

RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
Richmond Conference Room

Present: Silvia Ledezma, Amahra Hicks, Consuelo Lara, Ben Steinberg, Brenda Williams, Maryann Maslan, Jenny Balisle

Absent: Denise Chandhoke, Rosalie Fay Barnes

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager

Guest: Katy Curl Director, Library & Cultural Services

- I. Agenda Approval
 - a. Motion by Hicks; second by Steinberg; approved

- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion by Lara; second by Steinberg; approved
 - b. Discussion about taking minutes; be as brief as possible, and record any action items in detail
 - c. Discussion on Joint meeting with PAAC 6/2/16. Response to future joint meetings was favorable; the benefits include sharing of information and better understanding how the PAAC works. They deal with the more technical aspects of public art, and help write public art policies and procedures.

- III. **Our City Proposal for Richmond--Leadership Workshop**
 - a. Discussion about whether doing a project like this is worthwhile, especially at a time when budget cuts are affecting the Arts & Culture Division. Our City was invited to present to the RACC by Commissioner Barnes.
 - b. Decision not to pursue Our City project in Richmond because:
 - not the best time for this project
 - community engagement could be more locally driven; less expensive
 - there may be other processes we could use to develop grass roots arts

- IV. **July Retreat-** Ahmad Mansur will be facilitating

Motion by Hicks to approve Ahmad Mansur as facilitator for the RACC retreat; second by Chandhoke; motion passes. Ahmad is creative and experienced in managing organizations and training for leadership. The retreat will be hands-on and participatory. It is scheduled to be held in the Shimada Room, 440 Civic Center Plaza on July 31, 2016 from 9:30-3:00. Commissioner Williams has asked that we do another poll because she cannot attend on that date. Staff will find out about availability in September.

The end product of the retreat will be to inspire commissioners to be leaders, and to provide information to our newest commissioner.

V. Neighborhood Public Art Updates

Specifics were given on Jenny Balisle's and Fletcher Oakes' projects. Balisle gave an update after attending the reception for The Scribble Artist, which was held earlier that evening, and Staff gave an update on the Freedom's Expressions mural at the Reentry Success Center, since Oakes is on the PAAC and doesn't attend RACC meetings. All of the other projects were reported on in the NPA Updates document.

VI. Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Report

Katy Curl, Director, Library & Cultural Services Department gave an update on where things stand with City Council in regards to funding for the arts. Cuts have been made in all departments, including hers. There will be no funding for the Neighborhood Public Art program. We may receive funding from the Environmental & Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) grant. We asked for a grant for the NPA program in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioners expressed their concerns and commented that we now have almost no budget for arts.

Discussion and reading of the mission statement for the art commission will be added to a future agenda since two critical components of the commission's work are not being funded: the CIP Percent for Art program, and the NPA program.

VII. Adjourned

Next meeting will be on July 28, 2016