

RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 28, 2016
City Hall, 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond Conference Room

Recorder: Rosalie Barnes

Present: Denise Chandhoke, Brenda Williams, Silvia Ledezma, Amahra Hicks,
Maryann Maslan, Amahra Hicks, Consuelo Lara

Staff: Michele Seville

Guest: Roger Renn, AC5 (Contra Costa County art Commission)
Artists' Roster Presentation

Absent: Ben Steinberg, Jenny Balisle

- I. Called to order – 7:05
- II. Approve Agenda. Ledezma moved; Hicks seconded; approved
- III. Approve Minutes; postponed to next meeting
- IV. AC5 – Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County– 7:10
 - a. Jenny Balisle wanted to do an artists directory
 - i. Rather than reinvent the wheel, we will direct artists to register on the ac5 website's Artists' Roster
 - b. California Arts Council gives the main grant to ac5.org
 - i. www.Ac5.org /Arts Directory
 - ii. Arts Calendar
 1. Any arts group can access calendar
 2. Goal to have artist community to have a place to go
 - iii. Ac5 revamped the program, so now you need new passwords if you were already logged in
 - c. Zoomaru is the developer –Ac5.org is the Contra Costa Portal
 - d. Roger recommends RACC promote the Richmond Writes! poetry contest in the calendar section of their website
 - e. RACC can register as an organization and can recommend individual artists to register
 - f. In the directory, Richmond Artists can't be connected to the RACC
 - i. RACC might consider our own portal
 - ii. If we wanted a linkage and connection
 - g. Question: How many visitors to the website?
 - i. Unable to answer the question, but certain municipalities use it extensively
 - ii. Unable to estimate #'s in directory because so many avatars are outdated
 - iii. people have been away from it a while, it did crash
 - h. Question: How long has it been active?
 - i. Re-active for two years

- ii. No one had made phone calls and made the updates until Roger, in this role for one year
- i. Commission thanked Roger for the work and for sharing
- j. Roger can set up trainings- for artists

V. NPA Updates 7;35

- a. Fletcher Oakes/ Freedom's Expressions: Staff comment: This month is national re-entry month. The Re-entry Center opening was a success. May 2 the mural begins. Five formerly incarcerated clients will work with lead artist Desi Mundo of Community Regeneration Project (CRP). CRP will be paid to teach and facilitate through the NPA grant to help make the mural with formerly incarcerated people and their families.
- b. Denise Chandhoke/Senior-Youth Connections: Letter writing with elderly retirement center and with the schools. There is a mailbox set up in the classroom. Kids are receiving the letters and sending them back. One little boy was sad, his family just moved to the US. He only speaks Spanish and he wasn't getting any mail in the classroom, because all the elder center writers were English only speakers. Finally a Latina who recovered from a stroke started writing; she had been withdrawn and depressed. Now they are very excited as they communicate and connect to each other. Photos.
- c. Ben Steinberg/Fairytale: Two performances 5/14 & 15. The cast has had a lot of emotional breakthroughs in the last few weeks as they face their own triggers and trauma around the themes of the show (rape culture, dating violence.) According to the grant lead, it's been incredibly powerful, healing and transformative experience.
- d. Discussion of other projects still in development: The Scribbler Artist, a children's book project not yet started with students; I Am Richmond, a muralist who works with youth is still looking for a location.
- e. Kit Pappenheimer/6th Street Park Mosaic Medallions- Staff spoke for Kit. Project is completed. In at risk, low-income neighborhood, 145 sixth graders made medallions with local artist, Daud Abdullah to install in the fence of a community park and playground of Santa Fe Neighborhood Southside Park. Party planned for May 7: food, jumpy castle, city staff invited. Classroom books with all students designs. Lots of photos of classroom work. Neighborhood transformed by the presence of Bridge Art Space. Negative behavior transformed

- f. Staff was able to use Public Art maintenance funds to cover the delayed CDBG grant funds for the two other projects: Erick Morales/We are Richmond Mural and Friends of Harvey Milk/Digital Storyteller Project. One other grant recipient dropped out when the monies were delayed, and one has been postponed until next year.
- g. Maryann Maslan/Little Free Libraries: Cristal Banagan is a second year grant recipient. Couple of little libraries were vandalized- one was set on fire. There was a meeting with Staff, Cristal, Maryann, and Patricia Gangwer to problem solve. One burnt out, so they scraped it out they are going to replace it with a plexi-glass door. They were saying “now it looks even better!”
- h. Other groups still getting going:
 - i. Josue Hernandez (Rich City Rise) just getting started on a video and photo plan to document Richmond Bicycle community.
 - ii. QWOCMAP- will do a queer women of color film workshop in August in Richmond. Will be working with Richmond Pride.
- i. Kate Sibley/Cinco De Mayo Float: Teaching artist and volunteers built an octopus sculpture, which is the center of the float. Family participants created flowers. At Richmond High School, six adults and seven youth building the float elements including a flowering vine, giant book, owl and bridge. These floats will participate in the Cinco de Mayo Peace and Unity Parade on April 30- the bringing together of different Latino cultures.
- j. Brenda asks people to send her digital copies of promotions so that she can post to Twitter .

VI. Annual Report. Committee will meet again next week(s).

VII. Richmond Writes. Award Ceremony was a success. Estimates 250-350 people were there. Six first places; Six second places; Six third; 50 honorable mentions. Mayor gave out the awards and the kids were thrilled.

- a. The part that is most labor-intensive is building the book. When the kids send the poems in, they are hand written. So we want to get the teachers to work with us – and Consuelo has volunteered to help. The teacher said it would help if we provided a lesson a plan for the teachers. Maybe there could be one for elementary and one for secondary.
- b. Consuelo is going to talk to Washington teachers and brainstorm the ideas so that the teachers help us get the copies digital.
- c. Amahra congratulates Michele for the ‘brilliant event’. Kudos.

- d. RACC used to do teacher trainings to teach HAIKU - but not for the last few years. Teacher trainings were effective at the high school level, but not at the kid levels.
- e. Consuelo's vision is to work with the teachers and see what they would like and what would help them, a thirty-minute lesson plan or whatever they would like. Consuelo will focus on the high school teachers too.
- f. Silvia and the photographer are going to work together to do follow up with photos.
- g. Silvia comments that her quotes were lumped with others – not separated. Michele recommends: would like a new process and comments go on that form.
- h. Consuelo will meet with Michele now while the idea is still fresh and they can make plans for improvements across the board.

VIII. RACC RETREAT

- a. We have one new commissioner this year
- b. We can have a facilitator
 - i. Michele shares the bio of a potential facilitator
 - a. benefit: then Michele can participate more
 - b. Brenda would like to see alternate facilitators
 - c. Roger knows some, he can send list to Michele
- c. Michele will send a doodle for one day in June.

IX. Staff Report

- a. This week/ Public Art. BCDC has told us we can amend a pre-existing permit that the city already has.
- b. Chad Smalley, who worked for the city of Richmond in planning, has taken another job. Now working with Lina Velasco from Planning.
- c. Mayor Butt is writing a letter of support for Peace Dove project to be installed in City Hall. There will be less doves actually installed but the artist is thinking about where the others will go. Doves involved the sister city of Shimada, Japan. Sent 100 doves over and they sent them back. The connection is very strong. When they send the delegation, they are looking forward to seeing them installed.

X. Announcements

- a. Denise: met a real estate agent- who told her she'd bought a house and moved into Richmond because of the public art and beautiful murals
- b. Michele distributes Triple Play: Three Richmond Poet Laureates in Print. Draft for comments and edits.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:44