

**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
May 9, 2024
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Present: Chairperson Lynson Beaulieu, Vice-Chair Kaelen Van Cura and Commissioners Ted Bell, Virginia Jourdan, Phillip Mehas, Yeymi Perez, Carole Porter and Arleide Santos

Absent: Commissioners Sandra Richmond and Tobin Richmond

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day and Deputy Chief of Staff Mayor's Office Tony Tamayo

Chairperson Beaulieu introduced new RACC Commissioner Yeymi Perez, a resident of Richmond and an organizer/artist who was excited to join the RACC.

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The RACC/PAAC Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beaulieu at 7:01 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS

a. APPROVE May 9, 2024 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the May 9, 2024 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, as shown, carried by a show of hands.

After the vote on the motion and in response to Commissioner Mehas, Chairperson Beaulieu clarified which items listed under Item IV. Information/Action Items, would be action items and/or information items.

b. APPROVE April 11, 2024 RACC/PAAC Meeting Minutes

Motion by Vice-Chair Van Cura, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the April 11, 2024 RACC/PAAC Meeting Minutes, as shown, carried by a show of hands, with Chairperson Beaulieu and Commissioner Perez abstaining.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day read into the record public comments from Cordell Hindler, as follows: *Hello Winifred. I am submitting the following comments into the record. 1) The City Council will appoint Yeymi Perez to the Arts & Culture Commission. 2) the Commission is invited to the Richmond Rotary Club on May 10th at 12:30 p.m. at the Richmond Country Club for a \$25 donation for lunch. Tanya Jacobs will present on organization Community Villages. Sincerely, Cordell.*

IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. New Library Renovation Public Art Project Concept Design Approval (Wellbrock)

Wendy Wellbrock, Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works Department, stated she had been involved in the New Library Renovation Public Art Project Concept Design since her start with the City of Richmond in March 2023. The project had been awarded \$9.7 million in grant funding from the Building Forward State Library Grant, the City had committed additional funding from the Library Impact Fees, and a generous capital fund amount had been approved by the City Council for a total project budget around \$30 million.

In July 2023, Request for Proposals (RFPs) had been issued for an architectural consultant firm to lead the design effort. After a competitive and thoughtful selection process, which included the participation of the new Library Director, Noll & Tam Architects, located in the City of Berkeley, had been selected.

Ms. Day clarified the project would last at least a year or more. During the course of the project, at least one representative from the RACC would be asked to participate from the beginning to the end of the project, particularly when the art selection panel took place, and that person would also be asked to participate in the Library Bookmobile Vinyl Wrap Design Project, to be considered as the next agenda item.

Amy Watson, Project Manager, Associate Principal Architect, Noll & Tam Architects and Anita Lee, Senior Associate and Interior Designer for the project, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Revitalizing the Historic Richmond Main Library, which included an overview of the project goals to maintain the historic character of the library, increase public safety, celebrate the community through public art and provide a local history room as part of the library as well as provide 21st Century spaces and resources.

The grant funds secured for the library were again highlighted along with the overall renovation of the envelope of the building, mechanical systems and finishes. The building had not been renovated in its history and would celebrate its 75th anniversary in August 2024. Potential art locations included the fence and gates at the courtyard, which would provide a good opportunity for decorative metal work. The project schedule and extensive community engagement process were also highlighted. Based on community input, there were recommendations to enliven the library, have engaging spaces where people felt comfortable to enjoy the resources available and provide communal spaces.

Anita Lee, Senior Associate/Interior Designer, reiterated this was the first renovation for the Richmond Library and there had been efforts to honor all of the unique contributions of all peoples who lived in the City of Richmond and have the library be a source of civic pride for community members. She walked through the concept designs in response to stories of Richmond community members who wanted art reflected in local spaces and who had worked with local Richmond artists and others, including Urban Tilth. The design concept themes were titled Ancestral Roots, Multicultural Mosaic and Industrial Foundation. An overview of some of the inspirational artists was also provided and the project would continue to look to those artists as a source of inspiration along with others. She also displayed a map of the interior of the library building and identified locations where suspended art could be located, and the new entry to the children's area which could be another opportunity for suspended art. Murals could also be located in the main reading room and children's area. Areas for non-integrated pieces were also identified in the community room, main reading room and in a niche pop-out area.

