

**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, May 11, 2023
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Council Liaisons Soheila Bana and Doria Robinson

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day, Administrative Analyst Shané Johnson, **Johnnie Hill**, 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 7:04 p.m.

Deputy Chief of Staff Mayor's Office Tony Tamayo reported that as of the latest City Council meeting, Mayor Eduardo Martinez was now the Council Liaison to the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission (RACC), replacing Council Liaisons Soheila Bana and Doria Robinson. He was uncertain who had been appointed as the Alternate Council Liaison and would report back at the next meeting. The Mayor was expected to be in attendance for the June RACC meeting.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

Chair Beaulieu requested the following items be added to the May 11, 2023 RACC/PAAC meeting agenda for discussion: supporting cultural events, Asphalt Art Initiative and a potential memorial honoring the City of Richmond's children and youth who had been victims of gun violence.

Commissioner Mehas pointed out that previous meeting minutes had not identified who was present at the meeting, and while he was informed that information had been included on the first page of the meeting minutes, he suggested that information had not always been included in past meeting minutes. He also asked that name tags be created for RACC/PAAC members and was informed by the Chair that was on staff's to do list.

a. APPROVE May 11, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the May 11, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, as modified, with the addition of the following items: supporting cultural events, Asphalt Art Initiative and a potential memorial honoring the City of Richmond's children and youth who had been victims of gun violence, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

b. APPROVE April 13, 2023 RACC Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Van Cura, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the April 13, 2023 RACC Special Meeting minutes, as submitted, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. PRESENTATION Private Developer Chef's Warehouse Public Art

The development team for Chef's Warehouse and Allen Brothers Meat and Seafood was introduced and included the General Contractor with Design Build, **Katie Fagan**, Representative for Allen Brothers Meat and Seafood, the Project Manager for Chef's Warehouse and Ryan Vallis, Vice President, Protein, Northwest Allen Brothers Meat and Seafood.

Ryan Vallis, Vice President of Protein, Northwest at Allen Brothers Meat and Seafood, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the development of a production facility at 211 West Cutting Boulevard that would involve anywhere from 200 to 300 employees. The purpose of the presentation was to advise of the intent to incorporate public art into the facility for employees and the local community. The development team desired to work closely with the RACC and the community to bring art funds to the physical location of the site by enhancing both the outside and the internal infrastructure of the building, with a push to become ingrained in the community. Examples of similar efforts the company had designed for facilities located in the communities of Miami, Florida and Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York were provided. In those cases, Allen Brothers worked closely with each city, community and art district to bring a touch and feel into the buildings and into the local community.

For the Bronx, New York Project, Allen Brothers worked with local artists who did a lot of the art work. New York had an annual event called Cows on Parade, where artists decorated and then auctioned off lightweight cows to the community. He reported that Chef's Warehouse currently had a location in Union City where they also worked with the local community, local firefighters and prisoners at San Quentin Prison bringing them into the restaurant world through chef's classes.

Along with art in the community, the goal was to work with local schools in Contra Costa County to become ingrained in the community and provide further knowledge in the community creating and developing a path for those individuals and for the restaurant industry to educate the art of food in restaurants and how the food got to the table, which was a big issue in the restaurant industry. The goal was to reach local communities and help them understand the meat business from the cattle aspect and how the food reached the plate, with the development team having connections in the restaurant world and in the cattle/agriculture/farming region to bring in knowledge and awareness of healthy foods.

The new building at 211 West Cutting Boulevard would be around 105,000 square feet in size for the main footprint and around 8,000 square feet for the annex. It was hoped the City of Richmond would work with Allen Brothers to have the building become ingrained in the community in some aspect. Input from the RACC to bring community artwork to the building was welcomed.

Responding to comments from the RACC, Mr. Vallis explained that the building was 10,000 to 20,000 square feet shy of where they wanted to be. All offices would be in the annex building with the desire to have a conference room/test kitchen that would bring in local community college or high school students to show them what was done to be impactful in the food industry.

Chef's Warehouse further fabricated and worked with local farmers/fisheries and farm packing houses and brought in the meat, distributed it, broke it down and furthered the process to meet customer specifications. It also worked with a number of local/regional restaurants and this would be the first major facility in the area outside of Sysco/Wholesale Restaurant Food Distributor located in the City of Fremont.

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day reported she had been in conversations with Allen Brothers over the last couple of weeks and was excited about the project. She understood one of the main things Chef's Warehouse needed was a permit in order to move forward with the project. Pursuant to the requirements for public artwork, the developer may comply with the requirement either through the payment of an in-lieu fee to the Public Art Fund or do the project independently. If that were the case, the developer needed to inform staff who they would be working with to allow the issuance of a permit. She asked the developer the status of the project and what commitment was being made.

Mr. Vallis advised that this project was a significant build for Allen Brothers who had been in the community as part of the original Del Monte Meat Company since 1926, and who was committed to the Bay Area. Allen Brothers had signed a 10-year lease for the building and would spend \$25 million plus for a 30-year project. The facility would distribute product from the City of Richmond all the way down to the City of San Luis Obispo and possibly further, and up to the cities of Chico and Reno, Nevada. If an expansion of the building was needed, new buildings would be built in Sacramento, Reno or San Luis Obispo. The project was currently in the demolition stage. The application for the art side would be handled by a third party expediter to be done in the next week. Through the build-out process, the completion timeframe was anticipated to be late November of this year.

Katie Fagan, Allen Brothers, stated the goal was to pay the art fee to the City and partner with the City of Richmond and the RACC for the public artwork. She suggested the City's timeline for public artwork would not impact the timeline for the main project for the building given the goal to apply public artwork at exterior locations.

Ms. Day confirmed she had shared the City's policies and procedures with the Allen Brothers development team. She had also provided an overview of the City's process including sitting down with staff and the RACC to determine what the artwork would look like and whether there was a theme or message that could be shared with potential artists who may be interested in participating in the project. Staff would work with the developer to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and would consider pre-qualified artists, which process was also highlighted, including the ultimate approvals of the conceptual design of the artwork by the RACC and the City Council.

Ms. Day also commented on current efforts with local school children who had been working on a mini grant project with banners and painting in the area of Cutting Boulevard, which would make a statement about food, people and the community and which could make a connection to the Chef's Warehouse, but she cautioned that some artwork may not qualify as public art. There could be ways to finesse a project that could tie into the goals of the development team.

Mr. Vallis commented there were four chandeliers that would go into the facility and they could have a chandelier made out of knives, as an example of possible artwork. There were artists that could build something beautiful out of something recycled as well.

Ms. Day confirmed the City of Richmond had artists who worked with recycled materials and artists who were glass blowers and there were many possibilities.

Ms. Fagan clarified with Ms. Day that once the artwork was installed and since it was on the developer's property it would have to be maintained by the developer/property owner.

Further responding to the RACC, Mr. Vallis commented the intent was to have a good extent of the public artwork visible to the public. He emphasized the potential opportunities for artwork in such a big space and he welcomed all ideas from the community. He added this was the first interaction with the City about this concept other than meeting with the Business and Employment Bureaus and the development team had not yet reached out to the City's Neighborhood Councils.

Ms. Day reiterated the developer had the opportunity to decide whether or not to work with the RACC or work independently on a public art project. If the developer worked independently the developer would have to work with all of the stakeholders involved and staff could provide some assistance. She hoped to have more information in the future with a design the RACC could review.

Chair Beaulieu identified Commissioner Porter, and possibly Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy who was not yet ready to commit to the idea at this time, as Commissioners interested in working with Chef's Warehouse on their public artwork project.

V. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER ROBINSON: None

Chair Beaulieu moved to Item VII, Mayor Martinez Office Staff Report at this time.

VII. MAYOR MARTINEZ OFFICE STAFF REPORT (Tamayo)

Tony Tamayo, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, reiterated the Mayor would be serving as the RACC Council Liaison and would be present at the next meeting since some Council Liaison appointments had been shuffled. He would verify whether or not an Alternate Council Liaison had been appointed to the RACC and would provide that information at the next RACC meeting. All Council appointments had been posted on the City website.

Mr. Tamayo provided a PowerPoint presentation, which included an overview of the Mayor's Office organization, and reported that the Mayor saw public safety and art as one of the major goals for the City of Richmond, including using the Asphalt Art Initiative as a potential traffic calming measure, with a focus on 23rd Street and MacDonald Avenue with the goal to encourage and entice businesses and new businesses. He provided examples of some of those efforts. He also reported that the National Institute of Art and Disabilities (NIAD) Art Center rotation would be reinstated in the Mayor's Office in late June; the introduction of a new satellite exhibition at the Mayor's Office was expected to be live in late May; and there would be meetings with individual arts communities in the City and with individual artists. He added that an applicant had applied to the RACC and a new Commissioner was expected to be appointed by the next RACC meeting.

