

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

Present: Chair Lynson Beaulieu, Vice-Chair Kaelen Van Cura and Commissioners Ted Bell, Melody Kozma-Kennedy, Phillip Mehas, Arleide da Silva Santos, Carole Porter and Council Liaison Soheila Bana

Absent: None

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day and Administrative Analyst Shané Johnson

**I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The RACC/PAAC Regular Meeting was called to order by Chair Beaulieu at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. APPROVE July 13, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda**

Vice-Chair Van Cura reported the unveiling of the NIAD Banner, as shown under Item IX. Announcement: Upcoming Events, had occurred the past weekend on July 8, 2023 and she asked why it had been included as an upcoming event.

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day clarified the item had been included on the meeting agenda since the agenda had been distributed prior to the event.

Chair Beaulieu requested an additional item be added to the July 13, 2023 meeting agenda after the completion of Item II. Action Items, to allow a debriefing of the Commission Training over the past weekend.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the July 13, 2023 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, with an additional item for a Debrief of Commission Training, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

**b. APPROVE June 8, 2023 RACC Regular Meeting Minutes**

Chair Beaulieu advised the heading for item II (b) should be revised to read: *APPROVE June 8, 2023 RACC Regular Meeting Minutes*.

Vice-Chair Van Cura reported she had written revisions she would like made to the June 8, 2023 RACC Regular Meeting Minutes that she would provide to staff to allow the corrections to be made.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice-Chair Van Cura to postpone the June 8, 2023 RACC Regular Meeting minutes to the September 14, 2023 RACC Regular Meeting to allow corrections to be made, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

At this time, the RACC discussed the Commissioner Training, which discussion had been recorded, and with the topics of discussion including how Commissioners had been appointed and Conflict of Interest issues. Commissioners were encouraged to contact the City Attorney with any Conflict of Interest concerns.

Ms. Day reported the RACC had previously been provided a link of the discussion that could be resent since some Commissioners had not received the link.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Day read into the record the following public comment: *Cordell Hindler: Hello Winifred, I am forwarding the following comments into the record. 1) The Arts and Culture Commission is invited to a performance of The Hunchback of Notre Dame on July 14 through the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at El Cerrito High School. 2) Also, I am in the process of speaking with the Youth Council to assist in recruiting to fill the remaining vacancies on the Arts and Culture Commission. Sincerely, Cordell.*

Julie Perez, Richmond, reported she had been invited to appear before the RACC by Council Liaison Soheila Bana. She explained that her son Richard “Pedie” Perez III had been shot and killed by a Richmond Police Officer in 2014. Her family owned a small trucking company in the City of Richmond and in 2024 the business would be in operation for 50 years. The store where her son had been killed was located across the street from the family business and as a young adult, her son had a lot of local friends. The storeowners had allowed the Perez Family to keep pictures of her son on their building and in the store but it was located on private property. She sought consideration to allow artwork on two public trash receptacles located in front of the store. She reported the Perez Family was working with a local artist who was also the owner of a Richmond business and who was interested in such an art project.

Ms. Perez explained that Council Liaison Bana had provided information to the artist on what to submit to the RACC for consideration and she was present to introduce herself to the RACC. She provided flyers to the RACC to identify the design concept.

Rick Perez, Richmond, also provided information from KQED programming that had shown how the Richmond Police Department had done an interrogation and had tried to pull together bad statements to make them look better, and he too detailed the background of the incident leading to the death of his son, which had badly impacted the neighborhood.

Ms. Day clarified that a formal presentation on the request was expected at the September RACC meeting, at which time the Perez Family would have more time to provide comments and more information on the proposed design concept.

### **IV. INFORMATION ITEM PRESENTATION Love Your Block Project Mural on El Sobrante/Richmond Border – Triangle Works**

Tameka Bailey provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Mural Painting and Triangle Works, a volunteer organized community group working to beautify and vitalize the Triangle District on the border of Richmond and El Sobrante through muralization of the area and collaboration with local artists, businesses and community organizations to attract more businesses and make it a better place to live and work.

Ms. Bailey provided the background and experience of local artist/muralist Hayley Ferreira, with more information available at bayareamuralist.com, and identified the proposed location for a mural at a two-sided wall located at 5070 Appian Way on private property. Triangle Works had obtained permission from the private property owner for this project. Photographs of the already established mural on the El Sobrante side of the wall on Appian Way were provided. It was noted that effort involved numerous volunteers. A photo rendition of what the Richmond side of the mural would look like was provided to show a nature theme to represent the neighborhood. The project schedule would include two community paint schedule days on August 19 and 20, 2023, with touchups anticipated by the artist and anti-graffiti coating planned in September 2023. An overview of the painting method, materials and durability for the mural was also provided.

