

**RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

July 23, 2015  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Richmond Conference Room  
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

In attendance: Denise Chandhoke, Brenda Williams, Ben Steinberg, Maryann Maslan, Silvia Ledezma, Amahra Hicks, Jenny Balisle and staff, Michele Seville

Absent: Rosalie Barnes, Kit Pappenheimer

1. Approval of Agenda: Ben approved notes, MaryAnn second notes. All in Favor.
2. Approval of Minutes: Brenda approved and Ben second minutes.
3. New Business:
  - A. There is \$19,000 in extra funds for the Neighborhood Public Art Mini Grant program thanks to a Community Block Grant. Staff suggested a *Call for a Sidewalk Chalk Artists* be included this time. Possibly adding to number of Neighborhood Grants allocated; maybe adding documentation to it; how to add youth; finding who is good at the arts; have the *Contra Costa Times* follow; or have RYSE be a part of it. The chalk art project would be a special mini grant, public art display (“block party”), good quality artist needed, translate calls in different languages, and \$5000 max for the project. Or set the money aside for another option. Vote to spend \$5000 to spend on the sidewalk art: 5 approve and 2 no.
  - B. NPA Workshop Planning for August 15<sup>th</sup>: Mandatory attendance at the workshop. Things to review: good communication with RACC liaison; remember to credit funders; define vision; application review; projects have to engage the community. Application is a Word Document to be filled out on the computer. Things to cover: keeping the presentation together, how the applicants get paid, permit information, and Q&A. Would there be an evaluation process? Questions at front to help with the process and requirements. This could be written into the contract. Document could be in the front and ready to go for applicants.
  - C. “Before I Die...” Project @ BART: This is a temporary and free-standing wooden box being constructed by the *Love Your Block Grant*. There is a “*Love Your Block*” initiative based out of the Richmond’s City Manager’s office.
  - D. Twitter Account Discussion: Former commissioner Terri Hinte originally established this account. Brenda discussed who had re-tweeted the RACC announcements. Maybe Richmond poets tweet? Ben has posted on the RACC Facebook page. Maybe an agenda item asking for ideas?  
@ArtsRichmond

- E. RAC Holiday Art Festival: Looking for volunteers for the silent auction for no more than 2 hours. Contact Michele for information and confirmation.
4. Old Business:
- A. Artist Registry Update: Staff will call and make contact with AC5, the County art commission. They already have an Artist Directory for CC County online. Maybe have them do a presentation here at RACC. AC5 has the registry and also does exhibitions in Martinez at the County building. Mini-Grant advertising next year could go through this registry possibly.
  - B. SF Mimi Troupe in Richmond August 1<sup>st</sup>: *Freedomland* at Nicholl Park. At 2:00 pm.
  - C. Reports by RACC NPA Liaison/Announce Dates: Need an update from former commissioner, Phil Mehas in regards to the Native American Health Center. Maryann Maslan: Lana Husser's video equipment was stolen, which slowed her project down but she managed to salvage enough footage to complete it. She will be doing a presentation on August 6<sup>th</sup> in the Whittlesey Room. Ben Steinberg: *Bag Ladies' Butterfly Blues* was an amazing theater production with about 150 in attendance. It can be found on YouTube. *Romeo is Bleeding* was a film based on a play by Donte Clark, and received awards at film festivals this summer. How can it be shared in Richmond? Brenda Williams: Michele Wells was funded an additional \$10,000 for her theater project *The War at Home*. Jenny Balisle: Keiko Nelson will have a Peace Dove Event on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff stated that the Planning Department process is very important for projects like Keiko's, and for future projects. Silvia Ledezma: Shared photo of where the sculpture will be displayed at Unity Park on the Greenway. Communication has been challenging with this project. Amarha Hicks: Showed commissioners a T-shirt about the 24 Carrot Kid project. Staff pointed out that there was no mention of RACC on the shirt, and RACC funded the project. She reminded commissioners about the importance of crediting all funders, and to pass this on. The project manager has also had no phone for a while, making communication difficult. Maryann mentioned Kaiser might help fund this project, which has a healthy diet component.
5. Staff Report: Michele Seville shared that \$7800 went into the Public Art Fund from Capital Improvements made by a City street light project.
6. Announcements: Maryann: National Night Out is Tuesday. Silvia: See the member show at the RAC.
7. Adjourn: 9:15 pm.

Next meeting August 27, 2015