



**RACC/PAAC MEETING Thursday, September 8, 2022
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. via ZOOM**

<u>RACC Chair</u>	<u>RACC Vice-Chair</u>	<u>Council Liaison</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Lynson Beaulieu	Melissa Kirk	Melvin Willis	Winifred Day

RACC Members:

Tom Herriman, Emily Leighton, Phillip Mehas
(Currently all, Richmond Arts and Culture Commissioners (RACC) also serve as Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) members.)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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- I. **WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL (Chair Beaulieu)** 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ACTION ITEMS:** 7:03 p.m.
 - a. **APPROVE September 8, 2022 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda**
 - b. **APPROVE July 14, 2022 RACC Meeting Minutes**
 - c. **APPROVE July 27 NPA Mini Grant Interview Minutes**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** 7:06 p.m.

Individuals who would like to address the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) on relevant matters not listed on the agenda may do so under Public Comment. Public comments cannot result in discussion/action at this meeting.
- IV. **INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS (VOTE)** 7:08 p.m.
 - a. Approve nine NPA Mini Grant Awards for \$71,759
 - b. Assign NPA Mini Grant Liaisons for 9 projects
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS Review** 7:15 p.m.
 - a. NPA Mini Grant Committee Report – RFP results (Kirk, Mehas)
PAAC August Report (Chair Beaulieu)
www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2064/Arts-Culture
 - b. Richmond Commission Art Site update – Tom Herriman/Emily Leighton
- I. **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS** 7:30 p.m.
 - a. Shields Reid Park Project – Jene, Manil, Stephanie
 - b. Harbour 8 Expansion Project – Toody Maher, Kristen, Manil
 - c. Introduction of Private Developer Ravin Industrial Facility Art Contribution
 - d. Oakland Art Murmur, East Bay Open Studios presentation
 - e. Barbara Goldstein Public Art Master Plan Update – Focus Group dates
 - f. other
- II. **August STAFF REPORT (Day)** 8:45 p.m.
- III. **ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS** 8:50 p.m.
 - a. Grantee Events Little Libraries installed in 5 WCCUSD schools
 - b. Mural unveiling- Seneca Verde School, Washington School fence banners
 - c. Members share art related events
- IV. **Adjourn** until October 13, 2022 9:00 p.m.

Attachments:

September 8, 2022 RACC/PAAC Agenda
August – No meeting - Recess
July 14, 2022 RAAC Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2022 NPA Mini Grant Interviews

ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO OR TELECONFERENCE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom have issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. (See, for example, March 31, 2020 County Order extending the shelter-in-place order until May 3, 2020 & March 19, 2020 statewide shelter-in-place order.) Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued executive orders that allow cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20). Both <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org> and <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3914/Richmond-Coronavirus-Info> provide updated coronavirus information.

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, participation in the Arts and Culture Commission will be by teleconference only. Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to the method provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will utilize video/teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public can participate in this meeting.

Public comments may be submitted:

1. Via email to winifred_day@ci.richmond.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line **public comments – Item #**. All comments must be submitted on or before Thursday, September 8, 2022, by 4:30 pm and must include the following:
 - a) Your Name
 - b) Your Phone Number
 - c) The item for which you wish to make a Public Comment.

Requests for comments received via email during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item is closed, will be accommodated as is reasonably possible and will be limited to a maximum of one to two minutes, depending on the number of commenters. The City cannot guarantee that its network and/or the site will be uninterrupted.

Record of all public comments:

All public comments will be considered a public record, put into the official meeting record, and considered before Commission action. All public comments will be available after the meeting

as supplemental materials and will be posted as an attachment to the meeting minutes when the minutes are posted.

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

Upon request, the City will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services and sign language interpreters, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to Winifred_Day@ci.richmond.ca.us or submitted by phone at 510-620-6952. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Effect of Advisory on In-person public participation

During the pendency of the Executive Order N-29-20, the language in this Advisory portion the agenda supersedes any language below in the meeting procedures contemplating in-person public comment.

**RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (RACC) AND PUBLIC ART
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)**

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Commission Chair Lynson Beaulieu, Vice Chair Melissa Kirk; and
Commissioners Tom Herriman, Emily Leighton and Phillip Mehas

Absent: Council Liaison Melvin Willis

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The RACC/PAAC meeting was called to order by Chair Beaulieu at 7:22 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

a. APPROVE July 14, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Mehas asked whether the staff report would be verbal or in writing and was informed by Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day the staff report had been distributed to the RACC/PAAC and she had no plans to verbalize the report unless there were questions.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to approve the July 14, 2022 meeting agenda, as submitted, which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

b. June 9, 2022 PAAC Minutes (Meeting Cancelled Lack of Quorum)

c. APPROVE June 23, 2022 RACC Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mehas found the meeting minutes to be the most comprehensive he had seen for the RACC and congratulated the Minute-Taker.

Motion by Commissioner Herriman, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022 RACC meeting, as submitted which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

a. Love Your Block **Richmond LAND** Proposal and Project Review

Stephanie Ny, representing the City of Richmond Community Services Department, which oversaw the Love Your Block Mini Grant Program, had provided a staff report to the RACC/PAAC which included an overview of all of the public art projects funded this year including the **Richmond LAND** Proposal to be presented to the RACC/PAAC for approval.

