

**RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (RACC)
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)
In-Person Meeting
450 Civic Center Plaza – City Hall Building – 3rd Floor, CM Conference Room
Richmond, California
Special Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair Arleide Santos, Commissioners Ted Bell and Carole Porter

Absent: Vice-Chair Kiara Kempski and Council Liaison Claudia Jimenez

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day and Administrative Assistant, Arts & Culture Division Jordon Nesbitt

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The RACC/PAAC Special Meeting was called to order by Chair Santos at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Santos read into the record the following Land Acknowledgement Statement:

This is an open session meeting, and before I call the meeting to order, I want to acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral and traditional land of the Ohlone people, who have cared for this land for generations. We stand by equity, inclusion, and justice in the arts, ensuring all voices are heard and respected. This Commission keeps Richmond residents informed, engages public participation in the arts, advises city leaders on arts policies and funding, and oversees public art projects. It works to make arts and culture more accessible and impactful for the Richmond community.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. APPROVE October 9, 2025 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the October 9, 2025 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, as shown, carried unanimously.

b. APPROVE September 11, 2025 RACC/PAAC Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the September 11, 2025 RACC/PAAC Meeting Minutes, as shown, carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

4. VOTING ITEM – Accept Main Library Finalists (2 art contracts)

Chair Santos reported the RACC had previously been provided copies of the slides for the Richmond Main Library Renovation Project, Public Art Commission, Phase 1, Summary which detailed how the two finalists for the Main Library project had been selected.

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day explained that this was a Special Meeting to take action on the sole agenda item because the RACC meeting of October 9, 2025 did not have a quorum. The goal of the Special Meeting was to consider taking action to accept the two finalists for the Main Library project. At this time, she walked through the slides that highlighted the details for the scoring sheets for the artists, which included four points of criteria based on the deliverables submitted by the six artists. Two artists had applied for the two locations where the artwork would be displayed, including the main adult reading area and the children's reading area that was twice the size of the adult reading area.

Five primary panelists had voted and two had participated in an advisory capacity. The Selection Panel included two librarians, President of the Library Commission, RACC Commissioner Bell and Stephen Sharpe Poet Laureate. The first round of the selection process had looked at all of the candidates, with two having been eliminated due to the scoring system. The remaining candidates had been paid a stipend for the deliverables which had been included in the presentation.

Images from the artwork proposed by the semi-finalists were provided with all themes intended to celebrate the City of Richmond.

The two finalists were identified as Rachel Wolfe-Goldsmith for the Interior Main Adult Reading Room and Debra Koppman for the Interior Children's Reading Room. The artwork would be created in the artist's studio and would be applied like wallpaper since the artists could not paint while construction was ongoing in the Main Library. The proposal from artist Debra Koppman consisted of a mosaic tile piece rather than a mural. It was clarified that some of the images of animals in the mosaic piece did not relate to the City of Richmond, and staff noted that once the artists were under contract there would be discussions about making small changes, such as changing out some of the animals shown in the artwork that were not native to the City of Richmond.

Commissioner Bell, a member of the Selection Panel, found the process to be a great experience and he appreciated the artists sharing their gifts. All artists had focused on themes that represented the City of Richmond. He found the selection process interesting, particularly the expectations of the Richmond Library staff.

Commissioner Porter characterized all of the artwork as fantastical and thoughtful for those who would enter the two areas where the artwork would be displayed.

Ms. Day explained this was the first phase of the project. The second phase would involve the selection of existing artwork for the community room and other locations. The two primary art pieces would take the longest to complete, but there was time given that the Main Library construction would not be complete for another year. More information on the second phase would be provided in the future.

Motion by Chair Santos, seconded by Commissioner Porter to accept the two artists for the Public Library Art Commission Project, Rachel Wolfe-Goldsmith for the Interior Main Adult Reading Room with \$75,000, and Debra Koppman for the Interior Children's Reading Room with \$150,000, carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT until November 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m. to the November 13, 2025 Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.