

**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.