Graham L. Prentiss introduced the project artist team which included Princess Robinson and Gita Khandagle, who partnered with the **Richmond LAND** Team to create the FENCELINES Project, a temporary, participatory art installation between the Richmond neighborhoods and the Chevron Refinery, the principal source of air pollution in the community. The project would consist of slats in different colors that would be placed on the fence itself, with ribbons attached to show the wind direction, designed to amplify the voices of community individuals and families who would be invited to record their stories and messages on the slats, documenting the impacts of this industry on many lives and together forming a monument to collective resilience. The work would be deepened through collaboration with aligned organizations, particularly Richmond One Power Coalition so that the visual messages would be tied to the broader outcome and goals of a just transition.

Princess Robinson stated she had been working in North Richmond for the past seven years on a range of community initiatives towards a just transition economy. This art project was something she wanted to be involved in. The project would create awareness and allow people to participate and create their own design on environmental injustices faced in the City of Richmond and North Richmond in particular.

Examples of the base pieces which formed the installation along the fence, images of the coalitions the project would be working with including Richmond One Power Coalition, the participatory and tabling events to be hosted by the Richmond Arts Center throughout the summer were all highlighted. In addition to hosting the participatory workshops, Richmond Arts Center would create an exhibition in the spring of 2023 and include portraits of all participants. The goal was to create a minimum of 150-feet of linear coverage in two areas; one along the parkway and the other along Vernon Avenue at Jackson Way.

Gita Khandagle provided an overview of the project work plan and schedule. The project team was receiving donated wood slats and over the summer and through the month of September once a month on the third Saturday of each month, a workshop would be held at the Richmond Arts Center from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. During the month of August a capstone event would be hosted with Richmond LAND, with funding from the Love Your Block Grant Program, at Shields-Reid Park where participants may customize their fence slats. A second event with various partner organizations would help to install the piece in the neighborhood targeted around early-October 2022. In the spring of 2023, the Richmond Arts Center would hold an exhibition in their space to highlight the work and the dialogue coming out of that work.

The installation would be in place for a minimum of two weeks, had not been designed to be permanent, and after two weeks would be reassessed to determine whether it could be in place longer. The de-installation of the piece had also been funded by the Love Your Block Grant Program.

Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day explained that the purpose of the presentation was to share the proposal with the RACC/PAAC to review the art related component to ensure consistency with what was desired to be represented in the City of Richmond.

Vice Chair Kirk asked who owned the fence and whether permission had been granted for this project, to which Ms. Khandagle confirmed the City of Richmond owned the fence and the Public Works Department provided permission to install the project at the site.

Commissioner Mehas found the project to be a fabulous way to create an environmental discussion. He otherwise cited a recent article in the Richmond Standard that had suggested the air pollution was not caused by Chevron but was generated from outside its fences.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to accept the Love Your Block **Richmond LAND** Proposal, as submitted which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

Mr. Prentiss welcomed everyone to participate and be a part of the project.

Vice Chair Kirk also asked that information be submitted to staff on the events described which could be posted on the RACC Facebook page.

b. Poet Laureate FY 2022-23 Accept Scope of Services

Ms. Day reported the RACC/PAAC had received a copy of the Poet Laureate scope of services from David Flores.

David Flores, Richmond Poet Laureate, read into the record a poem he had written dedicated to the City of Richmond, titled 13th and Lincoln. He welcomed any questions on the scope of services.

Commissioner Mehas suggested when activities were scheduled that staff be provided a copy which could be forwarded to the RACC/PAAC. He commented there had been no dollar figures in the scope of services and clarified with Mr. Flores he had been paid a stipend of \$1,000 for the past year, with the same amount expected for this year.

Commissioner Mehas recommended the stipend be doubled and increased to \$2,000 for the second year and he offered a motion to that effect to be included in writing in the scope of services.

Ms. Day clarified that Mr. Flores already had an existing contract for two years.

Commissioner Leighton offered a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to accept the Poet Laureate FY 2022-23 Scope of Services for David Flores.

Commissioner Mehas stated he would not vote in favor of the scope of services unless it was amended to increase the stipend to \$2,000 for the second year, to be provided in writing in the contract.

Ms. Day explained the contract could be made available to the RACC/PAAC but the focus at this time was on the scope of services, which was separate from the stipend. The scope of services was for monthly activities as defined in the contract.

Motion by Commissioner Leighton, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to accept the Poet Laureate FY 2022-23 Scope of Services for David Flores, which passed by a Roll Call vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Mehas voting no.

In response to the request to increase the stipend, Ms. Day stated Mr. Flores had one full contract and the budget had already been approved for the coming fiscal year. She recommended staff be allowed to conduct more research and return in September with information as to whether the stipend could be increased. She added that additional expenses could be associated with the activities, the initial \$1,000 stipend had not included, nor had it been specifically requested to ask for the payment of expenses for other people. Given that other people wanted to also be paid, Mr. Flores had been asked by staff to communicate that before time to allow staff to work with Mr. Flores and partner to make it happen as long as there was enough notice.

