

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Zoom Invitation

Present: Chair Deb Dyer, Commissioner Phillip Mehas, Commissioner Tom Herriman, and Emily Leighton

Guests: Danielle Fox, Nevin Plaza Team, Paul Manyisha

Absent: None

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day

I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

The PAAC meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Approve March 10, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Mehas to approve the March 10, 2022 meeting agenda, seconded by Commissioner Herriman, carried unanimously by a show of hands.

III. Approve February 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mehas moved to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Herriman, carried unanimously by show of hands.

IV. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

V. Information Items

1. Nevin Plaza – SLATE Update from Danielle

Danielle introduced herself and stated that the update today was to be informational and provide an opportunity for feedback from commissioners. Danielle also stated that she would be verbally providing more recent updates as she submitted the presentation before the progress occurred.

Commissioner Mehas asked Danielle to clarify what she meant when she stated that she couldn't include the most recent updates. Danielle stated since the material is due a week before hand, she was not able to make recent additions.

Commissioner Mehas, Chair Dyer, and Danielle agreed she could speak to the most current updates in addition to the presentation.

Danielle stated this is a two-phase process. Phase 1 is currently taking place and includes the renovation of the building. Phase 2 includes the construction of new building at the back lot.

Danielle proceeded to show a picture of how the building would look and an overview, which included building colors and artwork design.

Commissioner Mehas asked Danielle who would be designing the artwork that would wrap around the building. Danielle responded she would get to that during the presentation; however, the decision has not been finalized.

Danielle continued the description of the project, stating the architects have designed metal screens that would shield insets. The metal screens will include art in the middle and more generic designs.

There was community outreach done via survey, and a public call for submissions from artists. A list was built for qualifying artists from the public call and SLATE recognized artists.

SLATE, EAH, and a Nevin Plaza resident together selected a final three designs from artists, and the final decision is currently with ownership.

The cut metal panels with art will be accompanied with more standard designs or fencing. They have found a fabricator that can give a 20-year warranty for a powder coat for the cut metal panels.

The plan for the panels is to license artwork from NIAD artists, who are part of the Richmond community. The decision for choosing NIAD includes that the organization is local, and they provide services to artists with disabilities. Similarly, there is a significant population of Nevin Plaza residents who are also disabled.

Shana Harper, Serena Scott, Felicia Griffin, Halisi Noel-Johnson, and Jesus Salas are some of the NIAD artists being considered.

Commissioner Mehas asked what the process is for taking a piece of the artwork shown with patterns and repetition. Danielle responded that it would be like taking a crop of the picture and blowing it up. After selecting the crop, they would need to go back to NIAD and receive artists' approval.

Chair Dyer clarified that once you license an image, since the goal is to laser-cut the image, you are not changing the origin of the work, but the scale of the work.

The artistic freeze will be created by KVO industries in Santa Rosa, who are familiar with working with public art.

There are two artists, Alexandra Bowman and Favianna Rodriguez, being considered for the frieze fabrication.

There are two artists, Alice Beasley and Favianna Rodriguez, being considered for the interior design.

Danielle stated the timeline for events for the project during this phase and the next.

Commissioner Mehas asked Winifred if all the artwork will qualify under the one percent public art. Winifred Day clarified that they would.

2. Richmond Country Club Public Art Update

Paul introduced himself and stated he would give a brief update on the project. He noted that the project has been moving along. He stated last month they were able to give an update to the Parchester Village Neighborhood Council for the progress of their project.

Paul stated that they have been obtaining their permits from the Water Board, etc., and are finally done securing the necessary permits. They are currently working with the City to get their approval for the plans and maps. The goal is to have the funds available for Parchester by May. The goal is to have the artists start working on the project in August or September.

Winifred Day asked when Paul would have an idea for the numbers for the construction budget. Paul stated that there are two components to the project. The first is the construction for the road, and that number has gone up, but won't impact anything. The second component is for the artist, and they haven't received an updated price from the artist.

Winifred clarified she would circle back around with the artist to ensure that his number has not changed.

Commissioner Mehas asked Paul if Commissioner Mehas could join Paul next time he goes to Parchester. Paul agreed and stated he would send an email for next time.

VI. Action Item

1. Select a Committee Chair to replace Chair Deb Dyer

Chair Dyer asked if anyone would like to volunteer as chair. None of the commissioners responded.

Chair Dyer stated that the responsibilities of being the chair would be to set the agenda, work with Winifred every month, and weigh in when Winifred has a question. She stated it is not time consuming, rather planning and thinking ahead.