Chair Beaulieu clarified this was an informational item and not an action item.

The RACC liked the proposed mural concept and thanked Triangle Works for the presentation.

## **V. VOTING ITEMS**

### **a. Shields Reid 5 Site Concept Designs**

Chair Beaulieu reported the RACC had been provided the materials for the Shields-Reid 5 Site Concept Designs and the RACC was asked to approve and accept the designs.

Ms. Day reported that staff had been meeting with architects. Some modifications had been made and a more professional presentation and press release would be provided at a later date. Approval of the 5 site concept designs/images would allow the artist to proceed to the next phase of the project with the next iteration of the design to involve the fabrication stage.

Chair Beaulieu identified one of the main changes to the panels which had initially included images of menacing dogs but had since been changed to butterflies.

Ms. Day clarified in response to community input that butterflies had been desired to represent the spirits of people who had passed. Butterflies would be on three of the four panels with the fourth panel to reflect a night scene.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Santos to approve the Shields-Reid 5 Site Concept Designs, as presented, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

### **b. Public Art Master Plan Update (B. Goldstein)**

Barbara Goldstein reported there had been few changes to the Public Art Master Plan. Some changes had been in response to comments from the public from the June 8, 2023 RACC meeting and some changes had been technical in nature. She welcomed comments.

Michelle Seville clarified with Ms. Goldstein and Ms. Day the budget figures in the Public Art Master Plan including the budget for the Project Manager in supposition of adding a new position, which funds would not come from the City. For Community Arts and Residents, the dollar amount had been suggested for the first phase with the residency and the second phase implementation for Fiscal Year 2024/25. Existing policies were clarified and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) had been recommended to be separated from the RACC, with more members to be added if possible.

Ms. Seville also clarified the list of artists, with artist John Wehrle having been mentioned in the beginning of the Master Plan, and that two additional staff positions had been recommended beyond the Project Manager.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy noted the position of Project Manager, as shown on Page 27 of the Master Plan at \$50,000 was under selling for the Bay Area, although Ms. Goldstein clarified the position of Project Manager would be paid \$50,000 from the General Fund and another \$50,000 from the Public Art Fund.

Ms. Seville also commented on the discussion of making changes to the City of Richmond's webpage as it related to the RACC, which had been problematic for the City's Information Technology (IT) Department which handled the entire website for all City Departments. She reported at one time the RACC had its own website but it had later been taken away when the City Manager's Department had managed everything. While she understood the IT Department was currently understaffed, she recommended the City find funds to put to that effort, which may remove some of the burden on the IT Department and may be more successful to making changes to the RACC website.

Ms. Goldstein stated that \$30,000 had been included in Year One and \$15,000 in Year Two of the budget, as shown in the Master Plan, to upgrade the RACC website.

Ms. Day acknowledged the website needed a lot of work but there were barriers for outside consultants doing work to an inside system. At a minimum, the City would hire a photographer to finish the work that staff photographers had started on the art inventory and put that information on a drive that could be downloaded by the IT Department. She suggested that goal could be achieved in the next six months to a year. Outside of that effort, it was unlikely the system could be changed at this time given a number of confidentiality constraints but she hoped to have more updates throughout the year.

Commissioner Mehas found the Master Plan to be amazing and a breath of fresh air, but asked for more detail on facilitating public art as opposed to acting as gatekeepers, to which Ms. Goldstein explained the issue was around how artists perceived the City's processes and pushing money out through grants rather than the City managing the projects allowing people to do the work themselves and not going through as many hoops for a City project managed by the City, with arts organizations on their own with City assistance as opposed to the City managing the projects. The goal was to develop programs that had been open with enough framework for an artist to do an artist-initiated project within that framework.

Commissioner Mehas asked for more clarification on encouraging live-work spaces in the City of Richmond or a developer to develop a project with a designated room as live-work space.

Ms. Goldstein advised that was part of the proposed policies and procedures as shown in the Master Plan as a potential option. She clarified there were some calculation errors in the budget of the Master Plan that would be corrected. She also clarified with Ms. Day that the City Manager had reviewed the document as had other City staff. The Master Plan was expected to be presented to the City Council for approval in September.

Vice-Chair Van Cura stated she had thoroughly reviewed the document and had recommended edits to the Master Plan she would provide to Ms. Goldstein and staff.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the Final Draft Public Art Master Plan, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

**c. Poet Laureate Selection**

Vice-Chair Van Cura reported she, the Chair, Commissioner Porter and Ms. Day had reviewed the two Poet Laureate submissions and through that process had unanimously decided on one candidate. Stephen Sharpe a City of Richmond resident, was identified as that candidate and his background and experience was highlighted.