Chair Beaulieu thanked Mr. Flores for his time and talent.

Mr. Flores looked forward to this year and more live events opening up.

Ms. Day recommended the next agenda item be modified to allow the introduction of Barbara Goldstein, Art Builds Community prior to the other items under Item V. Committee

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS Review

- b. PAAC June Report (Chair Beaulieu)
Public Art Maser Plan: Introduce Barbara Goldstein-Art Builds Community

Barbara Goldstein, Project Lead, Art Builds Community, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Richmond Public Art Master Plan, which included an introduction to the project team including Amanda Rawson, Project Manager and Research Director, and Quynh-Mai Nguyen, Creative Director and Community Engagement. She highlighted the scope of work and project timeline for the project which included the project initiation and research to occur in August; outreach and public participation to occur in September/October; synthesis and emerging themes in November; Draft Public Art Master Plan in December/January; and review and refinements in February/March 2023.

Quynh-Mai Nguyen, Creative Director, Community Engagement, provided an overview of the focus groups, popups and interview process with popups at community events and meetings and focus groups with artists, community leaders, arts organizations representatives, educators, business people and developers.

Ms. Goldstein welcomed input from groups that should be contacted and events that should be considered whether farmer's markets or festivals as examples, and asked for feedback from the RACC/PAAC.

In response to Chair Beaulieu as to whether or not multi- or bilingual services would be provided to those in the community who did not speak English, Ms. Goldstein explained that Art Builds Community had an individual who could provide assistance to Spanish speaking residents on their outreach project and other languages may be available in addition to American Sign Language (ASL). They could also translate any flyers into any other languages.

Commissioner Leighton reported on an ongoing effort to categorize all current public art in the City with an ongoing list being created. As such, she stated it would be helpful to have other eyes on that list with feedback on where it could be expanded, and Ms. Goldstein confirmed she had been speaking with Ms. Day on that very issue and planned to take a tour of the public art sites in Richmond in the next few weeks.

Chair Beaulieu commented the RACC was trying to understand better how art and culture intersected. She asked that be made clearer in the Public Art Master Plan, to which Ms. Goldstein clarified that what had been defined as public art had become broader which was a good thing and how art came into the public realm and how it was celebrated would be an important part of the Public Art Master Plan.

Chair Beaulieu also commented as part of the mini grant process that there were a multitude of ways that people could provide art and she wanted assurance art would be covered broadly.

Commissioner Mehas commented the City ordinance mentioned that the RACC should be reflective of the City of Richmond but the RACC was primarily a white Commission and always had been with few minority members, which also oftentimes reflected the type of art considered.

Ms. Goldstein also understood there was an opportunity to expand the membership of the RACC/PAAC, and Ms. Day explained that was part of the stakeholder conversations she hoped Ms. Goldstein could share with the Mayor.

Chair Beaulieu thanked Ms. Goldstein and her team and looked forward to providing more information as needed and receiving updates on the progress of the Public Art Master Plan.

Ms. Day reported an invitation had been extended for a three-hour tour with Ms. Goldstein and her team to identify public art pieces she should see in the community and she hoped to have a list of those art pieces in the next week or so.

a. NPA Mini Grant Committee Report – RFP Application Results

Vice Chair Kirk reported there were sixteen applicants with 20 possible points on a 1 to 5 scale, with the categories of project description, artist experience, community outreach, engagement and feasibility of budget, with the top score 20 points and the bottom score 9 points. The total amount in grants requested was approximately \$109,704, but only \$65,000 was available. Based on the scores, the Board would have to decide who to interview. She had identified two to three people she would like to interview and suggested input be provided on who else should be interviewed so that an interview list could be created in the next week or so.

Ms. Day added they would have to create a short list soon for interviews scheduled for July 28, 2022.

Commissioner Mehas reported he would be unavailable to participate in the interview process on July 28. He had six to seven projects he liked, but was uncertain interviews were needed. He recommended that those who had scored on the bottom be contacted and informed that their project was not preferred this year and possibly helped through the process.

Ms. Day suggested she the Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioner Mehas meet to discuss the next step for the interview process, with a report back to the RACC in September.

c. Richmond Commission Art Site Update

Commissioner Leighton reported there had been six responses. She and Commissioner Herriman would have to meet and confirm the sites that would be good options for public art and determine a system for selection from that point. She acknowledged the list could be expanded with the initial effort to get the community interested in options for locations. She preferred sites where there was already community buy-in, which was why they had started with the Neighborhood Councils as a starting point. Presentations had been made to the Presidents of the Neighborhood Councils, followed-up with an e-mail, with Commissioner Herriman having contacted some people by phone. While more outreach could have been done, she would rather spend more time on what they currently had and consider what was currently on City sites and then examine the six proposals before anything definitive was discussed.

Commissioner Herriman was unable to provide a verbal report at this time since he had lost his voice.

