

**RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 2015
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Pt. Molate Conference Room (2nd Floor)
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Commissioners in Attendance: Jenny Balisle, Silvia Ledezma, Brenda Williams, Kit Pappenheimer, Rosalie Barnes, Maryann Maslan, Denise Chandhoke, Ben Steinberg and Michele Seville, Staff

Absent: Amahra Hicks

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Agenda approval: Barnes motions, seconded by Maslan, and passed unanimously.
- III. Minutes from October 29th RACC meeting approved: Ledezma motions, Barnes seconds, and passed unanimously.
- IV. Draft Art Non-Profit Funding Memo to City Manager:

Steinberg and Seville provided an overview of the City of Richmond's relationships with major arts non-profit funding recipients. He conveyed that there were some current issues in one particular instance, and that a meeting was held with parties from both sides to explore outstanding issues. Chandhoke and Balisle added their experiences from working with Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) grant recipients and the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. The Draft Memo was approved by motion from Barnes, a second from Ledezma, and unanimous passage. The next step will be a review by the City Manager.

- V. Approve Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Recommendation:

Reviewed recommendation for new PAAC members, Linda Kalin and Jessica Parker. Recommendation was approved with Maslan making the motion, Barnes seconding, and unanimous approval. The next step will be approval by the Mayor and City Council.

- VI. Part I Discussion and Vote on Neighborhood Public Art Mini-Grant Proposal:

The NPA mini-grants have \$84,000 in capital, including \$65,000 in funding from the City of Richmond and \$19,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Commissioner scoring was reviewed, resulting in projects ranked overall based on scoring of the grant proposals, and ranking them from 1st to 25th out of 25 applicants. Scoring was double-checked by Barnes from the two separate presentation weeks, and some minor adjustments were made to ensure mathematical accuracy of the overall scoring matrix.

Steinberg noted that the three most artistically experienced NPA grant recipients from last year proved to be more difficult to work with. This may be an indication that the NPA program may work more effectively with emerging artists with limited funding experience.

Staff noted that, given their interest in writing and poetry, NPA applicants Tatiana Ortiz and Daniel Ari could be invited to participate as judges for the 2016 Richmond Writes! Poetry Contest.

Based on commissioner discussions, the Part I review eight projects were initially eliminated from funding consideration. The final review (Part II) will take place on Thursday, December 3rd. At that time the final grant recipients will be chosen, and the grant amounts will be allocated. Projects were removed from consideration for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the following: poor past project management track record, the commission's desire to ensure funding to diverse populations and geography of the city, inappropriate private efforts to lobby commissioners, apparent conflicts within grant applicant's team, or the project did not truly appear to be integrated with the Richmond community.

The 25 projects that will be considered for funding are the following: Paper Memory, The Scribbler Artist, Right Angle Love, Peace Dove Project, RCR Community Space Project, AlterTheater in Richmond, Face of Richmond Mural, Freedom of Movement, Paplotl Mosaic Mural, Fairytale: Richmond Cinderella, Inner Peace, Rich City Rides Photo Documentary, Little Free Libraries, Richmond Anthology of Poetry, Cinco de Mayo Float, Senior/Youth Connections, 6th Street Mosaic Project, Freedom's Expressions, Film & Freedom Academy, Digital Storytellers, Assemblies in Schools, We Are Richmond, Organic Shapes Wall Art, Storyteller Project, and Young Designers Group. Funding for the selected finalists will be determined at a special RACC meeting on December 3rd.

Income requirements for CDBG funding state that participants involved in the grant projects must be lower-income level residents of Richmond. The amount of \$19,000 that is being provided by CDBG will be granted to those projects specifically targeting that audience.

VII. Announcements:

Jenny announced that she has identified an intern who may be able to provide assistance to Arts & Culture Staff.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2015
Pt. Molate Conference Room, 450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor