

Richmond Arts & Culture Commission

Meeting Minutes
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond
Richmond Conference Room

Thursday, May 24, 2018

In attendance: Jenny Balisle, Rosalie Fay Barnes, Melissa Kirk, Silvia Ledezma, Nava Mizrahi, Fletcher Oakes, Ben Steinberg, Antonio Tamayo, and Florene Wiley

Absent: None

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

Guests: Tom Herriman, Demnlus Johnson, and Eve Ma

I. Welcome/Call to Order (7:00)

Chair Balisle called the meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Approve Agenda (7:01)

Motion by Mizrahi, second by Tamayo, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda moving Item XIII after Item II.

III. Comment Period

Eve Ma invited everyone to attend a June 9th film event at the Richmond Public Library on Saturday, June 16, 2018 at 3:00 P.M. The film is featuring local artist Hershell West.

Demnlus Johnson announced three different upcoming shows for the benefit of those assembled. He also referred to a residency program in New York called a Blade of Grass about artists working in partnership with the city and recommended consideration of that format for the City of Richmond.

IV. Approve Minutes for April 26, February 22, and January 25, 2018 (7:09)

Motion by Mizrahi, second by Ledezma, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018, February 22, 2018, and January 25, 2018 meetings, as submitted.

V. Presentation of Heritage Trail Project (7:11)

Demnlus Johnson described the overall goal of the Heritage Trail Project to create a coalition made up of the RACC, Historical Preservation Commission, Richmond Museum of History, and several other organizations throughout the city to obtain grants and raise funds to create self-guided tours to memorialize the experience and culture of Richmond citizens through interviews, artifacts, photos, and documents to establish exhibits based on the African American experience in Richmond. The Heritage Trail would consist of signs with photos and descriptions to highlight historic buildings, landmarks, local heroes, along with local artists to display the entire history of the City from the early 1900s to today, to increase tourism in historical and business corridors.

Steinberg noted the City had received a small grant from Berkeley to foster communications to preserve aspects of Richmond's culture threatened by gentrification, which appeared to apply to the Heritage Trail Project. He was encouraged by Mr. Johnson to become part of the coalition to help with the grant.

Michele Seville invited members to two workshops for Community Conversations, to be held in July or early August, to engage the community in artifacts that could later be represented in a mural. The Richmond Museum of History was partnering to be able to display some of those artifacts.

VI. Presentation of GroupMuse (7:24)

Tom Herriman, spoke on behalf of GroupMuse, a musical organization on the Internet founded in 2013 as a way to bring musicians and music lovers together through house concerts or classical chamber music in people's homes. Normally someone coming to a GroupMuse concert would pay \$10 each and all the money would go to musicians. GroupMuse wanted to kick off an interest in Richmond and would do that by sponsoring a large public chamber music concert, called a Massive Muse, where 50 to 100 people would come together for a musical event and by that public gathering would introduce GroupMuse to the Richmond community. He asked for a small financial contribution to be able to pay for an informal venue to allow the musicians and residents to meet one another and start the process.

Ms. Seville referred to the Neighborhood Public Art Mini Grant Program with grants from \$3,000 to \$10,000, reported there would be a call for projects in July, and encouraged Mr. Herriman to apply for a grant. Members of the RACC encouraged GroupMuse to consider an educational component to introduce both children and adults to chamber music.

VII. Presentation of Richmond Arts Connection Committee (7:36)

Wiley explained that the Richmond Arts Connection was a monthly social gathering presented by the RACC for Richmond's diverse artistic community to acknowledge, cultivate, and inspire its creative and economic contributions. She highlighted the key messages, event components, and event details, and reported that since October was

National Arts Month, the Art Connection would start on October 1, 2018, to be held in a different venue each month. Outreach would be presented each quarter, and there would be an outreach data collection to identify the performing and visual artists, individuals and organizations living and working in Richmond. No fee would be involved and all costs would be covered by donations.

The RACC expressed support for the proposal.

VIII. Update by Social Media Committee (7:48)

Chair Balisle presented an update on the Social Media Committee, and highlighted the mission and the draft social media guidelines, which Barnes had helped to edit and clarify. The edits had been sent to Ms. Seville and Tamayo. She presented the simplified/clarified draft for the RACC Social Media Committee.

Barnes confirmed the edits that had been made to the proposal written in a more positive format, and highlighted the structure of the Social Media Committee which had been patterned after that of the City's Design Review Board.

Ms. Seville reported she would get feedback from the IT Director on the latest draft. The proposal would have to be approved before it could be implemented.

The Board recommended broad goals to allow flexibility given the changing technology.

IX. Public Art Advisory Committee Update (7:59)

Chair Balisle presented an update on the last meeting of the PAAC on May 8, 2018, when the Committee had met at John Toki's studio to review the sculpture proposed for the Family Justice Center, and when the Committee had also received an update on the Public Art Policies & Procedures document and on the Public Art Roster.

It was recommended that the Richmond Art Connection make a presentation to the PAAC given the work and connections with so many artists and in consideration of upcoming events.

X. Update on Community Conversations Grant (8:07)

Ms. Seville reported that U.C. Berkeley had been successful in finding three interns and applications had been received from three young women who had backgrounds in African American history and community development, among other areas. She presented a summary of the Community Conversations project to collect cultural icons and artifacts from the Iron Triangle community and represent those icons in an exhibition at the Richmond Museum of History, with images of them to be included in a mural. In the summer of 2019, the Berkeley Art Museum would show the exhibit that was at the Richmond Art Center. There would be some partnership with the Heritage Trail Project in the two Community Conversations workshops.

On the discussion of the workshops, translators were recommended to be available given the diversity of those who lived in the Iron Triangle. While the venue had not yet been determined, the Nevin Center and the Richmond Museum of History had been proposed.

XI. Staff Report

Ms. Seville presented the staff report for May 2018, and commented that the Rancho Market Block Party had been a fantastic success in the community.

XII. Participation in Pride Event by RACC

Mizrahi presented the proposal for the fourth annual Richmond Rainbow Pride Event scheduled for June 3, 2018 at Marina Bay Park. She described the planned activities and requested that the RACC participate in the event. Members of the RACC advised that the RACC had often participated in the event.

XIII. NPA Project Review (8:33)

Tamayo presented an update on *In the Shadows* by Hector Ortiz and reported that the Richmond Post would do a story on Hector, and an announcement for casting had been picked up and shared by the Richmond Standard; each announcement involved a mini social media blast; over 3,000 impressions had been received; casting was currently being completed. The project was about DACA and immigrant parents, with a twist.

Kirk described the status of the *Rain Garden Mural* (Rebeca Garcia-Gonzalez) and reported that Garcia-Gonzalez had been working on the mural on site when the son of the property owner had stopped the work. As a result, with no contract or agreement involved, the mural would be painted on wooden panels to potentially be installed elsewhere.

Ledezma highlighted *Assemblies in the Schools* (Los Cenzontles), stated she had attended the Wilson Elementary School assembly with over a hundred children in attendance, and reported the performance had been well received by the children and the principal.

Chair Balisle stated with respect to *Painting Richmond's Wounds* (Richmond Museum of History) that Evelyn Santos of the Museum had pushed the events to June given the impacts of recent gun shootings that required the focus of her project to be retooled.

Barnes explained that Ross doing the mosaic *A Ripple of Love* (Ross Holzman) had not been able to get the turnaround needed from the elementary school and West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) rules, and was looking for locations quickly given his understanding the grant would not be extended.

Wiley stated that the *Debunking Stereotypes Mural* (Cristian Munoz) needed a wall, and while the work had proceeded by getting agreements worked out in advance, there was still a challenge given the commitment to the 23rd Street Corridor. She recommended a site survey to identify available sites for future art as well as a survey of performance venues, and other members recommended better relationships with the WCCUSD to help facilitate art placements.

Ledezma noted a recent meeting with WCCUSD Board members about art in the schools and collaboration with the RACC.

Steinberg spoke to *Leading With Love* (Cici-Gordon/RYSE Center), reported they were on track, and given the theme of love RYSE members had asked how to show love through dress and fashion, which would be a new element to explore.

XIV. Announcements (8:50)

Ms. Seville introduced Steven Robinson, who was a chaplain and counselor, and who wanted to help in a meaningful way. He was advised of the application process.

Ms. Seville reported that the Academy of Art University had a Presidential Scholarship to offer to a Richmond student interested in attending the Academy, and urged anyone who knew of potential candidates to make application for the scholarship. She also announced that the Historic Preservation Award ceremony had just occurred and she identified some of those who had received awards; identified a Richmond employee who was part of the Palestinian Youth in Refugee Camps organization who had gone to a refugee camp with his choir to sing to people in the camps; and distributed a roster of the RACC membership to members.

Mr. Robinson announced that on June 23, 2018 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Richmond Main Street would present a festival on Macdonald Avenue. He would email the flyer for the event to the membership.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.