Ms. Day agreed more information would be provided at the next meeting in September, the initial application deadlines had been extended from June 2 to July 12, 2022, with responses from the Hilltop, Iron Triangle and Point Richmond neighborhoods and from one other neighborhood. Once a neighborhood had been selected the artist solicitation process would need to be discussed.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Introduction of Private Developer Raven Industrial Facility Art Contribution

Matt Murdock, CEO, Raven SR, provided a PowerPoint presentation on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Innovation & Art Smart Environment Where Your Talent Can Grow, and explained that Raven was a renewable energy company with a focus on environmental science to find the best way to eliminate waste as a green alternative to incineration.

Raven was involved in several projects in the State with a project in the City of Richmond at Republic Services, West Contra Costa County Landfill, where they would process green waste into renewable hydrogen to be resold to fueling stations throughout Northern California. Raven was working closely with all associated agencies on the project requirements and anticipated the project would be complete around April 2023, with a component of public art contribution.

Raven was dedicated to the local community and had proposed with staff as part of their public art contribution component to use some of that to work with local schools with one of their partners in STEAM Education, which involved building, developing, racing and creating different teams with STEAM Educators.

Mr. Murdock described a program where the RACC would help purchase small hydrogen remote-controlled cars with the formation of different teams in the different schools in Richmond to compete in regional, state and eventually national and possibly world competitions in an entire educational component. Raven wanted to contribute to some of the schools and training of youth within the region (Richmond) and proposed a five- to six-year program within the schools, starting in middle school graduating to the higher levels, and exposing students to mechanical engineering, hydrogen production/use which would be useful in the future, with the teams using some of the funds to create multiple teams over the next few years.

Commissioner Leighton commented based on the information provided it appeared this was more of an engineering program and not necessarily public art. She wanted the funds to be used explicitly for the arts, and while design was part of that she was curious how that would be divided up. She wanted to see a budget breakdown on the use of the public art funds. She otherwise liked the idea of going into the schools and providing opportunities to students in the way described.

Mr. Murdock explained he would have to do more work on rules that applied to the one percent requirement. Raven's project would be around \$40 million but he was uncertain the entire amount would apply to the regulations for public art. He noted that at most 50 percent would allow for up to nearly 17 to 20 different teams in the local schools to run for three years, and would include the purchase of a vehicle, design component and possibly include the design of the vehicle itself, with the engineering component also involved.

Mr. Murdock stated the graphic design was the art element portion with the remaining funds to be encouraged to be used for public art. Given the location of Republic Services, West Contra Costa County Landfill, there would be opportunities along the trail but the main focus was to use the funds in the schools.

Chair Beaulieu liked the idea, the fact it could be a multi-year project creating an expectation in the schools for a high level very exciting comprehensive STEAM Initiative but the City had to determine the percentage of art versus what may be STEAM and other aspects of the initiative.

Mr. Murdock again detailed the work of Raven, the effort to beautify the region, and for the City of Richmond to find Raven an awesome neighbor. He also understood the complexities of a public operation and requested that the RACC/PAAC consider allocating a percentage of the one percent to an education program but he understood it was a decision the RACC/PAAC needed to make. He hoped some feedback could be provided at the next meeting in September.

Chair Beaulieu explained that public art projects in Richmond had permanency in the community and if there was a way to determine how to take what was being proposed and provide some permanency for the community that would be helpful, to which Mr. Murdock confirmed there were interpretative works that could be considered.

Commissioner Mehas found the project to be a wonderful idea, liked the idea of working with the schools and putting Raven's name out there for those who were environmentally conscious, for Raven to make a connection to the City and its schools, although if that commitment depended on funds from the RACC they may be misguided and more information was needed.

Mr. Murdock explained that Raven planned to do things with the schools already and had made that commitment in every city they were involved but again he had the idea if they could use some of the art funding to reach deeper into the schools faster with more teams that would be really attractive.

Commissioner Leighton again requested information on how the money would be separated out. She was not comfortable having the funding go for the programming itself but if an additional component to the programming including graphic design or segments that cost "x" amount that should be added in. She suggested the entire STEAM Program was not appropriate for the way the one percent requirement had been written.

Ms. Day asked how long the project would be from start to finish since the dollars for such projects were not typically over multiple years unless the construction project was for multiple years to match it, and Mr. Murdock explained that Raven planned to break ground in October, equipment would be commissioned in April with operations in the landfill in April, and with the final costs to be known in the next two months. Once that information was known they could commit the one percent to the RACC.

Ms. Day advised the details would be worked out. The purpose of this discussion was to introduce the concept and allow the RACC/PAAC to consider the information. Raven was invited to return in September with a more formal presentation. In the meantime, she could discuss the details further with Mr. Murdock and any other interested party.

b. Future Commission Banner Project

Ms. Day reported the City Manager had been pleased with the banner projects for NPA Mini Grants and COVID-19 Relief and wanted to see something seasonal culturally in the community. She had explained to the City Manager there were challenges installing the banners and they were intended to stay up for a while, which could be discussed further.

Commissioner Leighton suggested before more banners were installed there be a report back from Ms. Goldstein's group rather than grant a request from one City official. She suggested there should be a better method for the choice of art projects.

Commissioner Mehas liked the banners but agreed they did not need to start a new project now. He would rather see a focus on filling the RACC vacancies as a priority for the City.

