

**Richmond Arts & Culture Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

450 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond

Richmond Conference Room

**Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**In attendance:** Jenny Balisle, Rosalie Fay Barnes, Silvia Ledezma, and Maryann Maslan

**Absent:** Ben Steinberg and Brenda Williams

**Staff:** Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager  
Katy Curl, Director, Library & Cultural Services

**Guests:** Fletcher Oakes, Jessica Parker (PAAC), Michelle Baker, Gretchen Borg-Hillstead (PAAC), Florene Wiley, Rhonda Benin, Antonio Tomayo, Nava Mizrahi, Melissa Kirk, Phillip Mehas, and Tom Herriman

**I. Welcome/Call to Order 7:00**

Chair Balisle called the joint meeting of the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission (RACC) and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to order at 7:00 P.M.

**II. Approve Agenda 7:02**

Motion by Maryann Maslan, second by Silvia Ledezma, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

**III. Approve Minutes for December 14, 2017 7:03**

Motion by Rosalie Barnes, second by Maryann Maslan, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting, as submitted.

**IV. RACC Nominating Committee Proposal (Williams) 7:04**

There was no information on the audio for this item.

**V. Opening Comments (Seville) 7:05**

Michele Seville recognized the new applicants to both the RACC and the PAAC, and opened the informational meeting for both new and existing members.

Ms. Seville presented the City of Richmond organizational chart of city departments and described the City's hierarchy, explaining that the RACC and the PAAC were both under the auspices of the Library and Cultural Services Department headed by Katy Curl. Seville, who is staff to the RACC and PAAC, described the differences between the two groups, their functions, and the processes involved in making public art happen.

#### VI. Review RACC History & Responsibilities (Seville) 7:11

Ms. Seville presented an outline of the ordinance establishing the RACC, which in partnership with the Arts and Culture Division is the lead organization for arts advocacy and development of the arts and culture in the city, with defined duties. The RACC had been formed in 1988 when the City Council and the Mayor had appointed 11 city residents to serve four-year terms. The RACC was a City commission serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council. The PAAC is more of a policy body that reviews public art projects. She referred to a packet of information that had been presented to members and prospective members of the RACC and identified the RACC's role and scope.

#### VII. Review PAAC History & Responsibilities (Seville) 7:19

Ms. Seville explained that the PAAC reviews and oversees public art project designs on city commissioned pieces and makes recommendations concerning their visual appeal, structural integrity, and safety to the RACC; recommends public art policies and procedures, maintenance of existing artwork, review all proposed gifts or loans of artwork to the city, and serves as liaisons for the Public Art Program to Richmond's neighborhoods. The PAAC is composed of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members who serve a maximum of two, two-year terms with a maximum of three members of the RACC. The policies and procedures were currently being rewritten and the limit was going up to four years, which could be repeated. The PAAC was created not by ordinance, but under the policies and procedures of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget for the Center Art Program. She added that participation at community events was a big part of both the RACC and PAAC membership.

#### VIII. Q & A and Discussion 7:26

Ms. Seville responded to questions with respect to accountability to the arts, and described the different programs in the city. She reported that any project at \$300,000 or more had to pay 1.5 percent towards public art. Through the Finance Department, a CIP-dedicated staff member identified all eligible projects, which sometimes sat on the books for years due to delays in funding or permitting. Once the project begins, the percentage for art cannot be accessed until the project has spent up to \$300,000. As such, the process takes time. Private development projects go through the Planning Department where the developer is made to understand that the one percent art allocation is not just another tax but dedicated to public art that could be folded into the project expenses.

Ms. Seville described some of the past art projects and activities that had been

developed through the RACC and the PAAC; briefly highlighted the rules and procedures of the RACC and PAAC; and described the applicability of the Brown Act.

At this point in the meeting, those present introduced themselves and their specialty.

IX. Staff Report (Seville) 7:49

Ms. Seville presented the staff report for December 2017 and shared the activities and programs in which she had been involved; responded to questions related to the content of her report including the neighborhood public art mini-grants, and noted there would be an art exhibition of photographs of all the projects in the entryway at 450 Civic Center Plaza. She invited those interested in being informed of the arts in Richmond to submit their email and she would put them on an informational email list.

X. Report by PAAC (Kalin/Balisle) 8:14

Chair Balisle stated the PAAC had been very busy researching other cities and vetting policy to understand how the one percent for art would work with developers here in Richmond.

Linda Kalin described some of the projects the PAAC had worked on and explained that while a significant amount of time was put into the effort, those efforts were not always successful. She requested that everyone on the Committee offer preferred recommendations to Ms. Seville to be able to create a strong list of available public artists to refer to developers for the one percent for art policy.

Ms. Seville encouraged members to speak up to offer ideas and suggestions.

XI. Announcements 8:28

Ms. Seville highlighted handouts in the packet, one of which was the Sisters in Solidarity, an annual event where the RACC always had a table. Nava Mizrahi encouraged everyone to attend the Sisters in Solidarity event.

Fletcher Oakes announced the Writes of Winter for creative writers on February 11, 2018 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at Kaleidoscope Coffee in Port Richmond. He also reported that the selection committee had selected three Poet Laureates for Richmond.

Silvia Ledezma reported that Contra Costa County was celebrating the work of Cesar Chavez through the month of March in the County Administration Building in Martinez, and referred those interested to the Arts & Cultural Commission of Contra Costa County Facebook page for more information. She also spoke to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arts Recognition Awards highlighting the County's artists.

An event scheduled for March 31 celebrating Bay Area Women in Music was announced.

XII. Adjournment 8:38

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.