

**RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 26, 2015
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Richmond Conference Room
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Recorder: Brenda Williams

Present: Denise Chandhoke, Brenda Williams, Silvia Ledezma, Maryann Maslan, Rosalie Barnes, Jenny Balisle, Staff

Guest: Vrenesia Ward, Finance Department

Absent: Amahra Hicks, Ben Steinberg, Kit Pappenheimer, Susan Anderson

- I. Approval of Agenda Denise called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm: agenda approved.
- II. Approval of Minutes Minutes approved
- III. Presentation
 - a. Update on Family Justice Center & CIP % for Art Projects (Vrenesia Ward)
Vrenesia award discussed Family Justice Center (FJC) percent for art. \$24,666 was allocated to the Public Art Fund after actual project expenditures reached \$300k. Project costs in the amount of \$1.294 @1.5% would be less, but adjustments applied. Overall, City departments are getting better at including public art allocations in budget. Certain funds remain ineligible for inclusion of arts funding (i.e. Measure J funds). Not sure of proper use of General Capital funds which can be pass-through in nature. Family Justice Center funds were pass-through. The FJC is leased property, which is not typically subject to % for arts. Mayor Gayle McGlaughlin made this project a priority. The FJC wasn't composed of standard eligible funds. Construction started before things were in place, and the timeline was very short. The selection of artwork from NAID in the amount of \$5,420 will be paid for from the \$24,666 that is now in the Public Art Fund. The FJC is located at 24th Street near Macdonald. The surrounding area is a bit "funky" but there is an area in front that the Center wants to do a garden or sculpture.

Discussion followed on how the artwork was selected, and Staff explained that because she was brought into the process after decisions had already been made by the project manager and the contractor, the selection process did not follow standard City guidelines. The PAAC has indicated that they want City guidelines to be followed regarding the “rain chain” which had already been budgeted for and put into the plans by the contractor. This component may not be an actual “rain chain” and will entail a Call for Artists and follow the usual City selection process. The director of the FJC chose the NIAD artwork and the American Teenager photos with the help of NIAD staff. She also indicated an interest in outdoor granite-like chairs, but the PAAC indicated that this was not appropriate. The selected artwork will be site-appropriate for the Center.

Following are the minutes from the PAAC in March 2015:

The public art process has not been followed appropriately by the site project manager, and plans have gone forward for spending public art funds that do not comply with the City Ordinance. Discussion ensued about how to move forward with the process to ensure that public art is included in the project without delaying the construction timeline or adding any costs to the budget. It was suggested that the \$7,000 of public art funds already designated to purchase a pre-fabricated rain chain be reallocated to be spent on an artist-designed rain chain. In addition, the project manager has selected several pieces from NIAD to be hung in the building. PAAC has requested that before the pieces are purchased, a representative of the Family Justice Center project submit the pieces to PAAC for review and approval, thereby complying with the spirit of the Policies and Procedures, even though the process was not followed. The Family Justice Center also proposed purchasing hand-shaped chairs to be used outside the Center with remaining public art funds. The PAAC rejected this proposal as a direct violation of the “Ineligible Costs” section of the Policies and Procedures document prohibiting use of funds for “Art objects which are mass produced and of standard design”. (PAAC recommendations)

b. Presentation re NPA Proposal for Auditorium Lobby (Keiko Nelson)

Keiko Nelson made a presentation to the RACC of her Neighborhood Public Art mini-grant proposal, which is called the Peace Dove project. It consists of a series of laser-cut clear acrylic doves, several dozen of which would be hung from a fixture attached to the ceiling of the Richmond Auditorium lobby between the stairs to the right of the entry doors and the window.

Discussion about the project: there are some hanging obstacles. Shamada Sister City students will be involved in the project when they arrive in Richmond.

Nelson showed a sample of laser cut dove, and talked about plans to hang the installation in the Auditorium. She shared that a certain fascination exists towards project by all those who participate. Students are being asked to think about peace as a result of the project. RACC asked for an estimate from Keiko on installation costs. Fundraising may need to be done. Approval from City Council and approval from the Planning Department also needed. Staff will be liaison to the Planning Department.

The PAAC recommends that the RACC approve the design concept of Keiko Nelson's hanging Peace Dove Project, and the proposed location of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium Lobby between the North stairwell and windows, pending final installation funding and engineering review.

The PAAC (a sub-committee of the RACC) hears all NPA proposals first, and then makes recommendations to the RACC. One or two RACC members typically serve on PAAC.

RACC's directive to Keiko: 1) Get feedback from the Planning Department; 2) go back to PAAC; 3) come to RACC for final recommendation; 4) then Staff will schedule it for a vote by City Council.

IV. Action Items

a. Vote on PAAC Recommendation re Artwork for Family Justice Center (All) Vote on PAAC's proposal regarding the FJC; Sylvia moved, Maryann 2nd; the recommendation was approved.

b. Vote on PAAC Recommendation re NPA Proposal by Keiko Nelson (All) After Ms. Nelson's presentation, the RACC considered the following recommendation from the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC):

Vote: All in favor; no opposition

V. Old Business:

a. Artists Registry Update (Balisle)

Jenny Balisle gave an update on the Artists Registry project. Staff was informed by the City Attorney that since the RACC would not be involved in any agreements between local businesses and artists, there is no need to submit a request for legal

opinion. Balisle will continue to draft language for outreach to both businesses and artists, and will research possible participants.

Staff shared that the RACC and Richmond Main Street Initiative partnered on an “Art in Windows Project” aimed at placing artwork in the windows of empty buildings on Macdonald Avenue. Commissioner Phillip Mehas identified buildings that could participate, and outreach was done to the building owners by letter. Staff will provide all documentation re “Art in Windows” to Balisle. The biggest challenge was in contacting the owners. Discussion followed re lighting and hanging the artwork. A concept of Splash Art is involved. Let’s identify three places and get some visibility in the downtown area.

b. Reports by Commission Liaisons for NPA Projects and Review of Liaison Responsibilities (All)
Postponed

V. Announcements Staff will send out dates for retreat

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting April 23, 2015