



Stephen Seymour, District 1
VACANT (1 seat), District 1
Kimberly Gordon, District 2
Elizabeth Stone, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
VACANT (1 seat), District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
VACANT (1 seat), District 4
Victoria Magbilang, Dist. 5
Reno Anoa'i, Dist. 5

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 405, Redwood City CA 94063

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call** Chair Kimberly Gordon called the meeting to order at 3:08 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Heise, Stone, Gordon, and Hernandez Arriaga
Absent: Commissioners Seymour, Anoa'i, and Magbilang
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni
- 2. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 3. Oral Communications**
To allow the public to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time. Speakers are limited to two minutes. A speaker's slip is required.
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of January 18, 2023, regular meeting
Motion made by Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga to accept the minutes of January 18, 2023, meeting; seconded by Commissioner Heise. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
- 5. Reports**
 - A. Staff Reports**

Robin Rodricks: Director stated that she had recently sent an update of the OAC progress to all Arts Commissioners in addition to the County Supervisors and Executives. The Arts in Corrections (AIC) program is moving forward, and she is working with the Sheriff's staff. She also had a first meeting with the Beat Within and connections with the Juvenile Justice Commission. Additionally, she is working with the County Poet Laureate, Jorge Argueta, to support his readings in public throughout the County quarterly.

The Causeway Mural Project has now been fully funded thanks to Supervisor Slocum, and she is working with Chris Beth of Redwood City to develop an RFQ. The committee will meet tomorrow. The muralist for the North Fair Oaks Healthy Community Murals project, Emily Fromm, was unanimously selected by the project committee. She is from Montara and has a mural work at the San Francisco Airport terminal Museum. Commissioner Heise added that she has a very unique artistic style.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Arts Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the Board of Supervisors Office, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by e-mailing mgrimes@smcgov.org. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days notice. Please call (650)347-7865 (voice) or e-mail mgrimes@smcgov.org. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

Mara Grimes: Poetry Out Loud competition was held on February 16 via Zoom with 12 students, 6 of which were from Hillcrest, juvenile detention. She shared that working closely with the probation department and their students was a very uplifting experience for all. She noted that we had the biggest audience attendance with over 45 friends, family members, teachers, probation department employees. She thanked Commissioners Gordon and Heise and Ms. Rigoni for their help making the event so successful. She also noted that the coaches went above and beyond making sure all the students were prepared for the competition. for their help. Kate Chernykh, a junior from Woodside High School won the competition and will represent San Mateo County at the State Competition later in the month. The Arts as Life! conference was held February 1st for CA educators and their students. We have over 30 presenters in all areas of the arts. Myles Bess from KQED was the keynote speaker and a panel with Bay Area Youth Poet Laureates (including Chloe Chou of Daly City) was moderated by Santa Cara Poet Laureate Tshaka Campbell. The OAC co-hosted a workshop about Proposition 28 which will bring funds to schools to hire more art teachers with Thrive Alliance of Nonprofits on January 25. She is also working with them to co-host a workshop in April for Arts Advocacy. Lastly, she noted that she will be working with a volunteer high school student, Rohaan Iyer, a junior at Crystal Springs Uplands, who will help with the planning and execution of the Countywide Celebration of the Arts.

Jacki Rigoni: She stated that she and Supervisor Corzo are excited to be working with the Arts Commission and Office of Arts and Culture. She thanked Commissioners Stone and Gordon for their service representing District 1 and encouraged everyone to spread the word to others that might be interested in serving on the Commission. The deadline is April 21, 2023, and Supervisor Corzo wants to make the process as equitable as possible. Admin-Manager offered to post the position in the upcoming newsletter. Ms. Rigoni also noted that she had attended several poetry events including the inauguration of the new County Poet Laureate. The Director added that she was happy to talk to potential candidates. Lastly, she mentioned that she was honored to be asked to be a judge for the Poetry Out Loud Competition and was very impressed by the program.

B. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Stone: She did not have anything to add at this time.

Commissioner Heise: She continues to work on closely with the Director and the committee on the North Fair Oaks Community Mural project which has been ongoing for close to one year. The community input piece was very important to the project and once it is complete wants to share with the group. She continues to work on the Causeway project, which does not have a theme beyond, "Art for Art's Sake," and is open to all artists. It will be painted on a skin, not the wall itself. The benefits are that it can be easily installed without having to close the street and that it is long lasting. The Arts Commission is partnering with the Redwood City Arts Commission who has a lot of experience in this area. A "call for art" will go out soon as the Director has been working on a RFQ which will be available shortly. She also enjoyed being part of the Poetry Out Loud Competition as the accuracy judge and was very moved by the students, especially those that were part of the juvenile justice system, it was truly the high point.

