

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017
City Hall, Richmond Room
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804**

Present: Jenny Balisle, Gretchen Borg-Hillstead, Linda Kalin, Fletcher Oakes, Kate Sibley
Staff: Michele Seville, Katy Curl
Guests: Anne Koenig, Moshe Sarig

MEETING MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Tem Oakes at 7:03 p.m.

II. Approve Agenda

Upon motion of Sibley, second by Borg-Hillstead, the agenda was approved.

III. Approve Minutes

The minutes for the regular January 10 and special January 26 meetings of the PAAC were unavailable for approval.

IV. Discussion re Murals in High-Tag Areas

Gretchen Borg-Hillstead reported that two years ago her school had been approached by the Richmond PD and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Higare; they wanted to know if her school would be interested in painting murals on walls that are frequent tagging targets. The current protocol is that if a private building owner wishes to have a mural painted on his or her building walls, they can do this, and all of the decision-making is left to the owner and the selected artist(s) (with the proviso that obscene language and otherwise clearly offensive messages are not included in such murals).

Properties on the Greenway are owned by the City, and several sites have already been identified for murals; however, these will be subject to a full City Public Art process. If considering a freeway underpass, both City and CalTrans approval and processes must be adhered to. Unfortunately, there is no City money for public art at this time. It may be possible that Officer Higare might be able to find some Code Enforcement funds. Another option might be to present some ideas to the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC) to see if any neighborhood councils might be interested in providing funds for public art in their specific neighborhoods.

V. Presentation: Idea for Artist Space in Richmond

Seville introduced Anne Koenig, a developer who is interested in creating a studio/gallery community around the former Kaiser cafeteria building on Canal

Blvd. She has spoken with Planning Director Richard Mitchell and City Manager Bill Lindsay. They are both interested and have encouraged her to present a proposal. The Port owns the building, and Port Director Jim Matzorkis has offered it rent-free for 3-5 years.

PAAC members were enthusiastic about the idea and encouraged Ms. Koenig and Moshe Sarig, who will advise her on the planning process, to keep them posted on their progress.

VI. Action: Make Changes to Percent for Art in Private Development

PAAC members discussed the changes recommended for this proposed ordinance as a result of the study session with the City Council on January 24th. Council members indicated they would prefer that there be no exceptions made for any kind of developments in the City of Richmond.

However, Mayor Butt requested that some sort of “trigger” be established, whereby no projects would be subject to this ordinance until a certain threshold of multi-family housing is in development. This trigger will need to be provided by Planning.

There are a couple of other areas in the ordinance that need input from Planning. Seville will report back on these sections at the next meeting.

Upon motion of Kalin, second by Borg-Hillstead, PAAC members unanimously recommended the removal of Section XX.XX.030 from the ordinance and asked staff to work with Planning to finalize those details still outstanding.

There was general consensus that PAAC wishes to bring this ordinance to the City Council for a first reading by April.

VII. Discuss Moody Underpass Public Art Options

Seville reported that she has recently been informed that the City has identified \$410,738 in CIP-generated public art funds from the Moody Underpass construction.

Staff discussed the possibilities for using these funds. It was generally agreed that the design of the Moody Underpass is so good that (despite the fact that no public art protocol was followed) any public art project developed for that site may be extraneous and unnecessary. A couple of suggestions for the use of these funds were: putting the money in the Public Art Projects Account; identifying other, underserved sites for public art; looking into the possibility of renting/purchasing Katy Boynton’s “Heartfulness” sculpture, which is apparently needing a new site soon.

Seville will work with Finance to see if there is flexibility in using the funds elsewhere. If this is possible, PAAC members recommended that a plaque be installed at the Moody Underpass referencing the public art funded by these monies.

VIII. Action: Vote on Proclamation for Virginia Rigney

Seville reported that she would like to have the City Council present special recognition to Virginia Rigney, who was the founding Arts & Culture Manager and

the guiding light behind the City's entire public art program and the establishment of the Arts & Culture Commission. Given her central role, especially in establishing the City's public art program, it would be fitting to honor Virginia at the same time as we finally see the Public Art in Private Projects Ordinance passed by the City Council.

Upon motion by Sibley, second by Kalin, PAAC members unanimously recommended to the Arts & Culture Commission that a City Council proclamation be prepared honoring Virginia Rigney and her central role in developing a strong public art presence in the City of Richmond, to be presented to her in conjunction with the passage of the Public Art in Private Projects Ordinance.

IX. Staff Report

Seville provided updates on various projects: John Toki's proposal for a public art piece at the Family Justice Center was approved on January 26 by the RACC (following PAAC approval); the January 24 study session on the Public Art in Private Projects Ordinance with the City Council went well; Seville is exploring partnering with RYSE for some grant proposals; the RACC held its annual retreat on January 29; the Moody Underpass project generated over \$400,000 in public art funds; she has been working with City staff on two Love Your Block grants that include public art murals; Seville attended the monthly Reentry discussion meeting; and she attended the National MLK Day of Remembrance in Atlanta, GA.

X. Announcements

Seville and Kalin attended a Conference on sponsored by the National Arts Guild to help set agenda for up[coming conference in SF.

Seville noted that the Americans for the Arts Annual Conference will be held in San Francisco this year (June 16-18).

XI. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.