to partner and collaborate on the project.

Ms. Day also clarified with Ms. Samayoa that the overall state grant amount was around \$95,000 with a small portion earmarked for the artwork described. The maintenance of the artwork remained to be refined. In terms of the use of rocks, that was the reason pavers had been proposed so they would be less likely to be removed. If rocks and pavers were used it would likely require them to be cemented in to ensure they were not removed.

Ms. Chan added that some of the rocks that could be painted were quite large and it was hoped they would not be removed. The focus was on larger rather than smaller rocks.

Ms. Samayoa reiterated that smaller rocks would likely have to be cemented to prevent theft. The idea for smaller rocks had been for the Bay Trail pathway proposed for Peres Elementary School, which rocks would have to be cemented into the ground.

Commissioners Mehas and Porter suggested a percentage of the budget should be set aside for safety and maintenance purposes.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Bell that the RACC/PAAC accept the Kids for the Bay Project, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

b. Select RACC Vice Chair

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Bell to select Kaelen Van Cura as the Vice Chair of the RACC, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Art Inventory Update – B. Bland, K. Lam

Ms. Day provided the background of the Art Inventory Update and reported the art inventory would become an asset management document for the City of Richmond allowing quantification of the number of public art pieces in the City of Richmond, and identification of the value for each piece. The art inventory also would help to identify what neighborhoods in the City were underserved. The goal was to create a walking tour for the community of the City's artwork with information to be available online.

Kyle Lam KCRT, Administrative Student Intern, provided a PowerPoint presentation which included an overview of the Art Inventory that the KCRT Team had prepared to collect the images of all of the public artwork, with a spreadsheet created with a small map to identify the artwork in the City of Richmond. A map based on funding sources was also displayed. Staff had also considered options for a walking tour with a sample of how the public could view each art piece on a map, with the art work at the Civic Center also shown as an example. When asked, he clarified that staff had provided the City's Information Technology (IT) and KCRT Team with information on each piece of public art in the City of Richmond, which had been included on the spreadsheet totaling 160 pieces of public artwork. The KCRT Team had photographed each piece.

Richard Lee, KCRT Station Manager, explained that both KCRT Videographer Brian Bland and Mr. Lam had worked on the Art Inventory Update, with 88 public pieces of art remaining to be photographed and uploaded to the art inventory. KCRT was attempting to complete the work in a timely fashion and would reach out to other staff members with photography experience given the work volume and limited staff resources at KCRT. He understood that hiring a photographer may require a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Ms. Day explained that when the project started a few years ago there had been some challenges with the proprietary nature of the City's database, with the photography required to be done in-house but she hoped that policy could be changed since there had been some interest from others to take photographs. Staff had to figure out the next steps.

Commissioner Mehas commented that a couple of years ago this project had been a mini grant project and had involved an RFP, which had solicited some interest but staff had found another way. He understood the appraisals for the artwork would be done by a professional.

Ms. Day thanked everyone for their patience in the process. The item was informational for new Commissioners. She thanked KCRT staff for their work. She also commented she had some information about the value of some of the artwork, and confirmed when asked by the Chair, that artwork installed by the City was insured. In addition, a maintenance component provided a condition report for each piece of art and if maintenance was needed what would be required would be identified, all part of an accurate inventory report.

b. FY 2022-23 NPA Mini Grant Commissioner Liaison Reports

Chair Beaulieu reported she had been working with the Point Richmond Tunnel Restoration Project, which had insurance challenges for the workers but she understood the grantee had been able to be insured, had their documents and planned to submit the documents to allow the contract to be completed.

Ms. Day clarified the Point Richmond Tunnel Restoration was a special project since traffic would have to be stopped in the tunnel in order for the work to be done and flagmen would be required. The project also required a \$2 million insurance policy rather than a \$1 million policy but once

they were under contract it would not take long for the work to be done, estimated to take about a month.

Chair Beaulieu also reported on the Washington School Banner Project and stated the banners had been printed, installed and enjoyed by the students and others.

Commissioner Bell reported on the Empowering Youth through Music Project teaching kids music, technology, multimedia and using life skills and presentations within music to educate and motivate. The goal was to provide a greater awareness of how musical styles changed with technological advances. He had met with the project lead, Mark Anthony James, and planned to meet with him in the next two weeks in person. He highlighted the classes Mr. James currently provided and advised there were videos of the classes, with each video beginning and ending with the tag that the video was supported by the City of Richmond NPA Mini Grant. Mr. James planned to provide a Spring Youth Performance scheduled for May 20, 2023.

Chair Beaulieu reported she had attended one of Mr. James' student performances and she had appreciated the effort.

Ms. Day explained that one of the aspects of the grant for Empowering Youth through Music was to allow the students to purchase some instruments. She understood they now had enough instruments to allow students to loan and share instruments.

Commissioner Porter reported on the Clean Air, Wind, Spring Family Day and presented flyers for the event at the Richmond Arts Center scheduled for April 29, 2023 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. She understood the Richmond Arts Center planned to hire someone to run the event, with the event to be a carnival-like atmosphere with art in the courtyard and with an emphasis to make everything accessible to all. She described the events planned and the materials to be used, all centered around clean air for an inclusive and accessible event.