VII. June STAFF REPORT

Ms. Day reported she had provided a written report to the RACC/PAAC which had separated out the projects, and which had been organized in a way that made better sense.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Grantee Events
- b. Members share art related events
- c. Circus Bella July 17 at Pt. San Pablo Harbor 12:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Day reported that Circus Bella hoped to partner with the RACC sometime in the future, had extended an invitation for the event scheduled for July 17 at Pt. San Pablo Harbor from 12:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., with a link on the Circus Bella website of past performances.

Commissioner Mehas wanted to sponsor the San Francisco Mine Troupe to provide a performance in front of City Hall, to be located in the grass area. He noted that a prior event had been well attended.

Ms. Day reported one of the NPA Mini Grantees was a children's choir that wanted to conduct performances around the City of Richmond. She asked Commissioner Mehas to provide information on their performance schedule which could be shared with the RACC/PAAC.

Chair Beaulieu reported that progress was being made on the Ookwe Park signage.

Ms. Day thanked everyone for coming out for the project that was a work in progress. The final text would be approved by the Ohlone Family and staff was working with the City's Information Technology (IT) staff on a QR code to be placed on the didactic signage to be linked to a website connected to the Ohlone contribution to the City of Richmond. The website had yet to be created and more information would be provided at the September meeting.

Vice Chair Kirk noted the Circus Bella website did not have actual dates for the events and she asked staff to ask the contract person to reach out to her to provide the dates so that she could post the information on the RACC Facebook page.

IX. ADJOURN until September 8, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk and carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on September 8, 2022.

RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

**Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 27, 2022
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Commission Chair Lynson Beaulieu, Vice Chair Melissa Kirk; and Commissioner Phillip Mehas

Absent: Commissioners Tom Herriman and Emily Leighton, and Council Liaison Melvin Willis

Staff Present: Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Beaulieu called the Special RACC meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing presentations and interviewing a limited number of applicants for the Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) Mini-Grants.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

III. PRESENTATIONS/INTERVIEWS

- Mark James (*Empowering Youth Through Music*)

Mark James presented the *Empowering Youth Through Music* program, which he noted he had been doing for two to three years in the same format to empower kids through guitar, drum, production, engineering, and beat-making classes and mentoring and life skills training. The program was provided year-round and ongoing whether funded or not, although it was somewhat scaled back during the summer.

Chair Beaulieu asked about the outcomes that would reportedly improve grades and increase enrollment in music programs and she asked how the data was collected, to which Mr. James stated that some of the schools, school counselors and parents provided the data as to where the kids were at and whether their grades were good, and if not the programs offered would be tapered off.

Mr. James stated there were regular check-ins to make sure that kids remained on track. If in his class, the kids had to have good grades and if not there were resources to help the kids with their classes, which was where his outcomes came in. If not on track, the kids would have to miss his music classes.

As to recruitment, Mr. James stated there was a pool of over 100 kids who came through the Richmond Police Activities League, and while not all kids were ready to embrace music, those students he knew who could not sit down for a 15- to 30-minute session typically weeded themselves out but would observe, and he would follow through with those kids to assess what they might be able to do.

Vice Chair Kirk asked about the project description and whether it was a continuation of the general programming, and Mr. James stated that he had a 101 class and the next session would be 102 and so on. The classes were done in stages so that the kids did not feel the pressure of the prior class. Some kids would not go on to the next class for a number of reasons. His program provided a running flexible scale with the kids.

Vice Chair Kirk referred to the budget and asked about the equipment referenced, and Mr. James explained that every year he had been doing the project he always had kids sitting around waiting for the drums or guitar to be available. He wanted to make sure that some kids did not feel left out, wanted them all to have an instrument for themselves without having to share, and be able to allow some students to take instruments home. He added that after the six-month session, for his star pupils he would start giving those students a guitar, for instance, that they could keep. It would also teach responsibility. He added that enrollment had been increasing and he would always need equipment.

In response to Commissioner Mehas as to recitals where the RACC might be invited, Mr. James reported that one of his advanced students would have a guitar and singing recital on August 19, 2022 at City Hall and he would provide a flyer for that event to be posted by the RACC.

In further response to a question related to the specifically needed equipment in the budget, Mr. James clarified that the XLR Transmitter was a device to plug into speakers to eliminate speaker wires. The JBL 300 Pro Audio Sound was the actual audio sound system. He confirmed that those two items had been included in last year's budget request and the current request for equipment would represent a second set.

For the discussion, Arts & Culture Manager Winifred Day advised that September 22, 2022 was the target date for the public announcement on the award of NPA Mini-Grants. She clarified the process that would lead to the award of grants and the need for the RACC to consider applicants' responses to questions when determining the final number of points that would lead to a final decision.

Commissioner Mehas commented that Mr. James had an excellent ongoing program and he was supportive of the proposal, as presented, and would score accordingly.

Given extra time prior to considering the next presentation, members of the RACC expressed some concerns for that project, which discussion evolved into the need for the process to reach a broader range of applicants, potentially in collaboration with the Richmond Art Center or by potentially adding to the overall funds made available to ensure that those applying for a grant were not the same applicants year after year.

