

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
Richmond Room
Richmond, CA 94804

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Michelle Baker, Jenny Balisle (Vice Chair), Tom Herriman,
Gretchen Borg-Hillstead, and Linda Kalin

Absent: Phillip Mehas (Chair), and Jessica Parker

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager

Guests: Dan Reilly, RYSE Center

I. Vice Chair Jenny Balisle called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

III. Agenda Review and Acceptance

On motion by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, seconded by Committee Member Baker and carried unanimously to accept the revised agenda, as submitted.

IV. Minutes from the August 13, 2019 Meeting

Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager, referred to the second paragraph of Page 2 under the discussion on PAAC liaisons to private development projects, and advised that she had corrected the statement in the review process to reflect that the Arts & Culture Division, and not the PAAC, would sign off on occupancy on the Planning checklist.

On motion by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, seconded by Committee Member Kalin and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting, as submitted with Ms. Seville's correction.

V. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

VI. Second Presentation Regarding RYSE Comments

Dan Reilly, Director of Innovation, RYSE Center, reiterated the expansion plans for the RYSE Center that would allow an expansion of the age range served from 11 to 24, and allow an increase in the hours of operation by being open on the weekends and with more accessibility during the morning hours, and by allowing increased engagement of parents, guardians, and other support and bring the public into the space in a new way. He identified the collaboration to satisfy the public art component with the California College of the Arts (CCA), RYSE, and the Alliance for Media Arts & Culture, a nine-month partnership that would engage RYSE youth in a participatory art concept through National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding. He described the expected process, the participants, the plan to design spaces to honor legacies, and the creation of artistic experiences for visitors of the space, along with the budget and the milestones that would culminate in the implementation of the designs by June 2020.

In response to questions from the PAAC that staffing costs had been included in the budget, Ms. Seville commented that the RYSE project was an unusual project given that RYSE was a youth run center, and to the extent the public art budget should pay for stipends would have to be discussed. She referred to some of the elements that had been discussed such as lighting, a movable mural wall, and other components that could be considered as public art opportunities.

In the discussion, it was noted that things “purchased off the shelf” would not qualify for the public art requirement given the desire to create something designed, built, and produced by artists.

The PAAC offered recommendations of what could qualify for the public art requirement, particularly for outside areas where design elements could be incorporated, and how the NEA funding could be used for items that did not necessarily meet the public art criteria. The PAAC requested the specific budget of the public art component, particularly if that amount exceeded the one percent requirement.

Ms. Seville suggested the architects be asked about the areas deemed suitable for public art and that the youth also be involved to identify key places where they would like to see art.

Item VII was deferred pending the return of Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, who had temporarily left the meeting.

IX. Report on Website Update

Committee Member Baker reported that the project had been started and a draft for the Public Art Brochure was expected to be submitted to Ms. Seville in two weeks.

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead returned at this time.

VII. Report on Censorship Issue Re NPA Public Art Project

Ms. Seville reported that she had received a letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship on September 5, 2019.

[The recording was interrupted at this time and reconnected during the discussion of a response document.]

The situation related to the NPA grant for *Inside Out* by Christy Chan, which projected quotes on the wall of the Richmond Art Center/Civic Center, where the requested legal advice on one of the reported quotes had been turned by the grantee into a censorship issue.

The PAAC discussed the situation and offered the following comments: The situation was a process issue and not a censorship issue; the grantee had censored the conservative voices of Richmond given the project's liberal political view marginalizing a part of the community and the outreach was flawed; pursuant to the PAAC's required due diligence, the question related to the one quote with respect to President Trump had been submitted to the City Attorney's office for clarification given that the projections were on a public building and the grant was a city-funded project; the PAAC logo had not been displayed as required by the NPA contract; and the list of quotes that the PAAC had heard had been read out loud; the list of quotes had not been provided to the PAAC; and the projections included quotes that had not been presented to the PAAC.

PAAC members discussed where to post the response document and determined there should be no response to the letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship. Individual posts as opposed to one official post were also discussed.

Ms. Seville advised that she was scheduled to meet with the City Manager to discuss the situation. She commended the draft response.

Vice Chair Balisle stated the response would be submitted to Ms. Seville and be submitted to the RACC at its next meeting on the record to lay out the facts for discussion.

VIII. Report on Family Justice Center Public Art

Ms. Seville presented the staff report which included photographs of the sculpture and reported that John Toki's contract was being amended to allow completion of the sculpture for the Family Justice Center by spring 2020.

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead suggested that the "leaky roof downspout" problem could be used as a public art idea where problems could be fixed by art.

X. Work Plan Review and Discussion

Vice Chair Balisle stated that she had contacted the City Manager's Office to set an appointment with the Interim City Manager to discuss the Work Plan but had no response at this point.

Ms. Seville reported that since the last meeting she had sent the Work Plan to the City Attorney's Office to see if that department could assist in some of the listed goals, and the Work Plan had not yet been returned.

The PAAC recommended data from the Planning Department to identify the level of private development public art that might be lost since the regulations were not yet in place to be implemented.

XI. Report on Existing/Future CIP and Private Development Projects

Ms. Seville referred to the eligible private development project list in the meeting packet that identified PAAC liaisons and noted that on September 11 there would be a Design Review Board meeting that would consider some new projects of which the PAAC was aware. The list also identified the funds deposited from two projects and the PAAC discussed the potential use of those funds.

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead suggested the underpass on 23rd Street be considered as a project given the problem with graffiti.

XII. Staff Report

Ms. Seville reported that the dedication for the Port Sculpture at Pt. Sheridan at the Ferry Terminal had been scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019. There had been no change to the status of the Macdonald Avenue public art project; the Moody Underpass was progressing; and the Community Conversations grant was progressing and was expected to be completed in late September 2019.

XIII. Next Steps Discussion

- Vice Chair Balisle would continue to facilitate the *Inside Out* response letter and continue to work on the strategy for the Work Plan;
- Committee Member Borg-Hillstead would work with Dan Reilly on the RYSE project and follow up on a hard completion date so that the Richmond Band and Cheerleaders could be considered for the grand opening;
- Committee Member Kalin was available to help where needed, and would follow-up on the Moody Underpass project;
- Committee Member Herriman was waiting to get involved in the Power Plant project; and
- Committee Member Baker would continue to work on the webpage and potentially provide edits to the response letter.

XIV. Announcements

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead invited PAAC members to an open house scheduled for October 5, 2019 prior to the port dedication.

Committee Member Herriman invited PAAC members to his home on September 21, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. for a band performance and a pot luck.

Ms. Seville announced an event at BridgeArts on October 27, 2019 from 2:00 to 7:00 P.M. where Sean Papillon and Steve Hurst would have a show.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M. to the next meeting on October 8, 2019.