In response to comments about the Chevron Refinery, Ms. Day clarified that the City had discouraged any mention of Chevron during the event given that the City was an annual funder to the Richmond Arts Center and any political demonstrations against Chevron were not something the City was interested in.

Commissioner Porter understood the event would be focused on clean air, recycling, upcycling, reusing and helping people become more aware of their environment, which she suggested could be done without becoming political.

Commissioner Mehas commented that the Richmond Arts Center had a fundraiser a while ago that involved painted sticks, which had been a statement against pollution and Chevron.

Commissioner Mehas provided an update on the Richmond Museum Project, which involved 1,000 paintings on paper in the City's child care centers during World War II, with approximately 50 pieces having been digitized to reprint, frame and be professionally installed in seven different locations in the City of Richmond including the West Contra Costa Family Justice Center (WCCFJC), Kaiser, and the Railroad Museum. The pieces had been installed and would be hung for three months to potentially a year or be rotated. He reported that although he had encouraged the artists to reapply for the next cycle of mini grants, they had declined due to the City's overwhelming application process. He expressed the willingness to provide information on the seven locations to staff so that the information could be emailed to Commissioners.

Ms. Day recognized the concerns with the City's processes but noted the project had started with five locations, had expanded, and had become a much larger project with more people involved.

Commissioner Mehas also reported that the Richmond NIAD Art Center Project involved banners on 23rd Street around what Richmond NIAD was, and had difficulties with participants from the high school and Richmond NIAD. The final proofs would be sent to staff in the next week. He understood the Public Works Department had recommended that 2x8 banners be considered as opposed to the 4x8 banners due to wind, and as such the size of the banners had to be redesigned. Encroachment permits had also been required.

Ms. Day clarified that if the City was doing the installation encroachment permits would not be required; however; Richmond NIAD would have to reimburse the City for the staff time for installation and staff would have to work with Richmond NIAD to clarify the requirements.

Commissioner Mehas further reported on the Pogo Park Project that involved different artists, some of whom were paid and some of whom were volunteers, with an art exhibit expected sometime in the summer.

Ms. Day reported on the Jed Lee documentary project which planned to focus on Rich City Rides. Since the funding for the project would come from the General Fund, the project must be completed by the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2023, and although Mr. Lee desired that the project extend into the month of August, staff had explained that the project must be finished by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Lee had made an effort to meet the deadline and had prepared press releases for all of the people he planned to interview. In addition, for Kairos Music Academy, the youth choir had some challenges at the beginning of their project related to permission to work with the East Bay Performing Arts. Permission had since been provided, one retreat had been held, and one large concert with youth had been planned.

1. Poet Laureate Competition Committee

Chair Beaulieu and Ms. Day asked that at least two to three volunteers be selected to serve on the Poet Laureate Committee and it was clarified that if more than three members, the Committee would be required to meet in-person. The Poet Laureate would be paid \$1,000 per year (from the General Fund) with a two-year contract with additional funds for the stipend (from other funds) if the artist wanted to pay other poets a stipend. An RFP and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) would be distributed in the next week. The selected applicant would be asked to specify and distinguish who would be paid and how much and have at least one project to interface with schools and one community group.

The RACC/PAAC also commented on prior discussions about increasing the payment for the Poet Laureate from \$1,000 and increasing the stipend, with Ms. Day explaining the \$1,000 payment would come from the General Fund and the stipend from other funding sources. Whether an hourly rate could be considered for the Poet Laureate, to at least be paid a minimum wage, she noted that open mics were free and the prior Poet Laureate had participated in many open mic events. Chair Beaulieu wanted the Poet Laureate to be paid for their "time."

Commissioner Porter and Chair Beaulieu expressed the willingness to serve on the Poet Laureate Committee, with the RFP and other documents to be shared with the RACC/PAAC when available for review and with any other Commissioners also interested in serving on the Committee to contact the Chair or staff.

Ms. Day reported as part of the process that all potential Poet Laureate contacts would be made aware of the RFP and RFQ.

2. PACC March Report (Chair Beaulieu)

Chair Beaulieu reported that during the month of March \$32,000 had been received in private developer fees and staff had provided budget information as well. She also reported there were a number of outstanding invoices related to ongoing projects, which included signage for Ookwe Park and Osprey Bird, Archie Held Sculptural Restoration, fish sculpture restoration, Public Art Brochure Spanish translation, and the Mark Metz WCCFJC Rain Drain Project was almost finished as was the high-tide sculpture maintenance and staff confirmed the lights were operable and payment for the work had been approved. The Senior Citizen Mural Restoration had received a maintenance plan, the Richmond Country Club/Parchester Village Mural Project was moving along, but final approval and sign-off from the City Manager's Office was needed and the vendor had submitted insurance documents.

