

**Richmond Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 16, 2017
City Hall, Richmond Conference Room
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA

Present: Jenny Balisle, Ben Steinberg, Brenda Williams, Rosalie Barnes
Staff: Michele Seville , Arts & Culture Manager
Guest: Janis Hashe

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Jenny Balisle at 7:02.

II. Action: Approve Agenda & Minutes

Ben moved to approve the agenda; Jenny Balisle 2nd; all approved
BK Williams taking minutes

III. Action: Review/Vote on Staff Memo & PAAC Recommendation re Moody Memorial Underpass Invitational Call for Artists Jenny Balisle reported about the Moody Underpass project and the importance of shellmounds existing at the site. The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) has done outreach to the Native American community. The Moody Underpass public art project is a \$410, 000 project; one of the biggest Richmond projects ever.

Three artists were invited to apply: Sheila Ghidini, Masayuki Nagase, and Delaney & Chin. All are professional artists that were vetted by the PAAC.

Action: The PAAC is recommending to the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission that the artist for the Moody Memorial Underpass public art project be selected by invitation rather than the more lengthy Call for Artists and selection panel review process.

The PAAC motion was moved and seconded, and passed with a friendly amendment that outreach to Courtney Cummings and Phillip Mehas be done to see if Native professional Artists can be included on shortlist.

Staff will reach out to both of them to ensure all possible contact has been made to include Native American Artist in the call for professional artist for Moody project.

IV. Presentation on Recent PAAC Developments (Balisle)

Jenny Balisle gave a PAAC update about the Public Art Policies & Procedures. She discussed the work of the ad hoc review committee that has been working on the new Policies & Procedures. The committee is working to make the new Public Art in Private Development Ordinance work in tandem with the City's Planning Department.

Lina Velasco from Planning Department met with the City Manager, Library Director, Staff, and the ad hoc committee to review the existing process and requirements used for developers. All are working together on making it easier for new developers to follow the requirements of the new Ordinance. Balisle shared a list of four new projects which will be affected by this new Ordinance.

V. Discuss/Assign RACC/PAAC Liaisons for Neighborhood Public Art Mini-Grants (All)

At present there are six RACC members and four PAAC members. The goal is to have one liaison for each of the ten Neighborhood Public Art projects. The liaison role was discussed, as well as some specific projects. Commissioners and PAAC members will decide on a first come first serve basis until the 10 combined members work with each of the 10 projects.

VI. Update/Discussion on UC Berkeley/Richmond Community Foundation Partnership Grant (Seville/All)

UC Berkeley/Richmond Community Foundation Partnership. Staff put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), deadline 11/16 for someone to do marketing and meeting facilitation. Will select a person through this process. Richmond Main Street Initiative will act as fiscal sponsor for the grant project, which is called "Community Conversations", and will focus on new social capital. Focused on the Iron Triangle neighborhood. People from that area who might not see one another in the course of the day will come together to discuss what they want to preserve in their culture, what gentrification puts at risk. Once they talk about their history, they will bring things to share to be in an exhibit at the Richmond Museum of History. Also, a mural in the neighborhood will be done with community input.

VII. Staff Report (Seville)

BART Public Art Meeting

BART held a meeting with Bay Area arts and culture managers to get ideas on how to integrate the arts on BART trains and in the stations. Most of those present are members of the Public Art Administrators Network (PAAN) from the Bay Area. Ideas included performing, literary and visual arts ideas.

FORG Meeting

Staff gave an update at the Friends of the Richmond Greenway (FORG) meeting on Oct. 2nd about the status of the four public art projects being done at Unity Park. The two murals will be

completed by the end of October. The artists expect the sculptures to be installed (depending on the weather) sometime in December-January.

QWOCMAP Film Festival

On October 14th Staff participated in a panel discussion at the 1st QWOCMAP Film Festival at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, along with Jenny Balisle from the RACC. Topics discussed included the importance of covering LGBTQ issues via film, and training youth in filmmaking.

Arbor Day on the Greenway

Staff attended the formal City Arbor Day presentation on the Greenway at 16th Street on Saturday, October 21st. City and County officials spoke, as well as various local non-profits such as Groundwork Richmond, which are very active on the Greenway. Staff also participated in painting the final protective coating on Rebeca Garcia-Gonzalez' mural.

East Bay Express Interview

Staff was interviewed by Janis Hashe, a reporter for the East Bay Express. Janis is writing a story about the arts in the East Bay, and how artists are gravitating towards Richmond due to rental increases elsewhere. We talked about the various art non-profits here, the arts district that is forming, and the upcoming reopening of Bridge Art Space.

Greenway Artwork

Muralists Rebeca Garcia-Gonzalez and Seren Moran began working on their murals at Unity Park on September 6th. Their murals are slated to be finished by the end of October. The two sculptors that were selected, Archie Held and Richard Muro have also begun working on their respective sculptures. Both will be working with Mack 5, the Unity Park contractors, who will install the footings for the sculptures. Unity Park is currently fenced off to the public during construction, however the artists will have access during specified times.

Moody Underpass

Staff is preparing an RFQ for the project manager for the public art at the Moody Underpass site. The PAAC will determine the type of Call for Artists that will be sent out at their November 10th meeting. The timeline for selecting both the project manager and artist(s) is short, as compliance with the State Department of Finance is involved on this project. Staff met with the City Attorney, Library Manager, Finance and Successor Agency representative to clarify timeline and requirements moving forward.

Port Sculpture at Pt. Sheridan: Staff is providing some final information to the Bay Coastal Development Commission (BCDC). The groundbreaking ceremony by the Water Emergency & Transportation Authority (WETA) will take place on November 1st at the Craneway next to Pt. Sheridan, where the new ferry terminal will be located. WETA must complete its preparations for the terminal before the public art sculptures can be installed.

Climate Smart Cities Project: The City of Richmond has participated in a Climate Smart Cities project. Staff has been participating in its development for several months now. The release date will be within the next few weeks, and the final training meeting will be on November 8th. The project has gathered a broad range of data that can be accessed by the public, organizations, City Staff, and individuals in the future.

Richmond Writes!

The 2018 Richmond Writes! Poetry Contest has officially begun. The Scope was sent to West Contra Costa Country Unified School District on 9/7. The deadline is February 3, 2018. The theme this year is "Change".

Poets Laureate

Daniel Ari hosted a poetry reading at his home on October 29th, at which both he and Robert Lipton (both Poets Laureate) read their poetry. Staff attended the event.

The Shops at Hilltop

On October 26th Staff attended an event at Hilltop Mall introducing the new developers and showcasing their plans for the new area that will be called Shops at Hilltop. Plans include a performing arts center.

New commissioners needed

Guest:

Janis Hashe talked about her experience in Chattanooga, TN. She has moved to Richmond, and would like to help create an arts district here. Designed an arts district for 5 years in Lindhurst called Arts Move; moved artists into Area and their presence was a springboard for business. Started MakeWork: small grants to individual artists for a 24 hour event with a parade, bar-b-q, dogs in costumes, etc. This model could easily be duplicated in other cities.

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting will be December 14, 2017