Commissioner Porter and Chair Beaulieu also highlighted the reasons the Commission had selected Mr. Sharpe as the Poet Laureate and were excited to see what he could provide to the City of Richmond.

Ms. Day clarified the first step was to receive the report after which the Poet Laureate candidate would have to provide contract documents pursuant to the City's process, with hoped for approval at the next RACC meeting. The contract would be for a two-year period for a \$1,000 per year position with possible additional funds from the Mayor's Office.

In response to Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy, Vice-Chair Van Cura explained that the second Poet Laureate candidate who had not been selected would be provided feedback as to why she had not been the strongest candidate, and who would be encouraged to apply again. It was clarified that candidate was a visual artist and poetry was not her main focus.

As to whether there had been any discussions for the Poet Laureate to work with the Youth Poet Laureate in response to Commissioner Mehas, Chair Beaulieu explained that the Youth Poet Laureate had come from Richmond RYSE Youth Center through a grant process made to RYSE, which cultivated the Youth Poet Laureate process. While a Youth Poet Laureate had been desired it was not in the budget, and Ms. Day suggested that could be discussed as part of the upcoming retreat.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy to accept Stephen Sharpe as the Poet Laureate for 2023/24 to 2024/25, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. FY 2022/23 NPA Mini Grant Commissioner Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Mehas reported the NIAD project artists had held a recent talent showcase and the feedback he had received from the artists was that they felt overwhelmed with City required paperwork.

Vice-Chair Van Cura had also attended the NIAD event which had been well attended and she provided a photograph from her phone of a cake and the banners that had been installed. She noted the Mayor had spoken during the event and she particularly thanked Commissioner Mehas and Ms. Day for their work.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy suggested NIAD had done a good job getting the word out for their event on social media.

Chair Beaulieu reported the Tunnel Project was complete, looked beautiful and was an exciting event for the community. The artists had also submitted an estimate for the cost of creating plaques that could be installed on the wall with the names of those involved in the project.

Ms. Day commented on the number of City Departments involved in the project and thanked all those involved. She was excited to see the collaborative efforts taking place between City Departments. She added that final reports and invoices from the NPA Mini Grant artists had been submitted by the June 30, 2023 deadline and hoped by the end of September to have a reconciliation for all of the NPA Mini Grant projects.

In terms of the new NPA Mini Grant projects, Ms. Day advised that RACC members had received copies of the descriptions of the new projects and RACC members had been asked to identify which projects they would like to serve as liaison. Letters would be distributed to the thirteen artists advising of the process to proceed. By September or October, it was expected that all artists would be under contract.

b. PAAC June Report (Chair Beaulieu)

Chair Beaulieu reported for the months of March through June 2023 that a total of \$550,350 had been received for the Private Developer Fees Fund. Chef's Restaurant/Warehouse had contributed \$237,000 in the month of May and a Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQs/RFPs) scope of services would be shared in September for the project. The Large Art Commission Project had been approved by the City Council and staff was working with the artist on contract terms. The Richmond Country Club/Parchester Village project was still working on the final contract with the City's Legal Department. The Public Art for Developers Brochure was complete and an English version had been posted online and staff was still working on a Spanish translation version.

The Technical Assistance Workshop planning for new artists in September/October needed a committee for planning. RACC members interested in that planning were asked to contact staff or the Chair.

Commissioner Porter expressed interest in serving on such a committee.

The RACC discussed at length the purpose and the topics anticipated to be discussed as part of the Technical Assistance Workshop including the City's contract structure and process.

c. Retreat Planning Update August 12 in the Bermuda Room

Ms. Day reported she had submitted a notice to everyone that the retreat was required to be held in the City of Richmond due to public meeting requirements and would be held as a Special RACC meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2023 in the Bermuda Room. An agenda had been prepared for the retreat, which would involve a full day session with three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon after a lunch break. She stated that if Commissioners wanted to add any items of interest to the meeting agenda they should contact staff. She was also working on obtaining a facilitator for the meeting and commented that a Retreat Committee may be necessary. Ideally, she would like the retreat to start at 9:00 a.m. but since it was on a Saturday it may have to start later around 9:30 a.m. and end around 4:30 or 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Porter and Santos expressed the willingness to work with staff to set up for the retreat.

