

**RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

January 28, 2016  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Avenue  
Richmond, CA

*Commissioners in Attendance: Jenny Balisle, Silvia Ledezma, Brenda Williams, Rosalie Barnes, Denise Chandhoke, Katy Curl, Director, Library & Cultural Services, and Michele Seville, Staff*

*Absent: Kit Pappenheimer, Maryann Maslan, Ben Steinberg, and Amahra Hicks*

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Called to order 7:08 pm.
- II. Agenda approval. Barnes motions, seconded by Ledezma, and passed unanimously
- III. Minutes for November December were reviewed or approved
- IV. Presentation re New Artist Development Workshop (Michele Wells)

Michele Wells designed a development workshop for artists. She noticed there was a need for education for artists in the areas of business and legal matters, where there is a language barrier. Her concept is to help artists market their work.

Artists will come with ideas and develop them through the workshops. This also aligns with the goals of the RACC. Six artist participants attended the first session on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Artists represented theater and dance. Many lack experience, and are looking for a safe performance space.

Ms. Wells is looking for places in Richmond for artists to demonstrate their skills. Her workshops are aimed at supporting emerging Richmond artists, validating their efforts, and helping them succeed. The age range of the attendees was from 15-32. She would like any assistance the RACC could offer.

- V. Presentation: Netfile & Discussion about Forms 700 (Denise Chandhoke)

Commissioner Chandhoke did a presentation about the Form 700, which all City commissions are required to fill out. The new online form is on Netfile: [www.netfile.com](http://www.netfile.com). Commissioners are to fill it out online. Each person has to go through the sign-on process, which Staff sent out to commissioners. The form is pre-populated, and very easy. Katy Curl clarified why we have to do the filing as commissioners.

VI. Presentation: NPA Grant Selection Outcome & Discussion (Rhonda Harris)

Rhonda Harris, Director of Richmond-based Veteran's Resource Program, received an NPA grant in 2014 for \$4,000. The funding went towards a mural on the outside of their building at 934 Main Avenue. Ms. Harris came to express her disappointment at not receiving a grant this year. The commission discussed its funding challenges and pointed out that six projects were not be funded this year. They offered to direct Ms. Harris to someone who could help with other grant opportunities to help fund the completion of the project.

VII. Neighborhood Public Art Liaison Reports and Discussion (All)

Contracts are in the final stages for the majority of the NPA grantees. Katy Curl reviewed that the RACC had applied for \$19,000 in CDBG funds. However, due to stipulations about how much of HUD funds could actually go towards community services (15%), several City projects experienced a reduction in their CDBG grant amounts. Our CDBG grant was reduced to \$7,500. The rest of the money was earmarked for infrastructure grants

We did not learn about the CDBG grant cut until after the NPA grants were awarded (including the \$19,000 CDBG grant allocation.) So, some NPA grants were put on hold. CDBG funds will not be released until CDBG and City of Richmond have worked out the final details. New funding has been applied for, but no word on the outcome. For projects on hold, we could extend their contracts when CDBG funding comes in.

Director Curl stressed that CDBG funding always takes time, and that in the future we will handle those funds differently if, indeed, we do apply again. There are no guarantees, and folks would need to be told about the potential for not being funded. Staff was not aware of these restrictions.

Impacted projects: Little Free Libraries \$5k; Rich City Rides Video \$3k; and Assemblies in Schools \$5.5k. Those earmarked for CDBG funds were: Organic Shapes Wall Art \$5k; Digital Storytellers \$5k; and We Are Richmond Mural \$5k. All have been on hold.

The group's consensus was: since we spent time on the budgets, and even though now there is a different funding amount, we should keep to our initial decision about which projects should be funded with City funds, and which should be funded with CDBG funds. They want their initial decision to stand. Everyone concurs that the situation has been challenging, but staff is committed to doing what it takes to find a solution.

VIII. Staff Report - Staff report was postponed until next month.

IX. Announcements: no announcements

X. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Next meeting February 25, 2016