The possibility for art on the fence and gates was again highlighted, and while the historic brick was not to be touched, words and text of expressive artwork may be considered in front of the brick.

Commissioner Mehas found the project to be exciting and colorful. He understood the project would be multicultural and he recognized Richmond's history prior to the migration of other peoples, although the Ohlone people had not been recognized in the library renovation and he suggested there be recognition of the Ohlone outside of the library building such as with a plaque, and Ms. Wellbrock confirmed that could be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Porter agreed that a sculpture or plaque recognizing the Ohlone should be considered.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated a grant had been provided to build a park in Marina Bay to honor Native Americans with stones having been carved and where artwork had offered some ideas that could be used for inspiration. She wanted to ensure the Native Peoples had been included somewhere in the art concept.

Ms. Day agreed with the need for recognition of those who came before. She would be working with the team on the preliminary design work and in terms of the art locations that would be appropriate for solicitation for competition purposes and where a RACC Liaison could be involved. Whomever was selected to serve as the RACC Liaison would be asked to provide quarterly updates, as needed.

Ms. Day also clarified the art portion of the Library Renovation Budget was small at \$300,000 in comparison to the overall Library Renovation Budget. She recognized those funds would not go far and she asked the RACC to temper any expectations related to the funds needed to achieve some of the art statements. As an example, if the project had an art element on the fencing, there could be an opportunity for a "design-only" art component with funds not part of the \$300,000 but funds identified for the fence, with a layer added for the "design-only" component. While not all of the artwork was possible given the limited funding, locations could be identified for artwork that would provide the best spaces where Richmond stories could be told.

Ms. Day added the RFP for the project would be distributed to the nine Bay Area counties that would qualify for such a project. The timeline for the project was again highlighted and it would take an artist about a year to do the fabrication of the work. It was also a common practice for an artist to be asked to provide more than one art concept in the knowledge that not all would be approved, which would allow a choice with artists to be provided instructions on the background of the City of Richmond and the intent for the story to be told through the artwork.

Whether it could be possible to augment the cost of the project with public art dollars and in response to the Chair, Ms. Day acknowledged that may be possible after the first step to determine where the money would be spent and to identify the artwork. At this time, the RACC was only being asked to discuss the participation of a RACC Liaison. The RACC Liaison did not have to be identified today but if not now should be done at the next meeting. She added the designs presented were "proposals" for a concept design for the overall project not the actual artwork, which would come back in a different form after future discussions of the panel selection process. She asked the RACC to discuss who would like to serve as a panelist.

Commissioner Santos asked when the Library Renovation Team would meet, and Ms. Wellbrock advised the team typically met bi-weekly at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays with discussions currently focused on the architecture. Meetings were not typically held in the evening but virtual attendance may be possible.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Santos to accept the New Library Renovation Public Art Project Initial Concept Design, carried by a show of hands.

Ms. Day hoped to have a RACC member identified at the June RACC meeting to serve as the RACC Liaison for the Selection Panel.

b. Library Bookmobile Vinyl Wrap Design Project (Eppler)

Library Director Kate Eppler provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Art for Richmond Public Library's New Bookmobile, and described the intent to work with the RACC to have a meaningful art process to ensure the art for the new bookmobile reflected community participation.

Ms. Eppler highlighted the Richmond Public Library historic bookmobile, which began service in 1995 but which was no longer street legal. She reported a contract was pending City Council approval for a new bookmobile, which would be all-electric, with an expected delivery date of 2025. The art process would start in the fall/winter of 2026. A partial vinyl wrap with art elements would be applied to the outside of the bookmobile by the manufacturer. The project was supported by a \$250,000 grant from the California State Library and \$70,000 from Library Impact Fees.