Ms. Day explained that the \$65,000 allocation for NPA Mini-Grants was the amount approved to come out of the General Fund and not out of any other public art resource, and there could be a discussion next year as to whether or not to increase the overall fund amount by dedicating some Percent for Art funds to the process.

A discussion developed on some of the difficulties with respect to process, the need to better inform applicants of the process and components of the process along with the need for accountability. There was a request for more clarity, with a desire for more technical assistance earlier in the process so that applicants would be ready to write their grants when the Request for Proposal (RFP) was distributed.

- Erin McClusky McClusky Wheeler

Erin McClusky Wheeler reported that Point Molate just got allocated funding to become an East Bay Regional Park. Her project had come about based on her love of Point Molate and working with the Point Molate Alliance and being excited about their work with the community. The Alliance had done curriculum development for high school students around Point Molate ecology and history but not for elementary-age students, which was an area in which she had done a lot of work both in Brooklyn, NY and in El Cerrito, CA. She reported there was a commitment from a Fourth Grade teacher at Caesar Chavez School in Richmond, a pilot program, designing a curriculum and working with students about flora and fauna at Point Molate, and inviting the students to come to the Earth Day celebration at Point Molate. She confirmed that Courtney Cummings, an Ohlone educator and the Richmond representative for Point Molate, would help develop the curriculum to engage the Ohlone history of the area. The curriculum could be used by other schools in the future and by libraries and community groups.

Ms. McClusky Wheeler explained that the Earth Day celebration was to invite students and the larger community to Point Molate for Earth Day and to be involved in a hands-on art project that would result in T-shirts, posters, tote bags and relief block printed pieces with fabric, based on her art piece as well as interacting with the students.

Chair Beaulieu asked about the delivery of the curriculum, and Ms. McClusky Wheeler stated she would schedule the teachers, visit the classrooms, offer a brief presentation about Point Molate and jump into a hands-on art project about animals and plants found at Point Molate in a one-day session with the students. Ultimately, a paper-based mural would be created that could be left at the school to celebrate Point Molate. The rest of the project would develop the ideas for the curriculum with a lot of ground work and research on the artworks for the project, with the idea that the classroom would be invited to explore further if they would like to. She described the project as the development of a robust curriculum with sufficient information that any teacher in the area could get from the Point Molate Alliance website along with the ideas that would come with it.

As to the budget, Chair Beaulieu verified with Ms. McClusky Wheeler that the \$2,000 in the budget would cover Ms. McClusky Wheeler's time for curriculum development.

Ms. McClusky Wheeler stated that the Point Molate Alliance in the past had provided Earth Day celebrations free and open to the public. She did not want to change what was being provided but add art elements to it and the T-shirts would spread the message of Point Molate and the beauty of the place. She would develop the T-shirt and the art project would be used by people to create their own designs for the T-shirt.

Pam Stello of the Point Molate Alliance clarified that the Alliance would get a permit from the City and the Recreation and Parks Department and at times when food was offered there would be a need for that permit as well.

Vice Chair Kirk loved Point Molate and the project idea and asked about the creative component and exactly how the community would be engaged, and Ms. McClusky Wheeler explained there would be a partnership, especially with the students, who would inform the designs. Rather than a fixed design, there would be hand-carved elements based on the kids' designs and based on her designs to fit like puzzle pieces together, to pick and choose and assemble the different plants and animals together on the T-shirt. She added as much as possible she would like kids to be able to make their own designs and if the teachers had time and were willing, she would do that with the kids.

Chair Beaulieu preferred to see capacity building with the kids about art skills, learning about art and those kinds of things. She noted the RACC was concerned that there did not seem to be much action and time directed to community participants in terms of their developing art and to actually be the artist.

Ms. McClusky Wheeler stated that they would be doing a mural in the schools as well and the kids would fully design the mural. She explained it was her capacity building too as a Richmond artist to support local working artists and she saw it as an opportunity for kids to make art. There was no venue assigned for a mural in that it did not work out for the timing but she stated that Ms. Stello and the Point Molate Alliance would like to see a mural grow out of the project as well.

Ms. Day stated that permission for a mural venue would involve a contract and that information would have to be provided ahead of time. Noting that the project appeared to have multiple parts, she expressed the hope that the art piece would be completed by June so that the kids could enjoy it before the end of the school year.

Ms. Stello stated the exact date had not yet been set. As to Courtney Cummings' involvement, she advised that the Alliance worked with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan/Ohlone and there would historically be an Ohlone prayer at the beginning of all their events. Ms. Cummings would speak at the school as well and collaborate on the project.

Ms. McClusky Wheeler stated that the mural and the art pieces would probably be done in February prior to Earth Day. As to other sources of income pending that she had noted in her budget, she explained that those were allocated towards the Earth Day celebration itself, which if not provided would mean less food or music for Earth Day but would not impact the project. Ms. Stello added the Alliance had never had trouble funding the event.

Given that there appeared to be two projects; Point Molate Earth Day and the curriculum, Ms. Day suggested that Ms. McClusky Wheeler be asked to better define the project, and if separating the projects to specifically identify what was being applied to art, particularly since the Point Molate Alliance would be handling the Earth Day event, which appeared to be the focus as opposed to the children, the community and the capacity for art.

