

Richmond Arts & Culture Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Dec. 11, 2014  
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond Room  
Richmond, CA

Present: Mehas, Ledezma, Balisle, Anderson, Maslan, Williams, Pappenheimer, Staff

Absent: Steinberg, Hicks, Chandhoke

Guest: Jeff ?

I. Call to order and welcome

II. Agenda review/approval

III. Approval of minutes: Sylvia moved, Kit seconded

IV. Old business

Officer Nomination: Sylvia won't be here next month (January). Susan moved to forward discussion to Feb; Jenny seconded; approved. Nomination discussion was moved to February's meeting.

V. Review of the Commission Liaisons for NPA Grants

Susan asked what commissioners do as liaisons. Staff gave a summary of the responsibilities and will send out the list to the commission. She stressed that members of community need to be included in the project...this is one of the components. Additional information including applications and assistance Susanna Troxler, intern from Mills College, is doing a study of NPA projects and their impact; she will interview the grant recipients and the community.

Mehas: Stressed that it's not our project, it's the applicants' project with our support. He gave a monthly update on his project. Maslan also gave a report on her project.

VI. Gateways, Measure U Funds, and Family Justice Center

- A. Gateways: Measure U will provide one of the biggest contributions for public art funding ever in Richmond. Although the spending strategy proposals still have to go before Council, there will be an estimated \$1 million available for public art at the "Gateways" to Richmond off I-80.

There will be an RFQ for each Gateway project, which will be administered by the Public Art Advisory Committee and the RACC. One way to do it is to have a selection panel for each Gateway project. The process will be under way soon after the City council vote on 1/27.

Money is being spent on public art because of the Percent for Art resolution passed in 1997. It was suggested that commissioners should go to the Council meeting. Mehas could be the spokesperson and sign up as a speaker, and commissioners could attend so they get used to seeing us. The procedure of waiting until \$300k has been spent before the funds for the Gateway public art are set aside will not be the case this time. A lump sum amount will be placed in the Public Art Fund, and spending for the Gateways will be taken from it as they proceed.

There was a recommendation that the Gateway projects be divided between PAAC and RACC. Another suggestion was to have a different artist do each Gateway. Michele will send out Gateway Beautification Report Go out and see the spaces.

Goal is for good that art becomes part of infrastructure and not just sticking art in the place. There could be suggested themes or elements. Money will be set aside for maintenance.

#### B. Family Justice Center:

This was an inactive project until recently, and the \$300k threshold was just reached in December. Staff was involved just recently, and learned that \$7,500 had been earmarked for a public art component. Staff is working with Finance and the Project Manager to clarify the exact amount being deducted for the project. The contractor was unaware of the procedures, and separately designed a water element for the building. Staff is recommending that public art be spent inside of building instead.

The commission asked how this could happen and directed Staff to invite Craig Murray, Project Manager and Vrenesia Ward, CIP Manager to the next RACC meeting.

#### V. Artist Registry.

Recommendations from sub-committee on how to have an Artists Registry function. The Registry would be a resource for Calls to Artists for public art. Jenny Balisle is spearheading the Registry, and it was suggested that she also be added to it. There could be a page on the City website, or the RACC could do a separate website. One Model is ProArt. It was suggested that one of Staff's interns could work on the Registry.

VI. Staff will give an update on the Port public art project at the next meeting.

#### VII. Year in Review

Need more commissioners, people of color, men...at least 2 people. It was an amazing year, and one full of accomplishments and new commissioners

Q: New commissioners, what made you join?

A: Maryann-12 years in Richmond, Phil started talking about RAC-maybe could help get the word out about the arts.

Jenny-f/t educator, teacher, Richmond has a lot of potential. Diversity needed. We can be better than a lot of neighboring cities.

Susan-loyal to Richmond. Grew up in Parkview. Lived in LA, appointed to commission in LA. Expected to be engaged in arts and culture...when attended first meeting, was impressed. Impressed with potential.

Staff has seen steady improvement in the arts in Richmond. Marketplace magazine wanted to interview on the NPA program. No other city is doing anything like this. RW! is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. There has been steady improvement. The RACC's work is very human work -- not glossy, but it's about the people who live here. People can get involved. Community engagement happens here.

Sylvia- people hear about it; we are busy. We spread it out. Greenway, people know about it.

Port, 6 gateways, NPA projects, jan- reception for grant recipients. Huge accomplishments. Sustain projects. KPFA coming to Richmond, QWOCMAP coming to Richmond.

Example of liaisons bringing up things to the group. Ledezma made a comment about pairing Courtney Cummings with Toody Maher in regards to the totem project for NPA.

#### VIII. Announcements

Maryann reported on Un-Rapping O'Neil...an East Bay Center for the Performing Arts performance.

Next meeting January 22, 2015