



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
Edward Sweeney, District 4
Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i, Dist. 5
VACANT: District 5

County Manager's Office
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 — 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom meeting

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call** – Chair Stephen Seymour called the meeting to order at 3:03 with roll call and introduction of guests
In Attendance: Commissioners Krishnan, Seymour, Gordon, Stone, Hernandez Arriaga, McHugh, Heise, and Sweeney
Absent: Commissioners Liaiga-Anoa'i
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Shawna Vesco, Juda Tolmasoff
Guest: Anne Matthew, Commission on Disabilities
- 2. AB361 Remote Meeting Requirement – Action Item**
Review and vote on AB361 Remote Meeting Requirements: in keeping with the recently enacted California AB361 and Governor Newsom's suspension of Brown Act Open Meetings law. Commissioner Gordon moved to approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings; Commissioner McHugh seconded the motion. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.
- 3. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 4. Oral Communications**
The Director stated that this meeting was publicly posted and announced. Anne Matthew of the Commission on Disabilities was in attendance and Director asked her to give a short bio. She stated that she was a parent of an 8-year-old special needs child. Her child's situation brought to light that there were gaps in the resources need to help her child. She sits on this Commission to try to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities in all areas including housing, transportation, and education.
- 5. Consideration of Minutes** of November 17, 2021, meeting
Commissioner Sweeney asked that we correct the spelling of his name. Motion made by Commissioner Sweeney to accept the minutes with the spelling correction; seconded by Commissioner Heise. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
- 6. Reports**

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 jtomasoff@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 jtomasoff@smcgov.org. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

A. Staff Reports

- **Juda Tolmasoff:** Ms. Tolmasoff noted that most boards and commissions meet monthly for 2 hours and have subcommittee meetings that meet in between those monthly meeting. It will be hard for the Office of Arts and Culture to establish itself and get the work done while meeting every other month, as it is too long between meetings. She hopes the Commission will reconsider and return to monthly meetings to get the work done. The OAC is making inroads and she wants to see that continue.
- **Robin Rodricks:** Onboarded the new County Galleries Curator who we will meet shortly. On December 16 she convened a meeting of municipal staff of the 20 cities who work on their cities arts/culture on December 16, 2021; each of the cities gave a short description of what they were working on or have recently accomplished in addition to ideas on how they might like to work with the OAC. The municipal staff asked that we hold quarterly meetings in the future, and to create a share repository they could access for information on their work. Director attended four California Arts Council meetings and the CA for the Arts Regional (south bay) convening. She reminded the Commissioners of their Equity workshop on Jan 26, 2022 facilitated by Irma Zoepf of ZBridge; all Commissioners are welcome to attend. Numerous meetings included meetings with Poet Laureate of SMC and County Librarian; SAMCEDA; SMC Visitors Bureau; and Redwood City Chamber of Commerce. These meetings are to build to collaborations to promote the arts in our County.
- **Mara Grimes:** She attended *Arts as LIFE!* Workshop for educators on February 2; the workshop had over 25 sessions, including a panel facilitated by Aileen Cassinetto with Youth Poet Laureates from San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties. Poetry Out Loud Competition is February 7th and all Commissioners are welcome to attend. She thanked Commissioner Krishnan for offering to be the IT person for the event. She is working with SamTrans and San Mateo County Office of Education on Art Takes a Bus Ride program; she requested 4 to 5 Arts Commissioners to volunteer to judge the contest. She reported Yerba Buena Center has requested the OAC promote an “Artists Convening Grant” program to our County’s artists. The art microgrants for educators to August, funded by Dragonfly Community Art, will launch at the start of the school year; promotion of the grants will begin in May.

B. Commissioner Reports:

- **Commissioner Krishnan:** She will help with the Poetry Out Loud Competition again this year as well as be a judge for Art Takes a Bus Ride competition.
- **Commissioner Seymour:** He participated in an art show at Twin Pines in Belmont with artists Ruth Waters and Poet of San Mateo County, Aileen Cassinetto. His group in San Bruno, The Peninsula Art Foundation, received \$70,000 in funding to create two murals which also include teaching youth mural painting. Classrooms are being built at the Tanforan gallery space. He is preparing for the County Fair Arts Exhibitions which he took over from Boris Koodrin. He met with the Superintendent of San Bruno Schools and Dragonfly Community Arts for support of arts education in San Bruno schools.
- **Commissioner Gordon:** No activities to report.
- **Commissioner Stone:** No activities to report; she is working on ways to make Filoli Gardens more accessible; the Executive Director has met with Filoli, who will arrange a meeting with Filoli staff and Commissioner Stone to further develop opportunities for accessibility to Filoli.
- **Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga:** Working closely with her school district to get the arts in schools. Adelante will have a year-long rotating arts program which will include, drumming, dancing, and arts/crafts with a cultural focus. All three schools, Hatch, Farallon View and El Granada will have K-2 art programs and her organization, Ayudando Latinos a Soñar, will oversee the program.

