

**RICHMOND ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION (RACC)/
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 8, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Chair Lynson Beaulieu, Vice Chair Melissa Kirk; and Commissioners Emily Leighton* and Phillip Mehas
*Arrived after Roll Call

Absent: Commissioner Tom Herriman and 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 7:03 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

a. APPROVE September 8, 2022 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda

In response to Commissioner Mehas who asked about the budget for the NPA Mini Grants, Chair Lynson Beaulieu explained that would be considered under Item V a.

Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to approve the September 8, 2022 RACC/PAAC Meeting Agenda, as shown, passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

b. APPROVE July 14, 2022 RACC Meeting Minutes

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

c. APPROVE July 27 NPA Mini Grant Interview Minutes

Chair Beaulieu reported she had provided staff with a revision to the second to last paragraph on Page 8 of the July 27, 2022 NPA Mini Grant Interview Minutes since she had an objection to some of the art symbolization from the Richmond Museum Project and preferred that specific art not be displayed in the general public arena. She also commented there was already an art exhibit on the Red Oak Victory Ship that included Nazi memorabilia and if displaying children's art with that symbolism, that location could be a place to exhibit the artwork from the Richmond Museum project.

The RACC/PAAC discussed how the pieces of children's art were to be used as part of the Richmond Museum Project, as presented during the July 27 meeting; Commissioner Leighton commented she had not been part of the initial discussion on July 27 but agreed with the Chair's comments.

On the discussion that while it was not the role of the RACC/PAAC to censor artwork, the fact that children during World War II were seeing the symbol and the damage it caused made it all the more horrifying, and Arts & Culture Manager Winfred Day clarified that only 25 pieces of artwork would be displayed with possibly five pieces at five separate locations. And while being sensitive to the symbolism, the Richmond Museum would offer choices for selection at each location and the RACC/PAAC would not be making the decision on what pieces would be shown. Staff should have the contracts underway in October which allowed time to add language to the scope of services, if needed, to define what was now being discussed.

Commissioner Leighton suggested this was part of a larger discussion about censorship and how imagery was treated. She suggested if displaying that artwork, there should be some information as to why the artwork was being displayed, and Ms. Day confirmed there would be some information to allow the context of the artwork to be explained to the public and the fact the art pieces were from World War II.

Chair Beaulieu sought additional conversations with the grantees on their choice of artwork and Ms. Day stated the RACC/PACC Liaison to the project would be involved and everyone would be informed in the end of what was being done.

Chair Beaulieu again asked that the language she provided to staff be included in the July 27 meeting minutes with the second to last paragraph of Page 8 to be revised, as follows:

The RACC liked the project and did not want to censor the art. For the record, there was objection to the exhibition of selected artworks that contained potentially offensive symbolization and there was discussion about the appropriate place to display that artwork; i.e. at the Red Oak Victory Ship Exhibition.

There was no motion or second but the July 27, 2022 NPA Mini Grant Interview Minutes were approved subject to the revision read into the record by Chair Beaulieu, which passed unanimously by a Roll Call vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approve Nine NPA Mini Grant Awards for \$71,759

Commissioner Mehas had earlier noted that the Richmond Museum project had a change in the grant budget, although Ms. Day clarified the amount had been included in the total amount of \$71,759, with the project summaries identifying the award amounts. She also clarified that additional funds had come from the Public Art Fund for the framing.

- Motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Vice Chair Kirk to approve Nine NPA Mini Grant Awards in the amount of \$71,759, which passed unanimously by
 - a. Roll Call vote.
 - b. Assign NPA Mini Grant Liaisons for Nine Projects

Ms. Day understood that Commissioner Leighton would focus on the Art Commission Project; Commissioner Herriman had not yet gotten back to staff with a selection; and Vice Chair Kirk had expressed the willingness to focus on whatever was needed. She advised that liaisons must be identified before the NPA Mini Grants were under contract.

Chair Beaulieu offered a motion to accept the recommendations for liaisons for the NPA Mini Grants that were currently available in the document provided to the RACC/PAAC with the caveat that additional assignments be made as Commissioners were available to take on the role of liaison for the projects. Without those assignments, staff would have to work directly with the grantees. There was no second to the motion.