Ms. Day understood the RACC's concern for a lack of community engagement and as an option and given the annual event, she suggested the project could be developed more and Ms. McClusky Wheeler could apply next year. She was directed by the RACC to clarify the questions with the applicant and return the answers to the RACC.

It was clarified that September 22, 2022 was the target date for the public announcement on the award of NPA Mini-Grants.

- Fred Franklin and Cheryl Mayer (Richmond Friends of Recreation)

Fred Franklin proposed a T-shirt design for an inspirational piece to show some of the achievements accomplished and to emphasize the transportation in the Iron Triangle with a project called *Iron Triangle Neighborhood on the Move*. He noted the Iron Triangle had gotten its name by being bordered by railroad tracks in the shape of a triangle. The bottom of the triangle was no longer railroad tracks in that it was the Richmond Greenway, which was one of the accomplishments from the residents in the area. There was also a connector route, a safe route for children named the Yellow Brick Road.

Mr. Franklin wanted to emphasize the transportation, the movement around and through the Iron Triangle in and out, how that area mixed with everything else, and he wanted to do it with simple images and symbols, to show a BART train and railroad cars forming a triangle, to be done as a simple scene in color with an emphasis on the Yellow Brick Road and the Greenway area where Iron Triangle residents could take pride in those accomplishments. The graphic would act like a logo because it would be the identity of the neighborhood and would have a number of applications. The graphic would be put on T-shirts, which could be directly inspirational to residents. The T-shirts could be given away or sold, used as awards at various Iron Triangle events such as the community picnic, or the grand opening for the Yellow Brick Road and for monthly meetings.

Mr. Franklin stated that selling the T-shirts could generate money to be used for fundraising purposes. Depending upon the funding, posters could be used to campaign for the various projects in the Iron Triangle, to promote and emphasize the movement and for inspiration to show achievement and accomplishment in the neighborhood.

Chair Beaulieu noted that there were three goals in Mr. Franklin's application and she asked about the other two: increasing networking among the agencies serving the community and the surveys that had been planned.

Mr. Franklin stated that he was connected to a number of the organizations involved; the Richmond Greenway, the Rescue Mission, the clinic and the Yellow Brick Road and Pogo Park.

Mr. Franklin supported all their events, and all would allow an opportunity to present the image that could be used by them for promotional purposes. With respect to the survey, he stated that would be through the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council, which would develop and administer the survey. He added that all the organizations belonged to the Neighborhood Council, and were always updated and interacting. He also clarified, when asked, that networking among the agencies would be outside of the project. He stated the community had already provided input in the development of the T-shirt design.

Chair Beaulieu clarified that the project was to develop the design and create the T-shirts that would become a focal point for the organizations to use in the work that they did interacting with the community.

Vice Chair Kirk asked what would be surveyed, and Mr. Franklin stated that the survey was for networking, and the questions to be asked would be for recruitment purposes for the Neighborhood Council and what people wanted to see in the neighborhood. The T-shirts could also be used as an inducement to take the survey.

Mr. Franklin used the Yellow Brick Road project as an example, when about 15 years ago some kids working with Opportunity West had developed the design that was now coming into fruition, which required surveys, meetings, and a lot of interaction prior to the actual development of the project.

Commissioner Mehas asked what actual activity the community would be participating in other than the T-shirt, and Mr. Franklin explained that the money would go into the actual production of the T-shirt frame and the printing for the posters.

Ms. Day asked about the copyright aspects of the proposal and the owner of the design, and Mr. Franklin stated he would normally own the design but in this case he did not care who owned the copyright but he referred to others in the art of activism. He added that when he donated his work, he would retain the copyright on any of the characters he developed. This would not be an issue in this case because no cartoon characters would be involved. He added that he would have the copyright and if the Neighborhood Council wanted the copyright he would sign it over to them.

Ms. Day clarified that if permissions were required, they would have to be in place prior to the start of the project as opposed to being an afterthought. She verified that those to be paid through the proposal would be Mr. Franklin and those printing the T-shirts.

Chair Beaulieu noted that the bulk of the budget appeared to be for the T-shirts themselves, and for printing. She had mixed feelings about the project, noted the intent of the project to create an identity piece for the community that would be used by different organizations for different events, and by people in the Iron Triangle. She supported the intent and the community aspect, like a branding for the community, and described it as a partnership in the community.

Commissioner Mehas agreed but questioned whether this was the type of project that the mini-grant had been designed for. He was concerned with the level of community involvement involved.

It was again clarified that September 22, 2022 was the target date for the public announcement on the award of NPA Mini-Grants.

- Desiree Heveroh and Anne Lackey (Richmond Museum)

Anne Lackey, the lead on the project, stated she had been volunteering at the Richmond Museum since March 2022, and had learned of the huge collection of children's art and had recognized the relationship between the child care centers, the history of the child care centers in Richmond, and how the art was a vibrant artifact that could bring it alive and bring people's interest to it. She advised that the art pieces were in archival boxes and were old in that they started in 1943 when the child care centers were first opened. She suggested it would be a wonderful opportunity to create 15 to 25 reproductions, put them in civic and public buildings throughout Richmond, and include a QR code that would link to the museum's website where more images could be viewed. There would also be links to the book on Monica Haley and a more detailed history of the Maritime Child Development Center, and generally the child care centers prepared by historian Alicia Barber for the renovation of the Maritime Child Development Center.