Ms. Rigoni asked if we could provide a bit more information about the project. The Director shared that in June 2021 Mr. Callagy met with Redwood City Manager to discuss the possibility of a project to beautify the Causeway-bridge that connects the Maguire Correctional Facility to the courts in 400 County Center. He then met with Chris Beth, Redwood City's Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services to discuss the project. They were able to raise \$100,000 through a combination of resources; Mr. Callagy, CZI, Redwood City Arts Commission, and Measure K funds from Supervisor Slocum. It has been a strong collaboration with a unique team. They expect the project to be complete by late summer.

Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga: Commissioner Arriaga shared was humbled to be honored selected as "Woman of the Year" by both Senator Becker and Assemblymember Berman, noting that the awards come after a time of incredible trauma and sadness on the coast. She reiterated that art has been an incredible source of healing for all, but especially for children and elders. She explained that in the past, the City of Half Moon Bay had almost no space for public art or murals. They are working to get murals painted downtown with the first to be made by Antonio Rivera who did the artwork for the ALAS Farmworker Equity Bus. She said that the bus provided Wi-Fi, telehealth services, and a mental health room with Zoom capacity. This is a partnership with Gilead, Genentech and others to bring art and music to farmworkers. She hopes to create a mural with the victims of the shootings as many of them are very isolated and not assimilated. She mentioned that she is looking forward to having a new Arts Commissioner soon and that Poet Laureate Jorge Argueta would like to come out again to read with the community.

Commissioner Stone asked if the new community housing could also include an art-making space. Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga responded that the new housing located at 555 Kelly is focused on housing farmworkers, especially seniors. There will be community input with meeting to be scheduled soon.

Commissioner Gordon: The PJCC is hosting a Latin Jazz concert, a tribute to Larry Harlow, a Cuban-Jewish Jazz Musician on May 13, 2023. They are also hosting a community art show open to artists in all visual art disciplines, all abilities, and all ages. The submission date is May 8th, and the show will take place from July 12-September 26. On July 30th they will have a show featuring the Peninsula Symphony. Lastly, she shared that she enjoyed working on Poetry Out Loud with the Admin-Manager.

6. Discussion Items

A. Countywide Celebration of the Arts Events

The Administrator-Manager asked for some feedback about dates for the event and September 30th was chosen with October 7th as a backup. She stated that she will contact the San Mateo Parks and Recreation Department to confirm availability of the dates at Central Park. Once the dates are set, she noted that she would work with Commissioner Gordon to develop a timeline and ways the Commissioners can support the event. Future meeting can then be scheduled, and an event chair chosen.

B. Arts Advocacy: California Arts/Culture/Creativity Month (April)

The Director stated that the Californians for the Arts, the statewide advocacy organization, lobbies for legislation to support the arts. In 2018, Senator Ben Allen wrote a bill to declare April as Arts, Culture and Creativity Month (ACCM) in CA. The month-long event is an opportunity for arts and culture organizations to lobby at the local, state, and national levels for the importance of the arts.

During the pandemic, all ACCM activities were virtual, but this year will return to in-person, and the OAC Director will attend the day slated on April 18th in Sacramento to meet with local state legislators. Last year, Commissioners Gordon, Krishnan, and Stone met with legislators via Zoom, and it was very effective. The Administrator-Manager will be scheduling either in-person or online meetings locally and all are invited to attend; we will also be inviting some of our local nonprofit arts and culture leaders to attend and will promote it at our Advocacy workshop on April 1st. Commissioners Hernandez Arriaga, Gordon, and Stone said they would be interested in attending the meetings.

7. Action Item

A. Sponsorship Guidelines

The Director stated that we have created Sponsorship Guidelines and if the applicants meet the criteria as specified, the OAC would fund the event. She stated that if we do not get enough applicants, we can use the funds for the grants or other programs. The Administrator-Manager will be adding the information to the website including the application and she will include in the next OAC newsletter.

Commissioner Stone suggested that we change the guidelines to state 45 days before the event instead of 30 and to exclude current grantees.

Motion made by Commissioner Stone to accept the Sponsorship Guidelines with the two changes; seconded by Commissioner Gordon. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: May 17, 2023 – 3:00-5:00 PM