Ms. Day stated liaisons were still needed for the Richmond Arts Center Spring Family Day Event in 2023, Jed Lee, Rich City Rides and Kairo's Music Academy.

Vice Chair Kirk expressed the willingness to serve as the liaison for Richmond Arts Center Spring Family Day Event in 2023 and Jed Lee Rich City Rides.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS Review

- a. NPA Mini Grant Committee Report – RFP Results (Kirk, Mehas)

The report had been presented as part of the prior discussion.

PAAC August Report (Chair Beaulieu)

Chair Beaulieu reported that staff had been busy in July and August with progress on a number of projects, some of which would be discussed as part of the presentation items on the agenda, including the Shields Reid Park Project. The Ookwe Park signage had been approved by the City Council; a presentation would be made by Barbara Goldstein on the Public Art Master Plan Update and art tour; and the Osprey Bird Sculpture required a final walk through, and interested Commissioners were asked to contact staff. Also the Eel Grass Sculpture had been cleaned up and waxed at the Ferry Building and the Richmond Country Club Parchester Village Project continued to move forward. She thanked staff for all of their hard work.

- b. Richmond Commission Art Site Update – (Herriman, Leighton)

Commissioner Leighton provided an update on the Richmond Commission Art Site Request for Proposal (RFP) for an artist to do a project that would be awarded up to

\$100,000. A survey from the Neighborhood Arts Councils had been conducted to determine where art was desired and a few responses had been received and had been mapped out. The intent was to reduce the potential number of sites to two or three that could host a new art piece. Potential sites included Hilltop Green City Park area, Research and Lakeside Drive, John F. Kennedy Park, Judge Carroll Park (Point Richmond) and Crescent Park.

Commissioner Leighton reported she had visited each site, identified the amenities and potential of each location and the metrics that could be used for the selection of a site including whether it was publicly accessible. She also identified the need for art, whether the site was highly visible and had site suitability and had used 1 to 5 ranked choice voting. Verification would be required from the City's Parks Departments to confirm that art could be installed at these locations. The RACC/PAAC may also wish to consider other metrics, visit each site and rank each location which could then be reduced to two to three options in an RFP for a site specific piece of artwork.

In response to Commissioner Mehas, Commissioner Leighton commented the Hilltop Green City Park area felt like a park where someone had to live in the neighborhood to know about the park and see the artwork, whereas John F. Kennedy Park was a highly visible location. She suggested the RACC/PAAC discuss what was more important in terms of the metrics for selection.

Chair Beaulieu verified with Ms. Day that the \$100,000 award had been approved for the project. She suggested for a public piece of art to be successful it would have to be large in size which would be very expensive. She verified with Commissioner Leighton that only one project would be involved with the intent to present three sites and let the artist to then choose the site to place the artwork. Given that only \$100,000 was available, she suggested that accessibility rather than visibility was a more important component to consider and asked for input whether it was more important to have that experience with the artwork, or whether the artwork should be important to the specific community or some other metric yet to be considered.

In response to Commissioner Mehas, Commissioner Leighton clarified that the idea had been presented to the Presidents of the Neighborhood Councils who had been asked to nominate a potential site. After a decision had been made on a site, the Presidents of the Neighborhood Councils would be asked to provide more information for the artist. The sites identified had already been nominated by those in the Neighborhood Councils. She added that Commissioner Herriman had been part of the conversation but had recent surgery and was unavailable. She hoped at the next RACC/PAAC meeting the top two or three ranked sites would be selected, with the entire group to select the sites that could be considered in future rounds. Having that information prior to the October 13, 2022 RACC/PAAC meeting would be helpful.

Chair Beaulieu asked Commissioners to contact Commissioner Leighton with their preferred sites prior to the October 13 meeting.

Ms. Day added that Commissioner Leighton's presentation had been provided to the RACC/PAAC with information on all locations and she encouraged Commissioners to visit

each location. She could provide another link to the information for Commissioners after the meeting. Commissioner Leighton also had Google Map information she could share with Commissioners.

VI. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Shields Reid Park Project – (Jene, Manil, Stephanie)

Jene Levine Snipes, City of Richmond, representing the Community Services, Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments, explained that she wrote grants for different projects and that the City had been awarded grants with art components.

