

**PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016**

**CITY HALL, PT. MOLATE CONFERENCE ROOM  
450 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
RICHMOND, CA 94804**

**Present:** Jenny Balisle, Fletcher Oakes, Linda Kalin, Jessica Parker and Kate Sibley.  
**Staff:** Michele Seville

## **Meeting Minutes:**

### **I. Meeting Call to Order:**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm; Sibley to chair.

### **II. Action: Agenda Review and Acceptance:**

- Upon motion of Oakes, seconded by Balisle, the March 2016 agenda was approved.

### **III. Action: Minutes Review and Acceptance:**

- Upon motion of Balisle, seconded by Kalin, the February 2016 minutes were accepted.

### **IV. Review of NPA Projects by Liaisons: (Oakes/Balisle/Kalin)**

- Seville: NPA Liaisons are to send an email once a month to update on their particular project. This way we can avoid presenting at every meeting progress and information. Half way through the month, NPA liaisons will owe updates to Seville; next week we will owe documentation. March 18th is the date for reports.
- We are waiting for the official release of \$7500 from the CDBG.
- Quick update on select NPA grants on hold: One grant tied to the school year has been pushed to the following year. Digital Storytellers, Erik Morales and Organic Shapes are still all on hold. Their grant awards totaled \$15,000. Seville is following up on this, will speak with Bill Lindsay.

### **V. Review Oakland Public Art Lawsuit: (All)**

- Recent developments with Oakland Public Arts ordinance lawsuit, further cement the position that we can't move until we learn and understand the outcome of the lawsuit.
- Art ordinance does not violate the constitution/uncompensated takings; there is not a precedent for this kind of action; could have a ripple effect all over the US public arts networks.
- Question from Sibley about whether Oakland has connected with other cities to get "Friends of the Court" briefs. Other cities have a similar ordinance, including Emeryville and San Francisco, and could be useful allies.
- Americans for the Arts and the Public Arts network could increase media coverage. Economic vitality argument is a key component. Richard Mitchell might be a good speaker and advocate for this issue

## VI. Update: SF Mime Troupe (Oakes)

- Oakes took photos of Kennedy Park and submitted to the troupe organizer.
- July 23rd 2016 is the date they are looking to book; but they haven't yet started the booking process.
- Oakes has been in conversation with a number of people from the organization but is expecting a call on Monday to firm up plans.

## VII. Review Public Art Maintenance of "Torque" (All)

- Fletcher took photos; contrary to what Cesar Zepeda mentioned; there does not seem to be falling bricks. Fletcher reported discoloring on the tiles (not bricks). Michelle is going to meet with Cesar to discuss the tile project and also bringing artists to different parts of Richmond.
- Quick question: what is going to happen to Hilltop mall? The mall is currently involved in bankruptcy filings; could be a lot of options including a major art center.

## VII. Staff Report: (Seville)

- Gayle McLaughlin has asked Seville to submit an annual report on behalf of the Public Arts Commission. It might be useful to have a few public art grant recipients describe their projects and the nature of their work.
- Neighborhood Public Art program is going strong and council might be pleased/proud to hear about these diverse and innovative art projects in Richmond. NPA is seeking positive budget

outcomes to continue to support this vital work even though the City has asked each department to make cuts

- Ben Steinberg is a grant writer who is helping to look for outside funding; Seville will send out a paper written by a former intern from Mills whose comprehensive report will be used for grant purposes. With Steinberg's professional help and this paper, we can make a good case for sustaining the arts.
- Buck Family Fund (through Marin Community Foundation) is available in the East Bay, great documentation that describes the history of the organization. May/June is when budgets are announced so work has to be done in advance to prepare for additional funds to offset cutbacks. It may be at least three years before things settle down financially with the city, so we have to be proactive.

### VIII. Announcements:

- New poetry publication by Daniel Ari with illustrations from his wife Lauren Ari: look for events in the next month to help support this work.
- This Friday, at 7pm Miguel Fraga is making a presentation about lifting the embargo on Cuba.
- March 23rd, Michele, along with Doria Robinson from Urban Tilth, is making a presentation on her trip to Cuba.
- Oakes announced that the Riggers Loft Winery has opened; March 26th (Saturday) Juke Joint music; emphasis soul music; this next opening might be either 1-4 or 3-5pm.
- March 19th is the David Park and Human Spirit opening at the Richmond Art Center.
- March 19th-20th is the biennial quilt show at the Craneway

### IV: Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm by Oakes; Balisle seconded the adjournment.

Next meeting April 12, 2016