Richmond Library hoped to work with the RACC to publicize the opportunity to local artists and illustrators, organize submissions from interested artists and select an artist and navigate the design/development process. The estimated cost of the bookmobile contract was \$609,000 and there would be additional Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriation requests for the bookmobile art process that had been estimated at \$50,000.

Ms. Eppler provided examples of artwork on bookmobiles for informational purposes. In terms of the next steps, the FY/2025 budget process was due to conclude in summer 2024. The bookmobile design was expected to begin in the summer of 2024 and the vinyl wrap design process had been estimated for the fall/winter 2025. She welcomed comments from the RACC.

Commissioner Santos was excited about the proposal. She asked about the expectations from the RACC for the project.

Ms. Eppler was uncertain of the time commitment at this time other than possibly two to three meetings to review submissions and the timing of the meetings would be flexible. She foresaw the commitment as a seasonal commitment.

In response to questions from the Commission, Ms. Eppler explained the Library Bookmobile typically visited local schools, the Senior Center, retired living centers and participated in community events. Some sort of organized intake process would be required with a schedule that could rotate out so more people could experience the bookmobile and to avoid always going to the same places.

Ms. Day asked what would happen if there was no funding for the art portion of the bookmobile.

Ms. Eppler understood the existing images on the bookmobile had been provided by a local book illustrator. She hoped the RFP process would tap into that local talent who saw value to providing the City a deal, and she hoped the process would be open and transparent to allow everyone to know how it worked and to provide everyone an opportunity to apply.

Chairperson Beaulieu suggested art should represent multiple generations and everyone in the arts. She understood the RACC was being asked to grant approval to the launch of this initiative if the funding was available.

Motion by Commissioner Jourdan, seconded by Commissioner Santos to approve the design concept for the Library Bookmobile Vinyl Wrap Design Project, with the caveat that funding was available, carried by a show of hands.

The RACC looked forward to future updates on the project.

c. NPA Mini Grant Adopt a Spot Mural Concept Approval (R. Gilligan)

Anita Pereria and Margie Williams, neighbors from the Richmond Annex Neighborhood close to Mendocino Park, who were native plant gardeners, supporters of pollinators, gardens and empty spaces, explained that they had noticed a spot was empty and with the lack of staffing it would be great for a landscaping project. A native plant garden had been proposed for the empty space, and after submitting a request to the City to adopt-a-spot, approval had been granted and efforts made to weed, plant and welcome the community to participate. Photographs and handouts were provided.

It was noted that both women were long-time neighbors and once the project started they had gotten to know their neighbors more and the project was nice for building and getting to know the community. A year and half into the project, the garden was starting to look good. There had also been assistance with funds from the Love Your Block Grant along with donations from others to help fill the garden.

Given the need for a focal point in the park, an existing mural created by Regina Gilligan located in the Panhandle Annex had been viewed as a gorgeous example that supported nature. When all plants had been planted and pollinators were in place, a mural had been envisioned as a centerpiece or focal point in the park to reflect and mirror what was exactly in the park. Ms. Gilligan had been asked and had agreed to provide a mural and copies of her proposal had been presented to the RACC. It was noted the mural design may change given there were other insect or butterfly species which may be included in the final design. A total of \$4,535 been estimated for the mural.

Ms. Day explained that there were a lot of adopt-a-park locations throughout the City of Richmond, where residents may adopt-a-park to ensure the locations were as inviting as possible, via an application with the Public Works Division. In this case, the parties involved had gone through that process, the group involved an all-volunteer effort and a Love Your Block Grant had provided support in the past. The project had been approved by the Public Works Division pending RACC approval of the art concept design. The RACC was asked to focus only on the art concept.