Ms. Levine Snipes provided a PowerPoint presentation that included the background of Shields Reid Park. She stated in 2014, the City had worked with PlaceWorks to develop a Master Plan for the park when the baseball and athletic fields had been renovated and a play structure had been installed. In 2020, grant funding had allowed the opportunity for the park to be reviewed and a list of amenities that could fit into the underutilized sections of the park had been created and included walking paths, habitat garden, community garden, bike pump track and nature play, picnic areas and game tables, children's play areas, and fitness zones. A bilingual survey had been conducted with 56 responses. The top three preferred amenities identified the children's play area, fitness zones and picnic areas/game tables. In December 2021, the City was awarded an \$8 million State grant to renovate the park.

Ms. Levine Snipes provided an overview of the outreach effort and sidewalk meetings held with the community to discuss the different amenities the community preferred for the park, one of which was a desire for an art component. Subsequent meetings identified potential locations for an art installation in front of the community center, the back of the community center for mural opportunities, the habitat garden, a stage with two walls celebrating the musical heritage of North Richmond, and the gateway. She highlighted the timeline and budget with predevelopment anticipated between October 2022 and January 2024. There would be a Call for Artists on September 29, 2022 with artist selection anticipated by December 2022, artist and development team coordination of schematics for construction drawings between January and February 2023, and construction and art installation to be coordinated with the construction and design team between February 2024 and January 2025.

Ms. Levine Snipes presented a very detailed description of the project and breakdown of the budget for each potential location for the art installation which ranged from \$60,000 to \$200,000. In terms of next steps, she explained they would have to release a flyer for a Call for Artists by September 12, 2022; prepare the selection panel interest list by September 29 with a Call for Artist meeting scheduled for September 29, at 7:00 p.m. and collaborate and partner with the RACC during the process for any ideas for panelists to serve on the selection committee.

In response to Commissioner Mehas, Ms. Levine Snipes explained that she was working with staff on the individuals to serve on the selection panel. She also sought a liaison

from the RACC for the project for the long term at least through mid-2023, to get through the pre-development, selection of the artist and the art phases.

Ms. Day suggested Commissioners get back to Ms. Levine Snipes outside the meeting to indicate their interest in serving as a RACC liaison for the project. Ms. Levine Snipes was thanked for the presentation.

b. Harbour 8 Expansion Project – (Toody Maher, Kristen, Manil)

Manil, mack5, one of the Principals, introduced himself to the RACC/PAAC and explained that the project cost and construction management firm had a long history with the City of Richmond providing construction management services.

Toody Maher, Executive Director, Pogo Park, explained that she had been working with the City of Richmond for years to bring parks in the Iron Triangle to life and had been joined by Ron Holthuysen, Creative Director, Scientific Art Studio and Manil with mack5, the City's Project Manager, to present the art installation for the Harbour 8 Park Expansion Project. The project had successfully obtained a Proposition 68 Grant and would hire people from the community to do the design, planning, building and managing of the park. The community had actually physically built a three-dimensional full scale model of Harbour Hall on-site, which was beneficial for the community to have a voice in the design. Once the concept was identified, the design team would finalize the vision with a mock-up of the inside and outside of Harbour Hall, a fun zone play area, and a 100-foot zip line. This vision would cost more money than budgeted necessitating the project to be built in phases.

Ron Holthuysen, Creative Director, Scientific Art Studio, highlighted the art installation with images in a monumental scale and intended to be durable. Pieces along Macdonald Avenue would consist of ceramic tiles with large steel elements to reflect the history of Kaiser, a ship builder. Images of Lillie Mae Jones in front of the railroad tracks would be seven feet high along Harbour, and a 77-foot mural would be created next to the zip line. Working with Scientific Art Studio, there would also be some bas-relief sculptures on the actual building, all designed by the community working side by side with the creative team to create ceramic and concrete cast pieces. People would be taught how to sculpt, cast and install in a collaborative effort. Lead glass windows would also be installed as part of the project.

Ms. Maher provided conceptual drawings to show the bas-relief sculptures and highlighted the budget for the construction at \$5.5 million, and the public art budget at \$83,738 with an investment in public art only for Phase One. She reported the developer had already spent \$36,000 more than required as part of the public art requirement. The RACC/PAAC was asked to support the public art and count it against the City's 1.5 percent public art requirement.