Mr. Tamayo stated the Mayor was also exploring art for traffic and public safety and he asked how the Mayor's Office could align with the RACC in terms of the plans for the one percent in art funds and whether the RACC had any recommendations for new Commissioners. He welcomed comments from the RACC.

Mr. Tamayo reiterated the types of projects the Mayor had focused on which included the Asphalt Art Initiative, painting of utility boxes and out on the street projects that would provide traffic calming measures. He asked whether the RACC was willing to consider such projects and provide assistance in keeping those goals front and center.

Mr. Tamayo clarified in response to Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy that some of the projects would fall under the Public Works Department purview and there was already some interface with the Department and the City Council. The City Council had recently approved \$3.1 million for sidewalk repairs and accessibility upgrades and \$850,000 for a project on Carlson Boulevard, which included bus shelters.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy sought the perspective and expertise from the Public Works Department to make recommendations that would be successful for traffic calming measures, and Mr. Tamayo encouraged any questions to be emailed to him that could then be forwarded to the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Porter spoke to public soothing and public health and asked whether that was part of the thought process for traffic calming measures, and Mr. Tamayo suggested that would fall under the wider view of expanding the public safety net and while they were open to all ideas, the focus now was on traffic calming measures.

Commissioner Mehas commented on the use of roundabouts and given the increase in sideshows, roundabouts with connective art in the middle of the intersection may help to provide traffic calming measures. He commented on the number of projects in process, such as the mini grant projects and large sculpture, and noted there were art funds available for many ideas, such as the San Francisco Mime Troupe whose theme for 2023 was mental health and whose work he advocated.

Chair Beaulieu suggested a working group/committee comprised of RACC Commissioners could help to build ideas and they could be directly connected in that way.

Mr. Tamayo expressed the willingness to discuss that option further.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy agreed that wellness in the community was important and the idea of roundabouts with tiny community gardens in the middle could be an option. Wellness could come into play where a neighborhood could maintain the community garden area, it would be food for people and it would help with pollinators, plants and education. There were also possible partnering opportunities with children. She emphasized the number of resources that could be pulled from the local community.

Ms. Day confirmed the RACC had some money to spend but with a stakeholder effort with other City Departments there needed to be assurance that the RACC was not using all of its funds, and with a collaborative effort the burden of costs should be shared. She provided an overview of the wish list for the next fiscal year for the benefit of the new Commissioners and commented that this idea could possibly be something that could be developed over the next year as a meaningful and lasting project. She also referenced the Asphalt Art Initiative that had been discussed in the past as a possible option for visual art.

Commissioner Mehas understood the Asphalt Art Initiative had been predicated on safety and taking away one lane, painting it with butterflies, as an example, to provide a nice path for pedestrians or bicyclists. This concept had been done successfully in Asheville, North Carolina.

Commissioner Porter identified a strip near Golden Gate Park in the City of San Francisco that had been kept accessible for the community with no vehicle traffic permitted, which concept in Richmond could also foster public safety and encourage community.

Ms. Day explained that there were multiple aspects of creating a budget for such projects. She had seen some projects like the Asphalt Art Initiative that had been done using temporary paint. If the RACC were to consider such an idea, it needed to consider whether it would be temporary or long-term.

Commissioner Mehas understood based on the budget for the Asphalt Art Initiative that the project would be temporary, and Ms. Day commented that such a project could not happen in one year and the RACC needed to understand it would be a collaborative and comprehensive effort, where planning would be very important. She thanked Mr. Tamayo for his presentation and again confirmed the Mayor was expected to attend the next RACC meeting.

Commissioner Mehas referenced the project for bus shelters on Carlson Boulevard and suggested art should also be considered, and Mr. Tamayo hoped to be able to “connect some dots” at the least. He encouraged anyone with ideas to contact him via email.

Chair Beaulieu clarified once the Mayor’s Office had an art project defined a liaison from the RACC could be appointed as contact for that project.

Chair Beaulieu returned to Item VI. Committee Reports.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Fiscal Year 2022/23 NPA Mini Grant Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Porter reported the Richmond Art Center Clean Air Event had been held on April 29, had been a success and photographs had been taken of the event. She stated it had been a pleasure working with both artists.

Commissioner Bell reported he had met with Mark Anthony James with the Empowering Youth through Music Project, which taught kids between the ages of 10 to 15 about music, technology, multimedia and using life skills, and presentations within music to educate and motivate. He enjoyed a tour of the facility and Mr. James had informed him of the desire to expand the program to children who had mental health issues. He also reported that Mr. James was preparing for a Spring Youth Performance scheduled for May 20, 2023.

