

Richmond Arts & Culture Commission

Meeting Minutes
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond
Richmond Conference Room

Thursday, August 23, 2018

In attendance: Jenny Balisle, Melissa Kirk, Nava Mizrahi, Ben Steinberg, Antonio Tamayo, and Florene Wiley

Absent: Rosalie Fay Barnes, and Silvia Ledezma

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager

Guests: Cordell Hindler, Melinda McCrary, Steven Robinson, Francisco Velazquez, Oscar Velazquez, and Jeff Wright

I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Balisle called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Mizrahi, second by Commissioner Tamayo, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda, as submitted.

III. Approve Minutes for July 26, 2018

Motion by Commissioner Wiley, second by Commissioner Mizrahi and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 meeting, as corrected by Commissioner Steinberg to change the first sentence of the last paragraph under Announcements to read: *Wiley announced a program called Animodules, public art with humble beginnings, sponsored by the Barat Foundation in Newark, New Jersey.*

IV. Public Comment

Francisco Velazquez. The host of a radio show in San Francisco, and a TV show host in San Rafael and Novato, explained that his shows focused on positive things in the community of Richmond, particularly helping kids. He announced plans for a festival next year highlighting the local music from his hometown in Mexico.

Oscar Velazquez explained that the music was cross-generational and different from other music in Mexico in that it was specific to the region, and important to Richmond in that the largest population of those who had moved from that specific region in Mexico had concentrated in Richmond.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, announced a series of lectures called “The Great Debate” scheduled for September 20, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the Whittlesey Room. There was also a new musical from the Contra Costa Civic Theater called “Allegiance.”

V. Presentation: Jeff Wright, Owner of Bridge Storage & ArtSpace

Jeff Wright, Bridge Storage & ArtSpace, announced a grand reopening party at the space on September 21, 2018 and identified a list of events. He described the history of Bridge Storage from its inception 25 years ago and the conversion 10 years afterwards of storage space into shared artists’ studios, music rehearsal spaces, and community space. With a large gallery space, he stated they were always looking for artists and had a green screen film studio that could be used as a community resource. He added that R&R coffee was moving its operation to Bridge, Bridge had a full woodshop, a metal shop, a welder, and a plastic cutter, along with 3D printers, CNC routers, and a computerized embroidery machine, with special offers to locals.

Commissioner Mizrahi recommended that Bridge’s parking be better identified.

VI. Presentation: Exhibit Renovation and Pt. Molate (Melinda McCrary, Director, Richmond Museum of History)

Melinda McCrary, Executive Director of the Richmond Museum of History, highlighted current projects for Pt. Molate and the renovation of the permanent exhibit at the museum. She described the non-white history of the site and explained that the plan to reuse Pt. Molate would include the history of the Chinese shrimpers and their families who had lived at Pt. Molate for many decades, along with the Native Americans who had also called Pt. Molate home. She presented draft plans that had been drawn up with the help of a Native American advisory committee and identified goals of the exhibit to demonstrate that the Ohlone had a complex culture, that they still existed and were a vibrant part of the community, and to immerse guests into the rich natural environment.

Ms. McCrary responded to comments about the timetable for the different elements of the exhibit and given the limited funding noted that the interactives were being funded one at a time. She was working with the Native American Historical Society and other organizations to secure funding and assistance.

Mr. Wright offered the Richmond Museum of History production space at Bridge, if needed.

VII. Report by Social Media Committee

Chair Balisle reported on the status of the Social Media Committee and the effort to create a process to get images from Commissioners of the Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) projects to post on all three social media sites. The Committee was also considering a Google calendar, to start on January 1, 2019, and include the dates of NPA projects for the next year.

Commissioner Tomayo reported on the hope to create videos or a commercial for NPA Grants 2019, and perhaps set up a You Tube channel or informational video on You Tube to offer the discussions at the workshops.

The Chair described a follow up with Richmond ITT to put Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram on the RACC webpage. She wanted all Commissioners to be able to share the posts all the time.

Commissioner Wiley volunteered to be the voice of the video for her voice-over reel.

Mr. Wright offered the green screen for that purpose.

VIII. Report by Art Connections Committee

Commissioner Wiley reported that the Richmond Art Connection was ready to launch on the second Sunday in October, and that three dates had been confirmed. The first would be October 14 at the Richmond Museum of History; November 11 at Bridge; and December 9 at the former Ashley Stewart store in the Shops at Hilltop. She noted that demolition would start at the Shops at Hilltop in January 2019, with the first phase of shops to open in November and December 2019, allowing opportunity for visual artists to have displays and with an opportunity for performing artists to present and enter into a long-term lease in what would become a Theater District at the Shops at Hilltop. She emphasized that the target audience for the events were all performing and visual artists, individuals, and organizations presenting and/or residing in Richmond. The next step would be outreach, marketing materials should be finalized in September, with a Save the Date, and information would be collected from artists. While food and beverages would be donated, there would be a cost to design, print, and distribute cards.