Ms. Lackey explained that she wanted to do more and be able to create more information about where women of color, who could generally not use the child care centers at that time, had their children taken care of given the importance of child care and women working outside the home, particularly for the war effort. She commented that she had read somewhere that two thirds of the war ships, tanks and heavy equipment used during the war had been created in Richmond, and Richmond had been a critical part of the war effort, and women could not win the war without having someone help take care of their children. She noted that there were pieces of that history in different places and while the Rosie the Riveter National Women's History Museum had only one small component, she wanted to provide more history on the Richmond Museum website. To that end, she also wanted to recruit a student in digital humanities to help make the website a rich place for people to go for this history.

Ms. Lackey stated there were commitments from the Richmond Museum, Red Oak Museum and the Family Justice Center, with the hope to reach out to other institutions. She sought an NPA Mini-Grant from the RACC to be an entrée to the installation which would allow a nice production with nice frames and mats. She would also draft a summary of the proposal that would go next to the art to direct people to the museum's website to find more information.

Desiree Heveroh reported that there were over a thousand images, and they were trying to find relevant images that would be appropriate to place elsewhere such as the Golden Model Railroad Museum, the Rosie the Riveter center or the Red Oak Museum. She explained that the pictures identified what had been heavy on children's mind at that time, which were very rooted in the World War II effort. She displayed some of the images involved and clarified that the images to be placed in public places would be image-appropriate.

Chair Beaulieu stated it was important that the context be clear and that the narrative used for the pictures be explained in detail so that people understood what they were seeing.

Ms. Heveroh referred to a filmmaker interested in doing a short series of eight to nine episodes about the women working in the shipyards, and it had been recommended that the Maritime Child Development Center be used in that film.

Commissioner Mehas supported the project, asked about the size of the paper the drawings were on. He suggested that the budget be doubled to include some funds to pay the intern, that single mat images with 6-ply mats be used, that the pictures not be double matted, and that there be strong black wood frames with wires ready to hang. He verified that the images had been numbered and inventoried, and that the QR code would be on the descriptor didactic panel and not on the image. He also recommended that the descriptor text be framed separately and that the applicant work with Ms. Day to revise the budget upward.

Ms. Lackey stated that the size of the images had been proposed at 18" x 24" in size.

Ms. Day characterized the images as a long-term investment that if framed properly could travel well without falling apart and that security mounts be considered. From an approval perspective, she recommended mapping out a storyboard, grouping the images by theme, and identifying the images that might not be appropriate to create a comprehensive presentation that could be used for more than one purpose at the finish.

Chair Beaulieu liked the fact that there would be more prints than those to be framed, the fact the images could be accessed online, and as to the images themselves asked if there was a community involvement activity that could review the images and help in the selection process.

Ms. Day suggested that a professional might be able to be integrated into the budget to help in that regard. She stressed that a revised budget needed to be submitted prior to the award of NPA Mini-Grants.

Noting some reference to sensitive symbols in the children's art, Commissioner Mehas did not want to censor any children's art for the purpose of appropriateness.

Vice Chair Kirk wanted to see some aspect of community involvement, and Ms. Heveroh stated they would strategize to find some way to make it more exciting and engaging to a younger audience, and could make the QR code available to schools, which could bring the information up to be included in class work.

The RACC liked the project and did not want to censor the art.

It was again clarified that September 22, 2022 was the target date for the public announcement on the award of NPA Mini-Grants.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Final Deliberations and Vote to Approve Award Recommendations

On the discussion of the funding available to accommodate all the NPA application requests, Ms. Day noted that all the projects could potentially be afforded since the art-specific projects could be withdrawn from the NPA Mini-Grants to be funded through a different source of funds.

Chair Beaulieu had a concern for the McClusky Wheeler project and the desire for a larger community engagement component, and Commissioner Mehas expressed concern for the Franklin/Mayer project for the same reason and because with little art emphasis it did not seem appropriate for a mini-grant. He also had concerns for the McClusky Wheeler project given the potential to be a good project if more youth involvement was included. Vice Chair Kirk suggested that the Franklin/Mayer application had not been written well.

Given the concerns, the fact that not every application had to be awarded, and with no decision, Ms. Day suggested that the RACC think about the presentations and the concerns and provide comments to her by August 1, 2022 to determine how to proceed. She reiterated that there would be another opportunity for NPA Mini-Grants next year, and emphasized the need for strong projects that did not have to be force-fit to comply with the process. She stated there was sufficient information to do a strong program of awards this year and ask some people to put more thought into their project and return next year.

Again speaking to the McClusky Wheeler project, Commissioner Mehas wanted to see an expansion of what was encompassed in culture to be more inclusive.

Chair Beaulieu advised that a Zoom call could be scheduled on Friday, August 5, 2022 at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. so that the RACC could identify a direction to proceed.

V. ADJOURN until September 8, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk and carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at approximately 8:25 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC on September 8, 2022.