Chair Beaulieu reported she would be unable to attend the event but encouraged interested persons to attend.

Commissioner Mehas reported the George Mason and senior group had done some crafts projects with an artist who had been hired to teach fine art and one event had already been held. The Richmond NIAD Arts Center Banner project had experienced a number of problems but the banners had been printed and the size had been changed. The Richmond Museum Project had its opening but it had not been announced to the public. Six of the pieces were on display in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

Commissioner Mehas explained the project had some difficulty staying on track with too much input from too many people which had set the project back. He added that two of his projects had informed him that due to the City’s process and requirements they would not apply again, and while he understood their position he was disappointed. He also confirmed, when asked by the Chair that he provided the artists his final report forms, but suggested those forms should be provided by staff and the Chair to all artists at the same time.

Chair Beaulieu reported the Washington School Banner Project had been completed with the banners installed and enjoyed by the school community. The Point Richmond group that was working on the refurbishment of the tunnel artwork had not completed their contract or received the required encroachment permit for the project, and she was uncertain the project would be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Staff would follow up and would keep the RACC posted on the status. If the project was unable to be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year, the funding would revert back to the General Fund, but in discussions with staff and since it was a public art project, if the group wanted to still complete the project but were unable to meet the June 30, 2023 fiscal end of year deadline, staff may be able to find other funds to complete the project this summer.

Ms. Day explained that one of the challenges with the NPA mini grants was that a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization made things easier as was an individual who could afford the insurance and business license. The Point Richmond group was a Neighborhood Council comprised of volunteers, which had been a challenge. The tunnel project would require the complete closure of one lane, which was why an encroachment permit and flaggers were required along with a higher insurance premium.

Ms. Day emphasized the contract could not be issued absent the encroachment permit. Between now and the June RACC meeting if the group did not have all of the required paperwork in place, she would like permission from the RACC to place an item on the agenda to terminate the NPA mini grant with the Point Richmond group for the tunnel project. Alternatively, the contract could be stopped and a new contract issued separately under the public art funds.

Commissioner Mehas asked whether the group was capable of completing the project on time, and Ms. Day suggested if they were capable the project would have been completed.

Chair Beaulieu understood there had been some understanding the group would receive special treatment from the City around the required permits, and Ms. Day confirmed that had been an understanding with the former Mayor. Hypothetically, if everything was in order in the next couple of weeks the group could proceed but that would be a tight schedule.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy suggested there were good intentions to rehabilitate that area of the City by improving the tunnel but another artist could likely do the work. She suggested this prominent area of the City would be attractive to other artists but given all of the Departments involved if the current project was not being realized now it would not be.

Commissioner Van Cura agreed there was a sense of urgency that the Point Richmond group was at the end of the timeline and did not appear to be worried about that fact. She would not want to locate more funding for this group unless in the next couple of weeks some initiative had been shown.

Ms. Day advised she would prepare a letter notifying the Point Richmond group of the circumstances and identifying that it had one week to respond with a certificate for the encroachment permit. As long as that could be done, the group could proceed. If the group had not met the conditions described, the item would be agendized for the June RACC agenda for consideration of terminating the contact. Between now and the next RACC meeting, the funding for the project would be clarified.

b. Poet Laureate Competition Committee

Chair Beaulieu requested a committee of two RACC Commissioners to review the Poet Laureate Competition applications. She had spoken with staff about valuing people's time and suggested there would be more interest if the stipend for the Poet Laureate was increased and staff was working to put that protocol in place. While \$1,500 for the stipend could not be promised now, additional funds could be added to the next budget.

Commissioner Mehas suggested there were funds in the budget for the increase in the stipend now, and Chair Beaulieu clarified she was not saying there were no funds but a protocol had to be followed for when funds were used.

Ms. Day clarified the call was going out for this fiscal year but the work would be done in the next fiscal year. While she did not say the stipend could not be increased, the RACC needed clarity on what it would be getting for the stipend since it had been random the last two years and that needed to be defined in the contract for the Poet Laureate. Also, checks to be withdrawn by the City required certain processes such as issuance of a W-9.

Chair Beaulieu stated those details would be worked out and advised the plan was to increase the amount paid to the Poet Laureate from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year.

Commissioner Kozma–Kennedy asked whether there was studio space that could be provided in exchange for the \$500 that could not be offered now and possibly the Poet Laureate could offer open mic nights.

Chair Beaulieu commented the Poet Laureates were pretty experienced and had a way they were engaged in the work around their poetry. More information would be available with the applications.