Winifred Day stated that they would discuss the replacement with RACC in two weeks. Chair Dyer agreed.

Motion by Chair Dyer to table the replacement to the RACC meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mehas, carried out unanimously by show of hands.

VII. Discussion Items

1. Type of Projects for Next Year Budget

Chair Dyer asked what types of projects everyone would like to have from the public art fund for next year (one large commission, temporary art projects, etc).

Commissioner Leighton stated she would prefer to use the art mapping and analyze it for which area needs the most art and do one large project. She stated that she doesn't think they have the capacity to manage many small projects.

Chair Dyer agreed with Commissioner Leighton but stated that the next item (the art inventory) can't give that type of analysis yet.

Commissioner Mehas stated that he would like to see a project for painting the utility boxes along San Pablo Avenue. He stated that El Cerrito is currently doing this project. He also said one big project is inviting since they can't manage a lot of small projects.

Chair Dyer stated that she doesn't agree with the utility box project as they are trying to camouflage something that doesn't need to be camouflaged. She also stated it does a disservice to the artist. She also stated utility boxes are also small canvases.

2. Art Inventory- next steps to make the art inventory work for the PAAC and the City of Richmond

Chair Dyer stated that the current art inventory isn't far enough along.

Commissioner Mehas asked if this was the same project that was put out to bid where three people applied then the interns took it over.

Chair Dyer responded that was correct, and that the interns updated a lot of pieces that were in the Civic Center. Then an odd list was added to the list where there needs to be some decisions made regarding what needs to be included. She suggested a "neighborhood" column needs to be added as well. She also stated that the inventory list should only consist of City funded projects. Chair Dyer stated that nothing has been added to the inventory since the interns left.

Winifred Day clarified that Brian from KCRT has been working neighborhood by neighborhood to take the photographs.

Commissioner Leighton noted that the art inventory as a tool is still evolving, but they need to come up with a way to determine what neighborhoods could benefit from the addition of art. She suggested that they come up with three potential spots and propose what could be done in the area.

Commissioner Mehas stated that neighborhood councils would be helpful in determining the need.

Commissioner Herriman suggested that neighborhood councils could have a competition to propose what site needs art.

Commissioner Mehas and Leighton stated that the neighborhood councils meet once a month and that they could send a basic RFP to them.

Commissioner Mehas asked what type of budget would be needed. Chair Dyer and Commissioner Leighton suggested that the budget should be about \$150,000.

Winifred Day asked if the artists must be Richmond based artists. Chair Dyer and Commissioner Leighton stated no, but that they must work with the Richmond community throughout the project.

Winifred Day stated the group could touch base for the next meeting. After discussion, the commissioners all agreed to keep the RFP as a competition where neighborhood councils have to propose where they would like the art.

Commissioner Herriman stated he would write a letter template to the council stating what they would be judging on for the next PAAC meeting.

VIII. Information Items

1. John Toki (T.Herriman)

Commissioner Herriman stated John Toki's installation would be Saturday, March 12th.

2. Arts and Culture Project Comprehensive Summaries (W.Day)

Winifred Day stated that SPARC is finally under contract and that they should have an installation plan within the next two weeks. She also stated the installers are a local bay area company.

Chair Dyer clarified that they are building a frame around the mural, and not just repasting the new vinyl on top of the old vinyl.

Winifred Day stated that for the James DeWitt COVID-19 Relief Grant, AC Transit has finally provided a contract to James; however, they are not going to sign that contract. The artist has come up with a new site location for the mural on Washington Street.

Chair Dyer asked if the mural was going to be printed on vinyl. Winifred Day stated that it would.

Winifred Day stated artists have not submitted their fifty-percent advancement, and if commissioners could encourage the grantees to submit their invoices.

Winifred Day stated that for John Werhle, she will have to go to council, and will hopefully have a contract in place by next month.

Winifred Day stated that all commissioners should have access to the Arts and Culture summary document.

Chair Dyer mentioned that everyone should notice that there are multiple tabs for the document, and that it is not just one sheet.

Winifred thanked the commissioners for their feedback on the Ookwe Park signage and stated that some answers will come from the designer and others will come from the fabricator.

Chair Dyer asked if they looked into ceramic signs from a fabricator in Santa Rosa. Winifred Day stated they have not, but that they are working with a Richmond vendor for the fabrication of this project.

3. Public Art Master Plan RFP

IX. Adjournment until April 14, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM to a Regular Meeting of the PAAC on April 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM.