

Richmond Arts & Culture Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond Conference Room
Richmond

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

In attendance: Jenny Balisle, Rosalie Fay Barnes, Michael Cohen, Melissa Kirk, Nava Mizrahhi, and Florene Wiley

Absent: Meighann Helene, and Joshua Horne

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager

Guests: Christy Chan, Winifred Day, Cordell Hindler, and Rob Lipton

I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Balisle called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

II. Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Mizrahhi, second by Commissioner Wiley to approve the agenda as submitted.

Ayes: Balisle, Barnes, Cohen, Kirk, Mizrahhi, and Wiley

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Helene, and Horne

III. Approve Minutes from May 28, 2019 Meeting

Commissioner Wiley requested an amendment to the bottom of Page 4 to correct the spelling of her last name.

Motion by Commissioner Cohen, second by Commissioner Mizrahhi to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting, as corrected, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Balisle, Barnes, Cohen, Kirk, and Mizrahhi

Noes: None

Abstain: Wiley

Absent: Helene, and Horne

Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager, advised that there had been no quorum for the June meeting, although given that presentations had been scheduled the meeting had moved forward. No minutes had been prepared.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

V. Presentation on “Inside Out” NPA Project and Vote on Quotes Selected for Projection

Christy Chan highlighted her project “Inside Out,” which would project statements from community members on the tower of the Community Center to give Richmond residents a voice. She explained that approximately 1,000 submissions had been received and she had culled those submissions down to 100 quotes that best represented the cross section of Richmond’s residents. Each of the 100 quotes would be projected for a few minutes at a time and would be spread out over the five nights of the project. She emphasized that those quotes chosen would be projected exactly as submitted. She identified some of the comments to the question posed online of *Why did you participate?* and explained that the primary response was that everyone deserved to speak out and be heard. The submissions had come out of four workshops held in the City at diverse locations. Everything had been available in Spanish and Chinese and about 150 quotes had been collected in Spanish. She read the 100 selected quotes at this time. Balisle had asked Ms. Chan to provide hard copies of the list of quotes to the commission, but she said she preferred to read them out loud.

Ms. Chan responded to questions and explained that the quotes would be projected from August 21 to August 25 from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M., and 25 quotes, some in Spanish, would be projected each night. There would be a community party/reception on August 24. She reported that \$70,000 of in-kind contributions had been received to make the projection happen. When asked if the contributors, including the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, would be identified on a projection, she stated that all contributors could be acknowledged at the reception on August 24.

Motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner Cohen to approve the “Inside Out” NPA project and selected quotes for projection with the caveat that the quote in Spanish (*I forgive Trump for being racist*) would be legally cleared for projection.

Ayes:	Balisle, Barnes, Cohen, Kirk, and Mizrahhi
Noes:	None
Abstain:	Wiley
Absent:	Helene, and Horne

VI. Presentation on 12th and McDonald Public Art Selection Process

Winifred Day, Fine Art by Day, speaking for Ernst Valery, one of the partners of the private developer building the 160-unit townhome project at 12th and McDonald, presented the public art component for that project, a monument to Dormitory O that had been in discussion with the Mayor over the last four years. Her intent was to create a transparent process of a situation that had not been consistent with the established protocol for public art.

Ms. Day identified the three candidates who had competed for the public art and reported that Mario Chiodo had been selected to continue on a private path that the Mayor had established for the largest portion of the project. The developer would provide the land for the sculpture but not the \$400,000 cost of the sculpture that was being funded privately. She described the other art components in the project and stated they would continue with Eugene Daub and his team to create a monument that was identified in the agenda packet. She described the project that would exceed the one percent requirement for public art. She reported that the artists had been prequalified and Eric Powell, Dana King, and Sheila Ghidini would move forward to design other larger portions of art for the site. The smaller art components throughout the development would allow opportunities for local artists and not require the public review process.

Commissioner Barnes verified with Ms. Day that there would be a substantial amount of public art at the location that would exceed the one percent requirement for public art, and once the project was approved, the developers could move forward with a 12-month build. The project was currently at the design phase and the Design Review Board would consider it at its next meeting.

Ms. Seville clarified that a summary of the actions taken by the PAAC and the RACC would be forwarded to the DRB, not for approval given that the DRB did not approve public art, but to advise of the status of the process.

Commissioner Barnes asked if the PAAC would be willing to make a recommendation of next steps in terms of policy and Chair Balisle stated that was part of the proposed Work Plan which could be further enhanced.

Ms. Day emphasized the need to take advantage of the opportunity for the public art and stated that the issue needed to be addressed sooner rather than later to keep the project on track. .

VII. Discussion on Literary Arts Program Proposal by Rob Lipton

Ms. Seville explained that Rob Lipton, one of the three City Poets Laureate, had made a presentation of a proposal to the RACC. Since the RACC had no funding for a project, Mr. Lipton would have to pursue funding from some other

source. She stated the RACC would have to discuss the proposal. Commissioner Wiley suggested the project was a good candidate for a Neighborhood Public Art (NPA) grant and any discussion at this time would be premature.

The RACC recommended that Mr. Lipton apply for an NPA grant.

VIII. Vote to Appoint Next Poet Laureate by Subcommittee or Extend Current Terms

Ms. Seville presented the Call for Poets documents, described the history of the Poet Laureate process, the application process, the selection committee, and the selection criteria. There were currently three Poets Laureate designated for Richmond. The RACC was responsible for appointing a Poet Laureate subcommittee.

Motion by Commissioner Wiley, second by Commissioner Mizrahhi to appoint the next Poet Laureate by subcommittee, to be chaired by a member of the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, and reach out to the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) to ask whether it would like to be involved with the subcommittee, carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Balisle, Barnes, Cohen, Kirk, Mizrahhi, and Wiley
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Helene, and Horne

IX. Review and Vote on Latest Work Plan Draft

Chair Balisle reported that Commissioner Barnes had brought the latest Work Plan to the RACC and comments had been provided, which comments had been included in the Work Plan. The PAAC had offered additional suggestions that had been included. She provided the complete and concise Work Plan that matched the ordinance and asked the RACC to approve the refined document.

When approved, the Chair advised that she would send an email to the City Manager to identify what had been done and to set up a meeting to submit the Work Plan, with the email copies to Katy Curl, Michele Seville, and Ben Choi, the RACC's Council Liaison, along with the City Manager's Assistant. It was recommended that Ben Choi be asked to the meeting with the City Manager.

Commissioner Barnes referred to the Executive Summary and requested the following amendments:

- Amend the first sentence of Page 2, the Executive Summary: *The Richmond Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) and Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) promote and encourage the arts and culture of Richmond.*

- Switch the second paragraph on Page 4 with the first paragraph and correct the verb tense.
- Change the all cap statement under No. 8 on Page 5 to: *Reporting Structure Recommendations:* with the next paragraph to follow.
- Remove the parentheses under Links at the end of Page 6.

Motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner Wiley to approve the latest Work Plan draft, as amended, to be shared with the City Manager and City Council Liaison Ben Choi, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Balisle, Barnes, Cohen, Kirk, Mizrahhi, and Wiley
 Noes: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: Helene, and Horne

X. NPA Reports

Chair Balisle stated that Alfonzo Leon’s project *One Richmond Unifying Community Mural*, had been delayed with the business license issue and had been extended to the next school year; Commissioner Barnes report that Tracey Mitchell’s play *Money Speaks* would be scheduled for October 18, 2019; and Commissioner Cohen’s project *Lead with Love II* had been completed.

Ms. Seville stated that Tracy Mitchell had put on a presentation at the Nevin Center, a series of videos and slides showing the rites of passage of young men all over the world, although rites of passage were missing in our culture.

Commissioner Barnes explained there was a rites of passage group based in Pt. Richmond, the Stepping Stones Project, which took kids out to do rites of passage work in nature and she would introduce Mr. Mitchell to one of the Boardmembers of that group.

Commissioner Kirk referred to Tania Pulido’s *Richmond Purple Tree Collard* project and reported that there had been a successful public event at Bridge ArtSpace on July 13.

Ms. Seville urged the RACC liaisons to be vocal if there were problems to help the NPA grantees and to make the process smoother for all involved.

Commissioner Mizrahhi urged that a workshop for how to apply for NPA grants be considered to help facilitate the process and that the process be clarified in writing.

Commissioner Wiley stated that she would be visiting the barbershops targeted by Tamara Shiloh for *Just Imagine KidZ Book Basket* to see how things were going, and do some research on the programs the project had been modeled on to potentially address some of the challenges involved.

Commissioner Mizrahi's project *Bridging the Gap* by the Seneca Family Agencies/Anna Scalano had been completed.

It was recommended that five to ten images be collected of each NPA project for reference and for the record.

XI. Report on Richmond Writes! Addendum Awards

Commissioners Mizrahi and Kirk identified the process to review the additional submittals for Richmond Writes! and noted that many were in Spanish.

Ms. Seville stated that she was currently typing up some of the poems for an Addendum to the Richmond Writes! 2019 Poetry Book and each student who sent in a poem would be sent a copy. While there would be no cash award, there would be certificates.

XII. Social Media Committee Update

Chair Balisle updated the status of the various social media outlets and described the process to identify the information and images to be included, with clear expectations.

Commissioner Wiley clarified the information that should go out on social media with the orientation for NPA grants.

XIII. Richmond Arts Salon Update

Commissioner Wiley advised that there had been no Richmond Arts Salon since the Rigger's Loft event. She recommended that November 10 be the date for the next Richmond Arts Salon, and recommended that the 2020 NPA grantees be introduced at that time with a reveal of the highlights of the 2019 NPA grantees. She would look into potential locations, suggested it should be a big deal, and agreed with the suggestion that it could be an annual event.

XIV. Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Report

Chair Balisle highlighted the last meeting of the PAAC when among other things the Public Art Brochure, which was now at the Planning Department for distribution, had been approved and an email would be sent to the Richmond-based artists that had been featured in the brochure. She verified that the

inclusion of the artists' images had been approved by the artists.

XV. Staff Report

Ms. Seville reported that the public art for the Port project opposite the Ferry Terminal would be installed this weekend after five years of development, and that an additional public art piece would be installed as part of that project. There would be a dedication on October 5. She responded to questions and explained that a video was being made of the progress of the sculpture. She also responded to the question of whether there would be promotional information on the ferries about the public art and was pursuing an article about the sculpture.

Ms. Seville stated the Community Conversations grant, which would be on the wall of the Hacienda Grill opposite the post office, was a quarter finished.

XVI. Announcements

Commissioner Mizrahi announced a musical extravaganza for the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic for low income women with cancer where tree treatments were provided.

CORDELL HINDLER, Richmond, reported that he had been identifying the four upcoming vacancies on the RACC to encourage interest in applying.

Commissioner Barnes requested the information identifying the openings on the RACC so that members could also promote the vacancies, and Ms. Seville noted that she had worked with the Mayor's office to review the applications of those who had previously applied for membership on the RACC.

Commissioner Mizrahi expressed a desire with respect to the Richmond Museum and East Bay Arts to promote accessibility, not only for the disabled, but to make areas accessible for use by the community. She also reported that Richmond Rainbow Price would have a film festival on October 12 at Bridge ArtSpace, and she would be the emcee.

Chair Balisle requested that upcoming agendas include an item for Next Steps to allow each member to identify their task prior to the next meeting.

Commissioner Cohen reported that he would be directing a new play for Season for Share for Ross Valley Play Area in Marin in April 2020.

Commissioner Barnes stated her new play would have a reading on August 19 and Central Works would be doing a stage reading at the Berkeley City Club.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M. to the next meeting on August 27, 2019.