- **Commissioner McHugh:** Attended Silicon Valley Open Studios in November. Most arts organizations on the coast have cancelled events due to Covid. She reached out to congratulate all the grantees in her district.
- **Commissioner Heise:** The North Fair Oaks project and the Causeway mural are both on hold until the public art policy is finalized.
- **Commissioner Sweeney:** Interested in the feasibility to develop an art center. The group responsible is beginning to work now and he hopes to hear a presentation.

7. Discussion Items

A. Introduction of Shawna Vesco, County Galleries

Director introduced Shawna giving a short bio of Ms. Vesco. The first show was a retrospective to retired curator, Boris Koodrin, and a small reception was held in the Caldwell Gallery. There are three exhibits up currently, all woman of color artists and all with very different styles and subject matter. She launched an Instagram account and in the first month already have 150 followers, many of which are artists. It has created a buzz and visibility for the OAC galleries. Launched the *Women's View 2022* show with a call for artists, which is getting a good response. Commissioner McHugh asked what the rest of the year looked like. Curator said that she is looking for better ways to represent the county through new artists of all ages, career levels, ethnicity and mediums to be more diverse and inclusive.

B. Presentation of State of California Form 700 by Lead County Counsel Brian Kulich

Mr. Kulich gave a presentation regarding the California Government Code Form 700 requirement. Annual submission of this form will be required of the Arts Commissioners in the near future; he will advise when the Commissioners will need to begin submit.

C. Arts Celebration and other Strategic Plan tasks

Director started the discussion by stated that strategic plan tasks have been severely impacted by Covid regarding our timeline. She stressed the need to stay focused on executing the tasks in the strategic plan, and asked each Commissioner to reevaluate the time they have available for Commission work and the tasks they are responsible, and to be prepared to update the group on the progress at the next meeting. She stated that if Commissioners had issued with time commitments, or their assigned strategic plan task, to contact her personal to discuss.

The Director reported that she held a meeting of the municipal staff for arts/culture on December 16; 10 of the 20 cities were represented. She reported that the municipalities expressed interest in the concept of the Countywide Celebration of the Arts. Commissioner Gordon who is leading the celebration was excited to here that there was interest from the cities. The Commission could potentially serve as a hub or connector to amplify the events going on in each of the cities. She suggested there could be a takeaway art project people that could be hung in a window to show participation and tie all of the events together. She recommended that the Commission form a subcommittee to discuss more. Commissioners Stone, Seymour, Krishnan, and Hernandez Arriaga said they would like to serve on this subcommittee. She also reminded us that we have a line item in the budget of \$2500 for this event. It was agreed that the subcommittee would meet on February 16, 2022 from 3:00-4:00pm on Zoom.

D. Draft County Public Art Policy

Director

The Director stated that the new County Manager is supporting more public art for the County. In the past, there was not a lot of public art and no process for the public to apply. There are lots of new County projects slated for his year and in the future, which has created the need for a transparent process for local county artists to bid on opportunities and be considered. The OAC has been asked to develop the public policy> the Director has been working with the Curator to write such a policy. They researched other public art policies and the Curator has been a big help in developing a strong and clear policy. The policy has been shared with Supervisors Groom and Slocum, in addition to other County departments including the Sheriff, Health, Library, Public Works, Parks and Rec, and Planning. It has been well received and has them thinking about ways to incorporate public art into future projects.

Although the art policy was shared with the Arts Commissioners and the Director specifically requested feedback, the Director indicated that she had not received any feedback. Commissioner Stone commented that it was well written and wanted to know the definition of a professional artist. Commissioner Sweeney stated that he would think more and email suggestions to the Director. He stated that this issue came up with the North Fair Oaks project. Commissioner Seymour stated that the policy said, "The OAC will assemble knowledgeable people" and he asked then what is the role of the Arts Commission. The Director declared that the role of the Arts Commissioners was to fulfill the goals of the strategic plan and to represent the Supervisors. She offered to extend the deadline for feedback on the draft policy to January 28, giving the Commissioners additional time.

The Director asked that the Commissioner review the strategic plan and choose tasks related to Public Art if they were interested. She reiterated that assigned strategic plan tasks can be changed, and for Commissioners contact her if they would like to change their assigned tasks. Commissioner Heise noted that some of the Commissioners had completed their tasks and might need additional tasks.

8. Action Item:

None

9. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 3:00-5:00 pm