IX. Public Art Advisory Committee Report

Chair Balisle reported that staff was waiting on the Legal Department to change the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to the Public Art Board (PAB); noted the work that had been done and the meetings that had occurred to further the process; and explained that there would be edits to the documents that would ultimately be submitted to the PAAC for approval. She also reported that Michele

Seville would be meeting with the Planning Department next week to address the One Percent for Art requirement that was not being implemented because it was not included on Planning Department forms.

X. Review of NPA Workshop Scheduled for August 25, 2018

Michele Seville presented the agenda for the workshop on August 25, 2018 and urged RACC members to attend the workshop from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M. in the Richmond Conference Room, 450 Civic Center Plaza, to respond to questions.

Ms. Seville explained why the workshop was mandatory for applicants to be able to understand the process and to respond to questions and explained this was one of the only programs that funded grass roots artists, paid them upfront, mentored them all the way through the program, and celebrated what they did, producing some wonderful projects.

XI. Action: NPA Voting Proposal and Vote

The Chair reviewed the proposed Voting Guidelines for Neighborhood Public Art Mini-Grants and sought consensus from the RACC. On the discussion and given past concerns, Commissioners suggested potential grant writing workshops; potentially longer workshops to be able to offer more information; ways for the RACC to fund the best proposals received and do it in a fair, structured, and transparent way; recommended potentially smaller projects that could spread out the funding; and wanted to handle the NPA proposals by itself before seeking other help or partnerships.

Motion by Commissioner Mizrahi, second by Commissioner Wiley, and carried unanimously to adopt the proposed Voting Guidelines for the Neighborhood Public Art Mini-Grants for 2018/2019.

Ms. Seville reported that she had information including how to prepare a budget and how to apply for grants that could be mailed to applicants since the applications were not due until September 21, 2018.

XII. Report on Community Conversations Workshops

Ms. Seville referred to her notes from the two Community Conversations workshops, reported that people were bringing in artifacts and she was asking for a written description of those artifacts, and explained that the exhibition would be installed in early September.

XIII. Discussion on Berkeley Art Map

Commissioner Tomayo stated he had asked for the discussion given that the City of Berkeley had a small, colorful map of Art in Berkeley. He suggested the same

for Richmond or something to identify the top ten places in Richmond for public art.

On the discussion, Ms. Seville reported that Richmond did have a Public Art Map but it was extremely outdated, funds from the one percent for art could be used to develop an updated Richmond Art Map, and there could be two maps; one the greenway and community-based public art with the other for city-owned public art (capital improvement program).

Commissioners recommended consideration of corporate sponsors or the Visitors Bureau to develop a map and supported anything that could be done to update the City's current map.

XIV. Staff Report

Ms. Seville presented the staff report for August 2018 and pointed out the Tribal Canoe Journey to Alcatraz in 2019 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz. She asked the RAAC to endorse that event and share in the activities and celebration. She also highlighted the port sculpture at Pt. Sheridan.

XV. Final NPA Project Review

The status of the Neighborhood Public Art Grant projects was provided and most projects were reported to be complete. Those pending completion were highlighted and included *Painting Richmond's Wounds* by Evelyn Santos; *Rain Garden Mural* by Rebeca Garcia-Gonzalez; *Re-Imagining the Book Together* by Rachel Schaffran/RAC); and *In the Shadows* by Hector Ortiz.

Ms. Seville reported that *Painting Richmond's Wounds* would collaborate on the Community Conversations exhibition.

XVI. Announcements

Ms. Seville announced that she had received an award from the East Bay Press.

Mr. Hindler reported that he would attend the Board and Commission Training on August 25, 2018 in the Basement at 440 Civic Center Plaza from 12:00 noon to 4:00 P.M.

Ms. Seville reported that the Richmond Art Center would host a show called "Presenting Califas, Art of the U.S./Mexico Borderlands" to explore the representations of the U.S./Mexico borderlands in contemporary art with a special emphasis on the Bay Area, with artwork and performances on September 11 through November 16, 2018, and with a reception on Saturday, September 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. She emphasized the importance of getting the word out

to the Latino community in Richmond, and explained that Hector Ortiz' video could potentially be incorporated into some of the offerings.

Chair Balisle encouraged all efforts to get more members on the RACC. Given the selection of a new City Manager, Carlos Martinez, it was recommended that Mr. Martinez be invited to a meeting.

Ms. Seville also announced the Digital Storytelling Workshop on Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8, 2018, and reported the Richmond Library was inviting people to the workshops.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.