

**RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

August 27, 2015
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Richmond Conference Room
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Welcome/Call to Order – called to order at 7:09

*In attendance: Jenny Balisle, Silvia Ledezma, Ben Steinberg, Denise Chandhoke, MaryAnn Maslan, Brenda Williams, Kit Pappenheimer; Michele Seville, Staff
Absent: Amahra Hicks, Rosalie Barnes*

Guests: Phillip Mehas; Katy Curl, Director, Library & Cultural Services; Rebeca Garcia-Gonzales; Ric Ambrose, Executive Director, Richmond Art Center; and Joe Brooks, artist

Approval of Agenda – agenda approved

Approval of Minutes- minutes approved

Action: Vote on PAAC Recommendation re Call for Artists

There is a project at JF Kennedy Park to redesign the park through community participation. This will culminate in a Design Build Day on Oct 25th. There have been ongoing meetings with a core group since April 2015 to discuss ideas and improvements, and ongoing outreach meetings with the community. The park is located on Cutting Blvd. across from Kennedy HS. The Event Plaza will be the location for a proposed mural. The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) voted on Aug. 11th employ the “direct selection” option for choosing an artist for the project. This policy is under 7.1a of the City of Richmond Public Art Policies & Procedures, and it allows for the PAAC (or a selection panel) to select an artist(s) in this manner. The Richmond Art Center (RAC) was chosen by Trust for Public Land, and approved by the PAAC, to hold an 8-week series of classes meeting twice a week at the Booker T. Anderson Community Center, where members of the community will collaborate on the mural’s design and learn mural-painting techniques from one of the Art Center’s vetted staff muralists. A RAC employee will teach class with the artist and assist in the on-site painting of the mural, and the Arts & Culture Manager will attend classes and assist in the process.

Ben motioned to approve, Kit seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

- a. Presentation re Way-Finding Signage/NPA: *Alex Knox was unable to attend the meeting, but sent along a proposal which was read by Staff and reviewed by the commission. Staff led a discussion on how this proposal might be undertaken, and how it might relate to NPA projects. The commission was intrigued by the idea, and would like to engage in a more in-depth conversation with the Mayor's office in the future. RACC recommends inviting Alex Knox back to answer questions, and agrees that a decision will probably not be reached in time for this year's NPA grant cycle.*
- b. Presentation re Reentry Success Center/NPA: *Mace Thompson represents formerly incarcerated "community" and has been an active participant in the community design of Richmond's Reentry Success Center, which will open October 15th. He spoke on behalf of the Reentry Success Center, and came before the commission to request permission to apply for the NPA grant despite missing the mandatory meeting. He proposed art classes for children of formerly incarcerated people at the Reentry Center.*

OUTCOME: RACC will hold a special meeting to vote on allowing those who missed the mandatory meeting to still apply for an NPA Mini-Grant by Sept. 30th.

- c. Presentation re Richmond Art Center/NPA- *The Art Center also missed the NPA mandatory meeting and came before the commission in hopes that RACC might allow them to still turn in their application. Presentation of a Cinco de Mayo float project was made by Rebeca Garcia-Gonzalez of RAC.*

*OUTCOME: See above comments about RACC's special meeting.
Note: Project will proceed regardless of NPA application.*

Old Business

- a. Artists Registry Update : *Jenny B reports on progress of Art Windows: art is going in! and meeting with AC 5 (Contra Costa Art Commission) and chair Roger Renn. They have an existing artist registry and we discussed if it is more expedient to join the existing registry or create a new one just for Richmond.*
- b. Final NPA Reports by RACC Liaisons (All) *Reminder that we are primarily supporting emerging artists. That the NPA process represents a steep learning curve for some as they learn the ins and outs.*

Discussion of highs and lows of art and the building project process in the city.

Staff Report (Seville)

- *Port public art project by Reed-Madden Design is coming along well. There have been several meetings with Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), and the Design Review Board of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). The purpose of these meetings has been to share ideas regarding the ferry landing plans, landscaping, and the public art plans. The City and WETA will be meeting next week to discuss WETA's tree species proposal (Eucalyptus and Monterey Pines). Once BCDC approves the final designs, the next step will be to add the public art and ferry terminal improvements to existing permits between the City, WETA, and BCDC. Then the project can begin.*
- *JFK Park is slated for an overhaul thanks to a grant from the Trust for Public Land. On Saturday, Oct 24th there will be a big event: Design Build Day. Everyone is invited to come out and help with the improvements being made to the park. There will be mural painting, mosaic Treasure Boxes, construction, tree planting, and free food and beverages. There is lots of community excitement about this project.*

Announcements

- Berkeley Art Passage on Center Street - ongoing
- UC alums: Bay Area Latino Festival and Living the Latino Legacy. (More info forthcoming from Silvia)

Adjourn at 9:02

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2015