Commissioner Mehas suggested the budget was too low and recommended that it be increased.

Ms. Day clarified there had already been a panel selection process on the funds available for this year. In the future, since it was an adopt-a-park project, possibly more funds could be requested. She again asked the RACC to focus on the concept design and not the budget.

Ms. Pereria stated they had been successful in raising money through donations and they could put out a call to the neighborhood. She was confident more funds could be raised.

Motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the NPA Mini Grant Adopt a Spot Mural Concept, carried by a show of hands.

d. RACC Planning Retreat August 8, 2024 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bermuda Room

Chairperson Beaulieu reported the RACC Planning Retreat had been scheduled for August 8, 2024. The RACC was asked to take action on the time and the location. The August Retreat had been held in the Bermuda Room in 2023, was available, free to use, close by, located in the City of Richmond and would be open to the public.

Ms. Day provided copies of the 2023 August Retreat agenda, which she shared since the month of August was the period the City Council held its summer recess and would be a good time to hold a retreat. Part of the idea of providing the information was to allow everyone to see what the RACC was building on and to guide the RACC when considering its 2025 goals and objectives.

Chairperson Beaulieu suggested the agenda for the August 2024 Retreat include an item for a review of the priority areas previously identified but with a look back at the work that had occurred in the prior year and how it fit in with those priorities.

Commissioner Mehas agreed that progress on the 2023 goals and objectives should be identified.

The RACC debated the potential location, time and format for the August 2024 Retreat and a couple of Commissioners were asked to visit potential meeting space at the Port of Richmond at 1322 Canal Boulevard to determine the appropriateness of holding a retreat at that location to be able to identify the August Retreat location by the June RACC meeting.

At this time, Chairperson Beaulieu welcomed members of the public and asked them to introduce themselves to the RACC.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, introduced himself as a Park Plaza Neighborhood Council member. He verified the comments he had submitted in writing had been read into the record.

Daniel Lee, a neighbor of Carol and Ted's in Marina Bay, introduced himself to the RACC.

Chairperson Beaulieu suggested the August Retreat include a morning and afternoon session, with lunch, to offer time for planning and socialization as a group.

Commissioner Santos suggested the RACC keep to the same timing as the 2023 August Retreat and check the budget to see whether people could be invited to provide team building with RACC members.

Ms. Day reported she had participated in a workshop with over 300 people on a Zoom call on urban planning and how it connected to art in America, which discussion included a facilitator. She suggested that person could be invited to work with the RACC since that person understood the connection between art, urban planning and economic development.

Ms. Day stated she would work with Commissioners between now and the June RACC meeting to see if other people could work with the RACC on team building and facilitation, and she hoped to have more information at the June RACC meeting.

Chairperson Beaulieu suggested they could work on the August Retreat agenda at the next meeting and determine where to fit in team building and/or a facilitator. She and Ms. Day clarified that no action was needed for this item. The RACC would follow the same format for the 2023 August Retreat, with the only possible change being the location, with Port Richmond to be evaluated as a possible retreat location, to be verified at the June RACC meeting.

Chairperson Beaulieu added the date of the 2024 August Retreat would be on Saturday, *August 10, 2024*, not August 8, 2024 as shown on the meeting agenda.

Ms. Day spoke further about the concept of urban planning and connecting it to art, and explained that an Arts District would be more than art and include urban planning and economic development. As an example, Council members from the City of San Francisco had worked to have free concerts in San Francisco's major parks to bring people out again and celebrate neighborhoods, with the intent to make that connection to art and economic development while also creating a destination.

Commissioner Porter reported she was familiar with the head of the San Francisco Arts Commission and asked whether it would be helpful to invite that person to speak to the RACC at some point.

Ms. Day welcomed such a discussion and agreed there were a number of resources the RACC should be taking advantage of.

e. Taste of Richmond Ad Hoc Committee July 13 Event Planning

Ms. Day reported the Taste of Richmond event scheduled for July 13 was well on its way to being greater than the 2023 event.

