

## **PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
450 Civic Center Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Richmond Conference Room  
Richmond, CA 94804

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Michelle Baker, Jenny Balisle, Tom Herriman, Gretchen Borg-Hillstead, Linda Kalin, Phillip Mehas, and Jessica Parker

Absent: None

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

Guests: None

I. Chair Balisle called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. Roll Call

III. Agenda Review and Acceptance

Motion by Committee Member Parker, second by Committee Member Kalin, and carried unanimously to accept the agenda, with a section to be added after Staff Report called *Next Steps for Tasks*.

IV. Minutes from the January 8, 2019 Meeting

Committee Member Kalin requested an amendment to the January 8, 2019 minutes to reflect that she had objected to the suggestion under Item VIII with respect to the Artists Roster update that volunteers run the Artist Roster. She had suggested at that time that a point person be in charge of the Artists Roster.

Motion by Committee Member Mehas, second by Committee Member Baker, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting, as amended.

V. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

VI. Report on Officer Moody Underpass Public Art

Michele Seville reported that she had met last week with Masayuki Nagase, his wife, and the Project Manager when the Conceptual Design Proposal Plan for the Officer Moody Underpass had been submitted. While not a final plan, it had reflected the numerous meetings with the Ohlone tribe, which was in agreement with the concepts as a whole. She described the design of the proposal and presented the images of what had been discussed with the Ohlones, with an emphasis on wildlife. She described the feedback that the artist had received.

Committee Member Borg-Hillstead referred to the submittal and the reference to the Ohlone's preservation of "diverse skeletal remains of a variety of birds, sea otters, fish, and shells at this actual site," and asked whether those remains could be physically included in the public art project, although Committee Member Baker noted that could be a sensitive issue.

Ms. Seville advised that the discussion had also included the existing trees on the site and the need for some parking if the site was used for educational purposes. She explained that some trees might have to be removed and the cost and the responsibility for the cost had to be identified. She also noted that the tribe had asked whether they might be able to maintain and harvest some of the native plants, including a plant used for basket weaving. Given the close proximity of railroad tracks, she had recommended the soils be tested.

On the discussion, Committee Member Kalin noted that there was a path near the site and she recommended some access to the park from that path, and pointed out an area where the city had planted trees; Committee Member Borg-Hillstead recommended raised planting beds with clean soil for the native plants; and Committee Member Parker verified that the Project Manager could help to address the technical issues of ownership and accessibility, among other things.

#### VII. Report on Status of Proposed Public Art Board Ordinance and Public Art Policies & Procedures

Ms. Seville advised that the item was under review and there was nothing new to report.

Committee Member Kalin suggested the PAAC consider a recommendation that a professional be hired to start working on the revisions to the Policies & Procedures.

#### VIII. Next Steps on the Artists Roster

Chair Balisle reported that she and Committee Member Parker had met to discuss the Artists Roster and had found it difficult to find the time to provide a professional response to the artists. She noted they had worked on the Invitation to the Artists, the Public Artists Review, and the email, which was where having an assistant would be important to manage the process.

Chair Balisle added that they had worked on a proposal for an assistant. She also noted the need to better define the role of PAAC members.

Committee Member Kalin agreed with the need for assistance to manage the public art process, added that the PAAC was an advisory committee and not staff, and an ongoing program should not be administered by an advisory committee. An actual assistant to Arts & Culture was recommended.

Ms. Seville asked for clarification of what the administrator of the Artists Roster would do given that the process should be clear enough that there would be few questions.

On the discussion, it was clarified that there would likely be many questions in the process, some related to the particulars of the process, some related to Drop Box, some related to computers in general, along with some general questions, which it was noted would take more time than the PAAC membership would be able to handle. Potential alternatives to a Drop Box process were discussed.

Katy Curl acknowledged that Ms. Seville had needed an assistant for some time, although she expressed concern that administering the Artists Roster might require more time and support than would be available given the many other tasks that needed to be addressed in the department. She recommended a process that would require less direct technical support on a daily basis. While there was no budget for an assistant, she would be asking for help in that regard in this year's budget process.

Chair Balisle commented that the problem went hand-in-hand with cities that had a percent for art program when there would be the need for help both in the beginning and throughout the duration of the project.

