

RICHMOND ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2017
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Richmond Conference Room
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

Attendees:

Present: Silvia Ledezma, Maryann Maslan, Jenny Balisle, Clifton Cox, Rashon Lane, Ben Steinberg, Brenda Williams

Administration: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager; Katy Curl, Library & Cultural Services Director

Guests: Erin Moody, resident; Ann Anne Koenig; and Cesar Cepeda

Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting called to order by chair Silvia Ledezma at 7:00.

Approve Agenda

Agenda moved by Maslan; 2nd by Cox; approved.

Approve Minutes

Minutes moved by Steinberg; 2nd by Lane; approved.

Presentation/Discussion: Artists' Work Space (Ann Koenig)

Ann Koenig, a Bay Area developer, is looking for help. Concept: use of history to help the local art community by providing artist workspace at the Port. Artists have been temporarily kicked out of Bridge Art Space during its renovation. Koenig was asked by Bill Lindsay to put a proposal together on what to do with/for art space. The City is offering a 15 year lease for the old Kaiser Cafeteria building on Canal. There would be 5 years of free rent in exchange for restoring the building.

Koenig already has interest from several artists in the community, plus a contractor and herself. The idea is to possibly use shipping containers – a very popular structural component in the Bay Area. The transformation of the containers would be done to code, and they would be recycled containers. They may have to petition to change the zoning, which is currently industrial. The Port owns the Kaiser Cafeteria and adjacent spaces where the containers would go.

It will cost \$100,000 to bring Bridge Art Space up to code, and they are currently in the process. \$30,000 is the proposed amount Koenig expects will cost to complete her project. She's looking at a variety of ways, but expects to create 20 studios from idle shipping containers. This would mean from 2,500 to 20,000 sq. feet of workspace for a \$500/month rental fee. Also, the overflow space at the Port could be used.

The concept needs to be packaged and presented to the City. Koenig is looking for assistance to enhance plans. Artists would not need to be residents of Richmond, however priority could be given to Richmond artists.

Action: Approve PAAC Public Art Ordinance Vote

No need to re-approve the ordinance. The Exceptions Section, noted on page 2 of the original document will be deleted. Planning Department will have to help determine how fees are collected. For the most part the content has not been changed. City Attorney will work on final clean-up and approval for a first reading before Council.

Discussion: This is a slow time in real estate currently, but hopefully this will be temporary. Once the ordinance passes, it would be beneficial to design brochure and PowerPoint to help private developers understand. Planning will benefit from this also. Highlights that could be included in brochure: examples of types of treatments to illustrate how money could be spent. A brochure will provide assistance to builders.

Action: Public Art ordinance was accepted per PAAC recommendation
Rashon Lane moved to approve; Maryann Maslan seconded; vote results were 2 abstentions and 5 approvals. The motion carried.

Discussion on RACC Community Project

RACC is working on a Creative Place-Making project that will bring two neighborhoods together for a local public art project. During current challenging times, it would benefit the community to get together to discuss what they'd like to see in the way of public art that represents them. A series of six community workshops would be held, at which artists, local businesses, and neighbors would be present.

Grants being applied for include an ECIA Grant (Chevron), and a UC Berkeley/Richmond Community Foundation Grant. The RACC/Library & Cultural Services Department would be partnering with two neighborhoods and the Richmond Museum of History. Funding is needed to do the project.

The UCB Grant is up to \$50k; the ECIA Grant is up to \$20k. The current grant sub-committee is: Rashon Lane, Rosalie Barnes, Jenny Balisle and Ben Steinberg.

Cesar Cepeda, RNCC, and involved Richmond Rainbow Pride was present and will provide a list of places or areas that could be used to paint murals. They include Richmond Parkway, Richmond High School, and the Food Emporium.

RACC Facebook Discussion

The issue came up regarding one person posting on Facebook vs anyone posting, and what is the protocol is. Jenny Balisle is the commissioner currently in charge of FB posts, so see her to submit, or send directly to Staff. A commissioner was denied posting access and requested written documentation for procedures. Staff created a list of steps for submitting postings; FB guidelines to come.

Discussion re Americans for the Arts Convention in SF

Americans for the Arts Convention in SF is in June. Scholarships are available. Those commissioners interested were Brenda, Maryann, Rashon, Silvia, Jenny and Clifton. Staff will send them the links to apply for scholarships.

Moody Public Art Project Update (Staff)

\$410,000 is eligible for public art. There was a discussion by the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) on the finished underpass project itself:

- Does anything need to be added (art) or
- Should the money be used for other locations
- PAAC recommended that the funds go to other projects since nothing else needs to be added
- Possibilities: Color, accents, art deco, lighting elements
- Add plaques honoring the original project in areas at the site
- Possible banners with history laser cut banners
- Entrance to Marina Bay, old sailing flags, just enough to tie in the entrances

Comments: Changing design if you add lights. Great if we could find a way to support the underpass. Good to have the flexibility to reach out to different parts of the community to support art in other parts of the city.

CIP Percent for Art funding goes to public art on a city owned site, not to community based public art projects.

Action/Follow-up: Staff will double check with Finance to see if the Moody funds can be re-routed to other sites. Considerations are being made to not spend all of the money at the same site.

Richmond Writes! Poetry Contest

Over 400 poems received from WCCUSD schools. Intern Jonathan Jordan, a teacher at LaVonja DeJean Middle School, is assisting Staff with the typing of the poems. There are 10 judges in teams of 2 that are working on selection of winners. The Awards Ceremony is on April 14th in City Council Chambers.

Next meeting March 23, 2017