Deputy Chief of Staff Mayor's Office Tony Tamayo reported the event planning was underway for the July 13, 2024 Taste of Richmond with the Economic Development Commission set to vote on the budget for the event at its next meeting.

Ms. Day suggested there should be an opportunity to include art vendors at the event but if that did not happen this year, she hoped it would be included as a consideration for the 2025 event.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, suggested the RACC could have an informational table at the event and let people know about the RACC.

On the discussion of the RACC's involvement with the Taste of Richmond event whether through tabling as a way to create visibility for the RACC or inviting artists to join the event, it was noted by Mr. Tamayo that artists had been invited to join the event for performance purposes and not to share information, and while a good idea, he suggested there were other opportunities in which art could be included. There was also a suggestion that the Poet Laureate be asked to participate in the 2024 event.

Commissioner Santos referenced the discussion for the August Retreat and the date of August 10, 2024 and asked whether another date could be considered since she would not be able to attend on August 10 due to a commitment for another community event.

RACC members were asked to check their calendars and determine another Saturday that could be considered for the August Retreat. On the discussion and while all Commissioners may not be available, the August Retreat for 2024 was scheduled for Saturday August 3, 2024.

V. RACC PROJECTS and PUBLIC ART Staff Report/Updates

a. Allen Brothers Public Art Projects – Mural and Mosaic Tile RFQ/RFP

Ms. Day reported the CW Allen Brothers project would consist of a 250-linear foot mural concept in a trompe l’oeil or photo realism design concept and mosaic tabletops for an outdoor staff area at 211 Cutting Boulevard. Four teams had been selected as semi-finalists with the Art Selection Panel to interview the candidates in the next week. She clarified the mosaic tiles would be outside, open to the public and publicly accessible. Of the four candidates, one team was from Los Angeles but had family in the Bay Area, which team had proposed a mural that would mix art with technology, and some candidates were tech-savvy and would have QR codes on the murals providing more content on the mural. She was confident the candidates would offer the wow factor. More information would be provided at the June RACC meeting.

Commissioner Mehas reported the Riverside Art Museum included QR codes on many of its exhibits.

b. Arts District Master Planning Consultant RFQ/RFP

Ms. Day reported the Arts District Master Plan would include a connection to economic development and bringing back a connection with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Rotary and the like given that the pandemic had slowed some things down. The recommendation for the Arts District Master Plan Consultant would be presented to the City Council for approval by the end of the month. She reported that two candidates had been interviewed. The goal was to have a consultant who was connected on the national level. More information would be provided at the June RACC meeting.

In response to Commissioner Mehas, Ms. Day clarified this was a City Council, not a RACC initiative, and the selection panel was comprised of stakeholders, representatives from different areas of City government, the Arts & Culture Manager from the City of Santa Rosa and RACC Commissioner Jourdan.

Commissioner Jourdan reported the selection panel process had been informative and she liked seeing the contrast between the two groups but she could see both groups work together. One group had more experience in the arts and the other in the strategic part of research and reaching out to the community. She found the process to be a great experience thus far.

Ms. Day explained for the benefit of the public and new Commissioner that the consultant selected would conduct some focus groups and return with recommendations after reaching out to all City of Richmond Neighborhood Councils on which location would be best suited for the project. The project would be funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and those funds must be spent by the end of 2025.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, understood the Arts District Master Plan Consultant would be considered by the City Council on May 28, 2024, pursuant to a schedule from the City Clerk’s Office.

c. NPA Mini Grant Semi-Finalists

Vice-Chair Van Cura reported a total of \$65,000 was available for the NPA Mini Grant Program, twelve applicants had responded to the NPA Mini Grants RFP, but one had dropped out and one had been disqualified. Seven applications had been scheduled for interviews but only six had been interviewed with one no show. That interview would be rescheduled or the applicant may have dropped out. Given that July 1 was the start of the new fiscal year when the City Council would approve the funds, the selection committee had recommended accepting all of the applications, with one conditional offer to Pogo Park (the interview that had to be rescheduled).

