



Harini Krishnan, District 1
Stephen Seymour, District 1
Kimberly Gordon, District 2
Elizabeth Stone, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
Laura McHugh, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, Dist. 5
VACANT (1 seat), Dist. 5

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Zoom link

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair Kimberly Gordon called the meeting to order at 3:00 with roll call. Chair
In Attendance: Commissioners Gordon, Seymour, Krishnan, McHugh, Heise, Seymour, Stone, Magbilang
Absent: Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Juda Tolmasoff, Shawna Vesco
2. **Action Item** Chair
A. AB361 Remote Meeting Requirements: in keeping with the recently enacted California AB361 and Governor Newsom's suspension of Brown Act Open Meetings law, vote to approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Seymour made a motion that we approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Heise seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
3. **Agenda Amendments** Chair
4. **Oral Communications** Chair
To allow the public to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, please use the Zoom "Raise hand" feature and the Chair will recognize you at this time. Speakers are limited to two minutes. No oral communications received.
5. **Consideration of Minutes** of May 26, 2022, Regular Commission meeting and June 22, 2022, Special Commission meeting. Motion made by Commissioner McHugh to accept the May 26, 2022, and June 22, 2022, minutes and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously. Chair
6. **Reports**
 - A. **Staff Reports**

Juda Tolmasoff: She reported that on the next board agenda, either July 26 or August 2, an item will be included to formally establish the Office of Arts and Culture like the Racial Justice and Community Affairs Offices. Supervisor Slocum's office will allocate funds for the North Fair Oaks (NFO) Mural Project.

Robin Rodricks: Working on the many County public art projects, and asked if the Commissioners would be interested in hearing specific details of each project which will have separate selection committees. Commissioners that are interested should contact her. She thanked Ms. Tolmasoff for her assistance in getting the OAC on the Supervisors agenda.

Mara Grimes: She noted that she's working on a large grant to submit to CZI, the Reconnecting the Arts event partnering with Thrive Alliance of Nonprofits and the many details for the Countywide Celebration of the Arts.

Shawna Vesco: Vesco noted that we now had 650 followers on Instagram, many of which are artists which makes responses to calls for art more effective. She stated that next year is completely booked with shows

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 jtolasoff@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) 599-1005 (voice) or e-mail jtolasoff@smcgov.org. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

downstairs near the café. She is producing some smaller shows which gives flexibility to showcase more artists. The fall shows will include Recovery Happens, back from 2019, and a Disabilities Art Showcase working with the Commission of Disabilities.

B. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Seymour: 150 people attended Ruth Water's memorial held at the AZ Gallery. Jackie Speier's office presented a US flag to the family. He is looking to fund a way to fund a permanent Ruth Waters Museum. The Sansei Granddaughters show opened with an art reception on July 30, also at the AZ Gallery. He is working with the Lyon's Club and the South San Francisco and San Bruno Arts Commissions to collaborate on future projects.

Commissioner Stone: She is working with Filoli Gardens and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to include more people at their venue. She shared a slide presentation of ways to do that. She noted that one of our strategic plan goals is to reach the underserved populations and this partnership would do just that. Planning a Harvest Festival for Sukkot working with the PJCC. Also, has gotten some sponsors and has asked the OAC to match the contributions. The Director congratulated her for her continued success in securing sponsorships for her programs. She stated we could talk about funding at a later date.

Commissioner McHugh: The San Mateo County Fair was very successful with more than 100,000 attendees. There were 500 artworks displayed, 300 awards and the quality of the artwork was amazing. She has spoken to Shawna Vesco about doing a Fiber Arts show in March of 2023 in the County gallery. She attended Ruth Water's memorial even though she did not know her personally, she was an icon in the County. She is working on the development of the participatory art project for the Countywide Celebration.

Commissioner Heise: The NFO Healthy Mural Project will be launching a survey to the community as well as a call for artist on August 14 at a NFO Fair. She will be there with the Director and Kent Manske. The Causeway Mural project is looking for funding to support the \$100,000 budget.

Commissioner Krishnan: Magbilang thanked Commissioner Stone for her work with Filoli as she loves the place. She also mentioned that she would like to work on programs that involve the SMCOE and arts education.

Commissioner Magbilang: Magbilang stated that she was excited to join the Commission. She has been making the rounds and introducing herself District 5. She met with many municipal stakeholders: Colma City Manager – new public art programs including painting utility boxes, art contest to design a new logo, and retaining wall mural; Reached out to Brisbane but no response; Daly City Arts/Cultural Commission – having trouble securing funding for a war memorial mural, Comedian/Actor Joe Coy is coming to town to promote a new movie, and working on a mural at Jefferson High School students funded by Dragonfly Community Arts.

Commissioner Gordon: She visited the AZ Gallery show with her family. The PJCC is opened the "18 Archie Rand Art Show" as part of a Bay Area tour to be shown in San Francisco and the East Bay. She noted that Commissioner Sweeny has resigned from the Commission and that will have another vacancy. She was excited by all the Commissioners' work.

7. Discussion Items

A. Update on Arts Celebration Month

Chair

Commissioner Gordon thanked Mara Grimes and Commissioners for their work. The Celebration Day event has

wide range of participants.

We still need:

- More Commissioners to sign up to showcase at events on the online calendar and complete the participatory art project
- Names of Commissioners who will attend the August 27 event – all will be there
- Videographer/Photographer – Commissioner Seymour has a contact

Questions:

- Can a henna artist be included? Commissioner Krishnan stated that henna is art and Director stated that she would check with legal to make sure it is ok.
- The City of San Mateo will provide chairs and tables. We need to figure out how many we need of each.
- Do we have a green room for performers? Yes
- Do we want to consider selling drinks to make money? Consensus was no.
- Do we need to ask performers to show vaccine cards or take a Covid test? Not mandated by Dr. Morrow, the County Health Expert

- Commissioner Seymour brought up the fact that if ArtBias was going to show some of their artists' work, he would like the same opportunity for his group of 40+ artists and to show some of Ruth Water's sculptures. Commissioner Gordon suggested we have this conversation at the end of the meeting to stay on time.

B. Update and information on the Participatory Art Project

Vice Chair

Commissioner McHugh shared that at the last meeting she had asked people to send her images that could be used for the participatory art project and that she had not received any. She was inspired by Ruth Waters' memorial and wanted to use an image of Waters to honor her. She presented her project showing that the image of Waters (approved by her family) would be blown up and then cut into small pieces so that participants would write on those pieces what art means to them. It would then all be reassembled like a puzzle. Commissioner Heise suggested that we have information available to provide the context to people that are not familiar with Waters. Commissioner McHugh stated that she would create kits for the Commissioners that would include all the materials, instructions and collateral. Commissioner Gordon asked where the artwork would live after the event. It was suggested that it could travel around the County to places like the AZ Gallery, Caldwell Gallery, etc.

8. **Action Item:** Approval to sponsor East Palo Alto's Word Slam Competition in the amount of \$500 Chair

Commissioner Seymour made a motion that we approve the expenditure of \$500 to support East Palo Alto's Word Slam Competition. Commissioner McHugh seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

9. **Adjournment** Chair

Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.