

**Richmond Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 26, 2017
City Hall, Richmond Conference Room
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA

Present: Silvia Ledezma, Maryann Maslan, Rosalie Fay Barnes, Brenda Williams, Rashon Lane, Cliff Cox, Ben Steinberg, and Jenny Balisle

Guest: Ayesha Walker, Teacher @ Cal Prep Charter School; Linda Khalin, PAAC; and David Thomas, Petaluma resident

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager; Katy Curl, Library & Cultural Services Director

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02; Jenny Balisle chairing

Agenda Approval: Ben moved to approve; Maryann 2nd; unanimous

Minutes Approval: Brenda moved to approve; Ben 2nd; unanimous

Guest Presentation (Ayesha Walker)

Ayesha Walker is a Cal Prep artist/ teacher of 6th, 8th, 9th grade. She teaches art to her students, and would like to find a way for them to work with RACC. Ms. Walker is a former art commissioner who lives in Richmond and is seeking ways to reconnect with the city. She feels like the commission helped her trajectory as an artist.

Contact information is Ayesha.walker@gmail.com; 510 367-5558. Some possibilities for collaboration might be: RYSE, grants, or some continuation of the Neighborhood Public Art Grants intended for youth interaction.

Ms. Walker asked if we have ever had youth on the commission. We have in the past, but the scheduling at meeting attendance were challenging issues. There is a possible City of Richmond Youth Commission forming. It was suggested that her students might come and introduce themselves at the meetings. Jenny Balisle offered to help direct youth internships (to assist Staff in the office).

It was also suggested that Ms. Walker's students be included in the invitation to do the cover for this year's Richmond Writes! poetry book. Staff will compose a Call for Student Artists to have students participate; it will be submitted at a future meeting. Another suggestion was a collective of artists who meet once a week and volunteer their time.

Receive Presentation on Family Justice Center (Staff)

Staff gave a presentation of the proposals of the three finalists chosen by the Family Justice Center Selection Panel. The finalists were: Jered Nelson; John Toki; and Katy Boynton. Staff showed the proposals of all three finalists, and spoke about the Panel's review.

A question was asked about the meaning behind the designs. Linda Khalin, PAAC member, shared that they were as follows: Jered Nelson tried to show a feeling of solidity and peace; John Toki tried to bring the outdoors into his work; and Katy Boynton's proposal was like a rain chain, and reflected her passion for the FJC.

Action: Merker motions that we support PAAC's recommendation to approve the Selection Panel's decision to select John Toki as the single finalist. Barnes seconds; final vote is 5 in favor, with 3 abstentions. Motion is approved to support PAAC's recommendation.

Presentation on Martin Luther King Celebration in Atlanta (Seville)

Staff shared about her trip to Atlanta during the MLK Day of Remembrance. Events were held at the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church from Jan. 11th - 17th. Among the many speakers were Bernie Sanders and Rev. Bernice King, MLK's daughter and the head of the King Center.

Performances included gospel songs by the Ebenezer Baptist choir, a young group from Korea, a youth group reciting the "I Have a Dream Speech", a spoken word performance, and panel discussions on various topics. Seville also traveled to Selma to walk across the infamous Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Guest: Dave Thomas, whose family has been friends of the King family for many years, spoke on the spirit and feeling of peace that prevails at the Remembrance events.

Presentation to Council on Percent for Art in Private Development

Katy Curl and Staff presented a summary of the January 24th City Council meeting, at which the Percent for Art in Private Development ordinance was proposed. Seville did a Power Point presentation, prepared with the assistance of Jenny Balisle (RACC/PAAC) and Linda Khalin (PAAC), and outlined the main ideas of the ordinance.

There were two speakers who spoke against the ordinance: one from BIA, and one from Shea Homes. Both are real estate representatives advocating that Council not support the ordinance. PAAC's research shows that BIA has business ties to the ultra-right, and that Richmond is not the only city where a percent for art ordinance is being targeted by BIA. Further, it has been noted that the current administration is moving to defund the arts and this could be a step in that direction.

There was discussion around housing and the low number of housing developments. It was suggested that low income developments be considered eligible for the ordinance. There were also questions around the use of the words "fee" or "tax". Allocation may be a better term. The draft ordinance will next go before the City Attorney for review. City Council passed the item and suggested that it be moved forward for a first reading.

Staff hopes to see the PAAC and RACC help support the ordinance. This can be done under Public Comment with the agenda item.

Staff Report:

- RACC Retreat Saturday 1/29
- Money will be available from the CIP Percent for Art Resolution for the Moody Underpass construction. Over \$410,000 will be set aside for public art at the underpass site.
- Still awaiting Port public art project at Pt. Sheridan. WETA has yet to break ground on shoreline improvements for the Ferry Terminal at the site. This has to happen before the public art is done.
- Staff is assisting with Love Your Block grant projects that include murals at the entrance to Parchester Village, and in the community garden on Fred Jackson Way.

Announcements

- Sisters in Solidarity 3/4
- Active involvement in the arts is part of expectation for commissioners
- Exist and Resist--Art exhibit in SF Mission Cultural Center
- Americans for the Arts Convention is in SF this year; June 15-18

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Next meeting is February 23, 2017