Ms. Day asked for a motion to accept the recommendation from the selection committee so it could be put on the City Council agenda for approval.

Chairperson Beaulieu restated the recommendation for the RACC to approve the recommendations from the NPA Mini Grant Semi-Finalists Review Committee for the funding of this year's NPA Mini Grants.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Jourdan to approve the recommendations from the NPA Mini Grant Semi-Finalists Review Committee for the funding of this year's NPA Mini Grants, carried by a show of hands.

d. Kennedy Park Sculpture RFP

Ms. Day reported that two candidates who were Richmond based and had some experience with figurative sculpture within the \$100,000 range available had responded to the RFP. The proposals should be available for review in the next month and she confirmed the artists had been provided models of the phoenix bird the community wanted to see. For the benefit of the public and new Commissioner, she provided an overview of a prior proposal and process that had not been successful given the inability for that artist group to confirm a scope of services, with the process having started over with artists pre-qualified and able to do the job.

e. IMTT Sculpture RFP

Ms. Day reported the IMTT Sculpture involved a private developer project, with the developer having made a \$250,000 contribution into the art fund and the RACC asked to manage the project. Given the limited space for the location of the sculpture, most of the funds may not be necessary but the funds would be used to attract higher level artists with \$250,000, a small amount for well-known artists in the area. More information would be provided at the June RACC meeting.

Ms. Day clarified in response to Commissioner Mehas that the property where the sculpture would be located involved a mid-century building that had been re-purposed. Geometrical figures seen at the Ferry Building and similar type facilities were desired.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Ad-Hoc Committee Memorial Public Art Project Policies (Porter)

Commissioner Porter reported during the April RACC meeting the RACC recommended the Ad-Hoc Memorial Public Art Project Policies Committee work through legal. She had identified questions for staff and she understood staff would run those questions through legal with the responses intended to guide the next steps. An update would be provided at the June RACC meeting.

b. NPA Mini Grant Mentor Incentive Program (Bell)

Commissioner Bell appreciated input from Mr. Tamayo that had been provided during the April RACC meeting to consider the NPA Mini Grant Mentor Incentive Program as a pilot program. Before reaching that point, he would work with staff to create questions for multi-recipient NPA Mini Grant award winners and he understood staff would reach out to some of the multi-recipients to obtain feedback.

VII. Mayor's Office, City Council Liaison Reports

Mr. Tamayo reported there was new artwork from Richmond NIAD [Nurturing Independence Through Artistic Development] in the Mayor's Office as part of the *We Make Art in Richmond* Exhibit with a date yet to be determined for a semi-private reception with the Mayor where the RACC would be invited to attend. Staff was also working with the Richmond Arts Center on the Student Art Show with another semi-private reception with the Mayor to be scheduled. The Student Art Show involved some seniors looking to pursue careers in art, which would be needed for their portfolios and in some cases honorable mentions may be displayed in their place.

VIII. RACC Member Community Sharing

Vice-Chair Van Cura reported Richmond NIAD had made a "zine" (magazine) of Richmond artists as part of the *We Make Art in Richmond* exhibition. She had attended the opening reception and she presented copies to the RACC.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, invited the RACC to the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference in early October. He hoped to have more information to provide at the next meeting. The cost was \$70 per person with the location yet to be determined. He added that while he had submitted written comments to staff, he emphasized the need for youth to be part of the RACC and reported the City Council had recently appointed a new member to the RACC.

Mr. Tamayo further reported the Mayor had planned to attend the meeting but had a conflict with another event and planned to attend future RACC meetings, when possible.

IX. ADJOURNMENT Until June 13, 2024

On motion by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Vice-Chair Van Cura, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on June 13, 2024.