Chair Beaulieu also reported that Ms. Day had worked on the stipends for the twelve semi-finalists for the Shields-Reid Community Center Project and was working on the five finalist contracts; had met with the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission concerning their project receiving City Council approval to proceed on March 21, 2023; and had also been working on the custom frames for the mosaic tile project. The Large Art Sculpture project was also moving forward with the RACC/PAAC and the Public Works Department having reviewed and signed-off on the project to proceed, with the Park Plaza Neighborhood Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and thereafter City Council approvals still required.

Directional and didactic signage for the Ookwe Park and Osprey signage had been installed with the exception of the final botanical marker signage, which remained outstanding.

VII. DISCUSSION

a. San Francisco Mime Troupe

Commissioner Mehas explained that the San Francisco Mime Troupe was political theater, had been in the City a few times, and the theme this year was mental health. The San Francisco Mime Troupe was scheduled through the end of July and played in the parks, in the grass and used their own equipment and stage. In the past, the troupe had played in front of City Hall near the sculpture and in Nicholl Park.

Commissioner Mehas understood City permits would be required and could cost as much as \$500 to \$600. If the troupe was provided a \$1,500 stipend from the RACC, he suggested it would go a long way even though the hat was passed after a performance. He reported that the San Francisco Mime Troupe had found it to be discouraging to perform in the City of Richmond given the small audience and lack of funding and a stipend would take care of the costs but the troupe still needed to make money. He asked the RACC/PAAC to consider the stipend and if it did not work out for this year possibly it could be considered for next year.

In response to Commissioner Bell as to what made the San Francisco Mime Troupe better than others, Commissioner Mehas commented he had not seen any other troupe do political theater, it was always comical and fun with face painting in the crowd.

Chair Beaulieu explained this was a project a Commissioner needed to take the lead on in order to make it happen. She suggested keeping the project on the back burner for now.

VIII. MARCH STAFF REPORT (Day)

Ms. Day reported the Park Plaza Neighborhood Council had met this evening and although she had been invited to attend the meeting it had conflicted with the RACC/PAAC meeting and another staff member had attended in her absence. She had just been informed the Neighborhood Council had unanimously approved the \$100,000 Large Art Sculpture Project but wanted to be involved in some of the direction, particularly about the initial figures. The project must also go before the City Council for approval and staff had met with the Public Works Department to ensure the project was acceptable. With approval from the Neighborhood Council, the project would next be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and thereafter to the City Council.

Ms. Day also reported most projects underway were public art related as the Chair had reported. The Shields-Reid Project was a two-to three-year project, the project received City Council approval and a meeting with the architects had been planned in the next week. She also reported on the new cycle for NPA Mini Grants with at least 50 participants in the mandatory meeting, with staff having done a great job explaining the budget. Enough information was provided to allow IT staff to upload information on the NPA Mini Grant orientation with the information available online. Of the 50 participants, she hoped there would be at least 20 applicants for the mini grants, which had been increased from \$8,000 to \$9,000, with a total of \$65,000 for the mini grant projects. There was some flexibility if the project was a public art project where some funds could be used from public art dollars. She also noted the NPA Mini Grant Committee was comprised of four RACC Commissioners and April 28, 2023 was the deadline for applications.

Ms. Day further reported the Art Academy University in the City of San Francisco would provide a summer program for high school students who were freshmen, sophomores or juniors, with the Art Academy University currently in the process of soliciting students. The program would be free for any high school student. In addition, the Richmond Arts Center was holding its 57th Annual Student Exhibit that would be up for at least a month with Tuesday, April 18, 2023 the opening date. Students participating in the exhibit may qualify for the Art Academy University program with the exceptions of seniors who would qualify for forty, four-year Presidential Scholarships with a value over \$100,000, and which would be available to students throughout the Bay Area. It was hoped a City of Richmond student would be able to take advantage of this scholarship. Anyone interested in helping to select the students was asked to contact staff.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS

a. Members Share Art Related Events

Commissioner Mehas reminded everyone to fill out their required Form 700 and was informed that most Commissioners had done so. Ms. Day reported her understanding the official onboarding for new Commissioners was planned in June.

Tony Tamayo, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office, clarified the onboarding for new Commissioners would occur in late May and he would forward information to Ms. Day. The meeting was planned to be held in-person. He requested that the RACC/PAAC consider a new and routine agenda item for a Mayor's Office Report given that the Mayor had expressed interest in boosting arts in the City of Richmond and there was a desire to provide updates on items of interest. He detailed some of the projects under consideration including the continuation of the NIAD rotation, City Council approval of a budget of \$3.1 million to upgrade and repair sidewalks in the City, and the allocation of \$350,000 for a street redesign project on Carlson Boulevard to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly and include more bus shelters.

Space on the third floor of City Hall had been identified for potential wall space for artwork and there were plans for sculptures in the Mayor's Office.

Chair Beaulieu advised that the Mayor's Office Report would be added to future agendas.

At this time, Ms. Day provided an overview of a binder of meeting information that had been provided to all Commissioners and she encouraged Commissioners to review all materials.

X. CHECK IN WITH NEW COUNCILMEMBERS, NEW COMMISSIONERS and GUESTS:
None

XI. ADJOURN until May 11, 2023

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Porter, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on May 11, 2023.