**VII. MAYOR MARTINEZ OFFICE STAFF REPORT (Tony Tamayo) - None**

**VIII. JULY STAFF REPORT (Day)**

Ms. Day reported she had been working on the completion of small projects that needed more attention such as the botanical markers in Ookwe Park and work with Caltrans on a large mural project that artist John Wehrle would be working on at underpasses at San Pablo and Macdonald Avenues. That project was associated with State of California and Caltrans grant funds for beautification projects, with much of the direction for the project from the Community Services Division since that division had written the grant for the project, with the RACC to pay a small fee for services. She would keep the RACC posted on the project as it progressed.

At this time, Council Liaison Bana referenced the Richard "Pedie" Perez Project, which had been referenced during public comment. She reiterated the background of the Perez Family, reporting they had been attending City Council meetings for years, and the situation was a wound that had not healed, and while the RACC could not lessen the pain it could dignify and acknowledge the pain of the Perez Family. She reported she had tried to address the Perez Family's request with Chief of Police Bisa French and she had learned the City had a cultural sensitivity program and a program for de-escalation. Had those programs been in place, the Perez Family may not have lost their son to a Police Officer shooting. While the Officer had been acquitted and the case had legally been closed, it was now up to the City to do something and she was trying to work with the Perez Family on a piece of public art.

The Perez Family had been very active in regards to changing laws in the State of California and Council Liaison Bana highlighted some of the progress made. She went on to report the Perez Family held a barbeque at their work place each year in memory of their son, to be held on September 14, 2023 and everyone was invited. She had recommended a bench as a memorial but the Perez Family had suggested a specific design for the trash receptacles located in front of the business with the help of volunteer artists. She had a photograph of the design that could be shared with the RACC offline.

Ms. Day explained that a formal presentation must be prepared and presented to the RACC for consideration, and if that could be done by the September RACC meeting it could be considered at that time. She understood the proposal involved a public/private partnership for a conceptual design with no funds requested from the RACC, although she emphasized that several components needed to be worked out prior to a formal presentation to the RACC.

Council Liaison Bana added that another project of interest involved the Latina Center's violence against women campaign, ¡Ya Basta! and an event planned for September 30, 2023, with multiple artists and with a song anticipated to be performed in the plaza. She reported she would be announcing Violence Against Women as a public safety issue. The Latina Center was open to participation from other artists to provide more of a community event, and she welcomed any interest. She also appreciated the consideration of funds from the RACC and hoped to bring a request to the RACC at its September meeting.

Ms. Day suggested the consideration of solicitation flyers for the event and added the event could be posted in the City Manager's Monthly Report

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy suggested the Latina Center advertise the event on social media and consider any materials for the public to be bilingual.

Council Liaison Bana commented with respect to a memorial for the Perez Family and in response to the RACC that she and the artist interested in the concept design were open to all ideas.

Chair Beaulieu acknowledged the Perez Family and other families impacted by loss, and suggested they could think more broadly across the City in considering an appropriate memorial project to acknowledge all losses of young people and children to gun and other violent acts in the City of Richmond.

Council Liaison Bana noted the City of Oakland had a memorial with the names of all children lost to gun violence behind Children's Fairyland.

Ms. Day emphasized the need to be sensitive to all circumstances while also not setting a precedent for other situations where people may or may not agree, and have things turn into a political situation. She commented on the need to recognize all families, if possible, and consider a concept design at such time as a formal presentation was made to the RACC.

Commissioner Mehas referenced the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline area in the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) area of the City of Richmond, which had public art consisting of tiles with the names of children killed in the City of Richmond.

Chair Beaulieu suggested the RACC consider the notion of a public memorial for all children lost and if there were people who wanted to brainstorm and submit ideas that could be an option as well.

#### **IX. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS**

- a. Members Share Art Related Events
- b. NIAD Banner Unveiling – July 8
- c. Love Your Block – North Richmond Music Festival July 15

Chair Beaulieu reported a reception had been held at the Mayor's Office with the NIAD artists for a rotating exhibit and exhibition of youth artists, which could be viewed at the Mayor's Office at any time. The exhibit would rotate every six months.

Vice-Chair Van Cura found the reception had been very nice and she was pleased with the Mayor's support for art in the City.

Commissioner Santos agreed the reception had been a success and she was pleased to meet the artists in person.

Commissioner Kozma-Kennedy highlighted Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, which was an artist-in-residence program and which supported international artists and graduate fellows. The Center consisted of nine buildings in the Marin Headlands at Fort Barry in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and had recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While it was hoped the retreat could have been held at that facility, due to open meeting rules that was not possible although the facility was open for day trips. A summer open house with the current groups of artists would be held this summer. When asked, she detailed the application process and payment criteria for the artists.

#### **X. ADJOURN until September 14, 2023**

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Bell, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on September 14, 2023.