Ms. Day clarified that both this project and the Shields Reid Park Project involved grants and not private developer funds. In the case of the Harbour 8 Expansion Project, the applicant had already exceeded the 1.5 percent requirement for public art and had been

working with the community for years. She expected the creative team would return to the RACC/PAAC to provide periodic updates on the project.

The RACC/PAAC thanked the project team for the presentation and looked forward to future updates.

c. Introduction of Private Developer Raven Industrial Facility Art Contribution

Ms. Day reported the private developer for Raven SR had provided a presentation at the July 14, 2022 RACC/PAAC meeting. After the agenda had been posted for the September 8, 2022 RACC/PAAC meeting, the developer had expressed the desire to provide a \$400,000 in-lieu contribution as opposed to having to split the funds with projects not relevant to art. She added that Raven SR worked with people outside of the Bay Area and the contribution would be simpler for them.

d. Oakland Art Murmur, East Bay Open Studios Presentation

Jean Marie Durant, Executive Director, Oakland Art Murmur, explained that Oakland Art Murmur was a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2006 by a group of artists who had taken over some storefront spaces in uptown Oakland on Telegraph Avenue and 23rd Street, and had created monthly events. From there Oakland First Fridays had been created and had grown over time, but at a certain point the demands of running a street fair had become more than they wanted to handle and the street fair itself had been handed off to the Neighborhood Association in 2014. Oakland Art Murmur continued as a visual arts organization within the City of Oakland, promoting visual arts and artists throughout the community in small and medium sized art venues, and had created some of its own programming around panelists, panel events and art tours to connect the public to artists and art spaces in Oakland.

In 2023, Oakland Art Murmur would be taking over stewardship of East Bay Open Studios, a 48-year old event, the first of its kind in the United States and an annual open studios event originally started by the Alameda Neighborhood Arts Association, which encompassed hundreds of artists in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Oakland Art Murmur would have two different events each year; one in May and one in November, and would offer ways to expand the support system for artists in the two counties with outreach in both counties in order to create East Bay Open Studios hubs.

Oakland Art Murmur would be using the Richmond Arts Center as its Richmond hub for East Bay Open Studios and would provide space for eight Richmond artists to show their work in their gallery space. Oakland Art Murmur would also offer opportunities within its community hubs for the community to come in and meet the artists.

If the hub was within a neighborhood that had other artist studio space or other public artwork, Oakland Art Murmur hoped to develop a walking tour which could be part of the two weekend-long events in the spring and fall. Oakland Art Murmur was aware of artists who wanted to participate in the Open Studios events but could not afford the registration

fees and the cost of supplies. As a result, it was actively fundraising in support and would be offering up to a quarter of the artists participating a scholarship for their registration fees. In addition, hubs would be created in the cities of Alameda, Oakland, Berkeley and the Town of Danville, with a potential hub in the City of Walnut Creek.

Ms. Durant added that Oakland Art Murmur was also developing a Steering Committee representative of the communities to create the community hubs as a way to best support the community and develop a support system for artists to be year-round while also offering artists opportunities for professional development that would be developed with their input.

On September 22, 2022 Oakland Art Murmur would have three artists who had participated in Open Studios events in the past and who had been successful to share their tips, mentor and share with other artists as part of a webinar on best practices. Oakland Art Murmur would also have its social media and marketing person speak at the webinar to also share best practices about social media. Further, a lengthy list of artists throughout the East Bay had been compiled and would allow the ability to share opportunities whether through grants a city may be part of in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, calls for artists, webinars and mixers. In-person mixers and events for artists were also anticipated in the next year.

Commissioner Mehas reported he had participated in Oakland Art Murmur for years. He clarified with Ms. Durant the May and November events planned for the Richmond Art in the spring and fall, with the center to be considered the City of Richmond hub, although not every hub would be able to consistently offer space year after year. The intent was that once a hub was established in a city it would be kept in that city.