Committee Member Parker spoke to the year that she and the Chair had worked on the Artists Roster process, suggested what had been proposed would be the best solution, the easiest, the less expensive, and the most successful process, although staff time would be required to administer it.

#### IX. Review/Approve New Public Art in Private Development Brochure

Committee Member Kalin presented the final version of the Public Art Brochure which had undergone months of preparation and review, and recommended that the brochure be proofed again, to be sent to the Copy Center next Tuesday.

Ms. Curl stated that any changes or corrections should be communicated through Ms. Seville.

Motion by Committee Member Mehas, second by Committee Member Borg-Hillstead, and carried unanimously to approve the New Public Art in Private Development Brochure.

X. Form Subcommittee to Edit Content of City Website on RACC/PACC and Public Art

Ms. Seville referred to the content in the agenda packet that had come directly from the city website. She suggested the content was too wordy and could be shortened. She supported a subcommittee to work with her and she would work with city staff to upload recommended changes.

Committee Member Herriman volunteered to help in that regard.

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

Ms. Seville reported she would attend a meeting on February 13 for technical design review related to new projects.

Committee Member Kalin referred to live-work units that had been both approved and were under consideration by the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. She requested clarification as to whether those projects would qualify for the percent for art requirement.

On the discussion, the PAAC recommended a check-in with the artists every six months on Drop Box to make sure they were still available and receiving updates.

Chair Balisle shared the research of artists and possibilities for the Baranoff project and identified the artists, their location, specialty, and works who had placed information on the website under the Artists Roster process.

Committee Member Kalin asked what type of art work might want to be recommended and how many artists to recommend to a developer, and Committee Member Mehas suggested that no specific number should be identified yet.

Ms. Seville suggested the artists should be asked to identify their interests.

XII. Staff Report

Ms. Seville reported that the Richmond Ferry had launched on January 10, and while one of the series of sculptures had been installed prior to the launch, the remainder would be completed by spring 2019. A lighting component to the sculptures would follow. She also reported that the Community Conversations Grant was currently looking for a location and Rosalie Barnes, a Richmond Arts & Culture Commission (RACC) member had submitted a number of historic images of downtown Richmond that could be incorporated.

Ms. Seville also reported that Richmond Writes! 2019 submittals had been received, there had been a good turnout this year, and Jonathan Jordan would help in the process; the Plunge had reopened on February 1, the mural wall had been repaired in addition to the tiles in the pool; and the Neighborhood Public Art Mini-Grants had all been contracted, and while there had been an insufficient number of liaisons more RACC members were expected to be appointed and all mini-grants would soon have liaisons.

Committee Member Mehas commended the number of art projects in process throughout the city.

### XIII. Next Steps for Tasks

Committee Member Baker would send a list of the websites to be updated related to the PAAC/RACC; Committee Member Borg-Hillstead would follow someone on arts on Instagram; Committee Member Mehas would continue to attend meetings to support the art space project for the Baranoff project; Committee Member Herriman would serve on the subcommittee to edit content of the City Website on RACC/PACC and Public Art; Committee Member Kalin would keep following through on projects for new development; and Chair Balisle offered to help fine-tune the proposal for Ms. Seville's assistant and organize some research into the categories for the Baranoff project.

Ms. Seville would seek a legal opinion on whether live-work units would qualify for percent for art, and be considered commercial or residential.

### XIV. Announcements

Ms. Seville reported that Trivia Night would be held at the Richmond Museum of History on March 28 to raise funds for the restoration of the Richmond-Industrial City mural from 1941.

Chair Balisle urged members to visit the exhibit of *Art of Living Black* at the Richmond Art Center, the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for the event, with satellite exhibits at other locations in the city.

Committee Member Parker reported she would have an exhibit at the UC Botanical Garden on April 14 for *Poster Art of David Webb's Coins*.

Committee Member Kalin reported that the Baranoff project would be considered by the Planning Commission soon and she would attend as a private citizen interested in the art studio aspect of the building. She acknowledged opposition to the project, primarily related to the building and its proposed storage use.

### XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M. to the next meeting on March 12, 2019.