

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

City Hall, Richmond Conference Room, 1st Floor  
450 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
RICHMOND, CA 94804

MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

Present: Jenny Balisle, Gretchen Borg, Dayna Holz, Linda Kalin, Fletcher Oakes, and Jessica Parker.

Staff: Michele Seville

**I.** Meeting Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Oakes; Oakes to chair meeting.

**II.** Action: Agenda Review and Acceptance

- Upon motion of Borg, seconded by Balisle, the agenda was reviewed and accepted.

**III.** Action: Minutes Review and Acceptance (January/February 2017):

- Upon motion of Holz, seconded by Kalin, the January 2017 minutes were approved.
- Upon motion of Borg, seconded by Holz, the February 2017 minutes were approved.

**IV.** Discussion: Increase Term Limits for PAAC (All):

- Seville opens discussion about term limits; encouraged PAAC members to review introduction packet with policies and procedures. Underscored that whatever the committee would like to propose has to be approved by the Richmond City Council.
- PAAC is in agreement that policies and procedures need to be updated. Also, that the longer PAAC members serve, the more valuable they become. The consensus was that two two-year terms is not enough. Some members feel that the rules might be confusing in key areas; adding to confusion is that there are different rules for RACC and PAAC. Kalin suggests that

PAAC members serve 2 four- year terms like the RACC. Kalin also brought up the Creative Space project process: some projects, for example, take several years to complete. Borg brought the issue of brain drain.

- PAAC members need to do some research about other PAACs—Berkeley for example—all meetings in Berkeley have to be publicly noticed because of the Brown Act. Kalin said incorporating fewer meetings makes maintaining continuity with our projects impossible; Parker concurs. Oakes inquired whether we can impose term limits retroactively. Holz mentioned that we might update the guidelines to encourage termed out PAAC members to reapply. In the interim, Kalin suggested that Holz and others attend PAAC meetings as a scheduled guest. Seville clarified that guests are normally only allowed to comment at the end, but our current practice is that welcomed guests are encouraged to participate in PAAC meetings.

**V. Discussion: Plan for PAAC Recruitment (All):**

- Borg suggests Carol Palmer as a potential new PAAC member. We should advertise this community service opportunity on Richmond Art Center’s posting board and on their Facebook page.
- Potential candidates don’t necessary have to live or work in Richmond. We are looking for individuals who might have construction knowledge, and/or artists, activists, contractors, engineers and more. Must be passionate about art and willing to attend once-a-month meetings to advance the arts in Richmond.

**VI. Discussion: Site Options for Funds from Moody Underpass Public Art Funds (All):**

- New news: since this project is state funded, we have to wait until April 14, 2017 to find out if the \$400K is available to use. This is a different situation than any other public art fund, as the bulk of the funding came from the State, but was eligible for the 1.5% for art allocation. Stacie Plummer, a City of Richmond Finance Department employee, is tracking the transaction. If the State agrees to allocate the funds to Richmond’s public art budget, it will most likely be earmarked for the underpass and not eligible for other projects. Balisle asked about the process of earmarking. Decision making is happening at the State level so committee members do not have a voice in this process. Kalin has a question about how individuals become informed about an ordinance. Oakes mentions that this situation happens frequently with construction development starting before public art projects are vetted.

- Kalin suggests we examine the city of Emeryville's website for public art. Our public art committee would like to follow their example and have our city webpage/web presence appear under the development and planning department particularly if the public art percentage passes. Economic Development would also be a perfect fit for our committee work. Perhaps PAAC could inquire with Bill Lindsay about moving public art into economic development as a lead-in for the percent of public art. This could in turn help developers consider public art installations and art initiatives from the beginning of their design process.

#### **VII. Review Public Art Inventory and Set Timeline for Maintenance Assessment (All):**

- Seville requests that PAAC members review the attached list of public art installations. (List was designed by Jan Brown.) Seville would like PAAC members to make note of which pieces can be visited, which ones are owned by the city and which installations require maintenance.
- Kalin has a question about the definition of public art relating to accessibility; how can art be considered public if members of the public cannot readily access it? Seville responds using the example of the social security building which can only be accessed with an appointment to conduct business or administration within the office. Additionally, the featured mural in the Nevin post office is not public art because it is a federal building. Jan Brown's list (while incomplete) includes City owned public art, community owned public art and more. NPA murals, mosaic garbage cans should be included in an updated, more comprehensive list of public art in Richmond.

#### **VIII. Report on Possible Public Art Donation to City (Seville):**

- The "Welcoming Peace Sculpture" proposal review and committee introduction to OWHR. Kalin summarizes the meeting between City Council Chair Gayle McLaughlin, Marilyn Langlois, Michele Seville and Jessica Parker regarding the proposed Peace Sculpture project proposed and funded by policy group OWHR. Kalin remarks that the PAAC requires more specific information about what this group is proposing to do with materials, size and political references. Discussion points include the caliber of art, and the current resistance of the Trump administration and Vietnam war resisters connection. It is suggested that perhaps the

intended message is not clear throughout the piece. It is also noted that the piece may not have a “Richmond aspect”. The original artist was creating a piece that was based around sanctuary and peace which could relate to our peace identity in the City of Richmond, but it is not obvious to PAAC members looking at the conceptual illustration today.

- Quick recap of items that should be specifically addressed by the project leader Issac Romano (or other key representative) to move forward: the space intended for the installation, the size, the funding, the ongoing maintenance of the piece (cost also), the connection to Richmond as a place, the “current-ness” of the themes illustrated by the sculpture (timing of the Vietnam War issue as it relates to the current resistance movement); artistic quality, context and project integrity. Also, as per Romano’s proposal, what does the contemporary resistance movement look like in the United States vs Canada? Kalin would like to request a transcript of the artist’s statement about the original piece to aid in further discussions.

#### **IX. Staff Report (Seville)**

- Seville asks that the PAAC members please read and review attachments.

#### **X. Announcements**

- Seville read statement from absent PAAC member Kate Sibley.
- Oakes circulated resistance postcards for the postcard mail-a-thon happening across the US tomorrow. Parker went to a postcard writing event in Oakland and helped mail out over 100 postcards to the President, the Speaker of the House, Secretary of Education Betsy Devos and other key government officials.
- Borg mentioned the Art in Windows event is happening this Thursday, from 4-6pm at the BART Station; will feature RYSE, local photographers and others.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm by Kalin; also mentioned that we should review action items from previous meetings and note any updates or progress during our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017