Ms. Day asked Ms. Durant whether she would be willing to accept RFPs or Request for Qualifications (RFQs) on some of the larger City of Richmond projects, and pass them on to her audience, and Ms. Durant confirmed that could be done and the more engaged they could be with this audience the better to build that sense of community.

e. Barbara Goldstein Public Art Master Plan Update – Focus Groups Dates

Ms. Day reported Barbara Goldstein was not able to attend the meeting but on August 30, 2022, a three-hour tour had been held with Ms. Goldstein and one of her staff members to visit ten existing artwork sites in the City of Richmond and discuss what could be considered to balance out the type of art the City did not currently have. The next step would be to work on the letters to be distributed to different stakeholder groups. Copies of the letters had been distributed to the RACC/PAAC to allow the planning of one-on-one sessions.

Staff was working with the associated City Departments to create a small group to work with the City Manager's Office, the Parks and Recreation Department and other City Departments that must be coordinated to make the public art projects a reality. Another update was expected to be provided by Ms. Goldstein at the next meeting.

f. Other

Chair Beaulieu referenced the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) initiative that had been part of the Raven Industrial Facility Art Contribution project and clarified with Ms. Day that project would continue independent of the private developer's in-lieu contribution.

Commissioner Mehas was pleased with the in-lieu contribution but noted that staff was to provide budget updates each month and report on the funds left in the pot. He asked if that information could be provided at the next RACC/PAAC meeting and Ms. Day confirmed an update could be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Day otherwise reported the Richmond Senior Center murals had been repainted but she had asked for a warranty and maintenance plan to be provided. She noted that the installation method was different from what had been used in the past. She also sought some information on the mural itself to allow some kind of signage to be considered. She understood a book had been created about the project and she was waiting for a copy of the book, which would be a source of information needed for accurate signage.

Commissioner Mehas confirmed in response to the Chair that he had received the two versions staff had distributed to the RACC/PACC for the signage for the Osprey bird sculpture, which he had modified a bit, and Ms. Day stated a quote would be sought. She noted that the signage was due to be installed in October and she hoped to have more information for the October meeting. She understood the developer was pleased with the artwork but not the amount of time it had taken.

VII. August STAFF REPORT (Day)

Ms. Day reported the RACC/PAAC had already discussed many of the projects.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: UPCOMING EVENTS

a. Grantee Events Little Libraries Installed in Five WCCUSD Schools

Ms. Day reported the artist understood the requirements to install little libraries on private property and the City had a relationship with the Facilities Manager for all West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) schools. The artist had informed staff he had received a telephone call from the WCCUSD who had requested two more little libraries to be installed in the City of Hercules. People were excited about the project and the artist was receiving book donations and would purchase new books to balance the books to be included. The little libraries cost more than \$500 each.

Ms. Day added she had distributed a draft flyer to the RACC/PACC about the meeting scheduled for September 29, 2022 for the Shields Reid Park Project, and suggested it would be beneficial at that meeting to also discuss other City art projects as had been discussed during this meeting.

b. Mural Unveiling – Seneca Verde School, Washington School Fence Banners

The existing fence banners would be kept where they had been installed but new banners would be placed inside the playground.

c. Members Share Art Related Events

Poet Laureate David Flores had a reading event scheduled for the end of the month with the RACC/PAAC, to be apprised of all events.

Ms. Day thanked Commissioner Leighton for her suggestion to better distribute information to the RACC/PAAC and stated she would be working with the City Manager's Office on other processes that could be considered, which would be more efficient. She also hoped to have future presentations included in the agenda packet to allow Commissioners the ability to read the information prior to the meeting.

Chair Beaulieu reminded Commissioners that volunteers were needed for the Shields Reid Park Project and Ms. Day reminded everyone of the Shields Reid Park Call for Artists Zoom meeting scheduled for September 29, 2022 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Commissioners may also want to consider whether they wanted to meet one-on-one with Ms. Goldstein or consider a focus group or larger group.

Chair Beaulieu further reminded Commissioners of the need to provide Commissioner Leighton with their preferences for the potential art sites for the Richmond Commission Art Site project, and asked that Commissioners copy her and Ms. Day with that information when submitted.

IX. ADJOURN until October 13, 2022

On motion by Commissioner Mehas, seconded by Commissioner Leighton, and carried unanimously by voice vote to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. to a Regular Meeting of the RACC/PAAC on October 13, 2022.