Commissioners Porter and Van Cura expressed the willingness to serve on the Poet Laureate Competition Committee.

Ms. Day explained that Poet Laureates who had applied in the past and others would be invited to reapply and she expected to have a good list of candidates.

c. PAAC April Report (Chair Beaulieu)

Ms. Day reported for the Shields-Reid Community Center Project that staff had met with the architecture team and there had been some discussions about making some changes to the artwork. The artists would be getting back to staff in two weeks and if any of the concepts changed, she would bring them back to the RACC. She added the Richmond Country Club/Parchester Village Mural Project was almost under contract.

Chair Beaulieu and Ms. Day also reported that Commissioners Mehas, Van Cura and Ms. Day had visited Mark Metz to view the West Contra Costa Family Justice Center (WCCFJC) Rain Drain Project to be installed in May. The Ookwe Park Signage was still waiting for botanical markers and the Osprey Bird sculpture models (miniature versions) were in the works. The large art sculpture had recently been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission with the next step the City Council. Signage installation/replacement was still waiting for the Richmond BART Station and a presentation was made this date by Chef's Warehouse.

Also, the 211 Harbor Way Developer Initiative for the development of a warehouse building had the choice to work directly with the RACC or with a pre-qualified art consultant, and the developer had selected a pre-qualified art consultant for two murals and one sculpture with a Rosie the Riveter theme, to be based on the one percent in art funds with a project budget of \$300,000. An introduction of the project was expected to be provided at the June RACC meeting.

Staff was waiting for a Draft of the Public Art Master Plan to be presented at the next RACC meeting and the Chair and Commissioners Bell and Van Cura had reviewed the sixteen NPA mini grant proposals and planned to meet on May 12, 2023 to discuss the scoring with a report back to the RACC soon. A brief overview of some of the proposals was provided at this time,

Chair Beaulieu further added the contract for the Public Art Brochure had been amended for the Spanish translation.

VIII. APRIL STAFF REPORT (Day)

Ms. Day reported that Caltrans would pay for the refurbishment of two tagged John Wehrle murals, one at MacDonald Avenue off of San Pablo Avenue and the other off of San Pablo Avenue and Barret Avenue. The same artist being used to clean up the tagging would create two murals on the other side of the street to ensure continuity with the style of John Wehrle's work. The mural would be cleaned up and two other murals opposite would complement the existing design. The project was in partnership with the Community Services Division with many other parts of the project not related to the RACC. The budget for the project was clarified

Chair Beaulieu reported that Richmond Arts Center had planned a John Wehrle retrospective and would bring all of Mr. Wehrle's work together in an exhibition.

Ms. Day also reported oftentimes she received requests she forwarded on to the RACC. The Rainbow Pride Event had asked for donations but given the request had not been made in advance it was not possible for this year since the event was scheduled in the next week. She suggested something should be posted online for special contributions and for special projects and the protocol to follow for such requests to better inform the public. Also, Rich City Rides Student Showcase & Silent Auction had been scheduled for May 19, 2023, and there had also been little time to respond to that event but the RACC had been provided all information.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy asked that the request from Rainbow Pride be agendaized for the next RACC meeting for consideration of funding for the next fiscal year.

Chair Beaulieu explained that when the budget for the RACC had been discussed there had been a pot of money for special events although a protocol had not been developed for access to those funds. The RACC also needed enough time to process such requests and should have a pot of money for the next fiscal year for special events.

Ms. Day further reported on the four-year Presidential Scholarship Award for the Art Academy University in the City of San Francisco, with an applicant from Kennedy High School who had attended last year's summer program, who she described as an ideal candidate for the scholarship due to her grade point average (GPA), and who would be interviewed by the University this week. She [Ms. Day] would serve as the City Liaison if the University needed any help. She had been impressed and had met with the candidate at the Richmond Art Center's 57th Annual West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Student Art Show, at which time she had passed out flyers inviting interested students to the University's summer program.

Commissioner Mehas referenced the RACC manual which included a number of references to the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) that made recommendations to the RACC. Given the RACC and PAAC had been meeting as one group, he suggested that should be clarified.

Ms. Day explained that the reason the RACC and PAAC had been combined was because of the limited number of Commissioners and it had not made sense to hold two separate meetings. She reiterated the Mayor was working to appoint new RACC Commissioners and once there were two to three additional Commissioners the RACC and PAAC groups could be separated again.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Members Share Art Related Events

There was no report.

X. ADJOURN until June 11, 2023

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Bell, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on June 11, 2023.