

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

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

Absent: Meighann Helene

Staff: Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager

Guests: 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 Cohen to approve the agenda [there was no second], as submitted.

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

III. Approve Minutes from April 22, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Wiley, second by Commissioner Horne to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2019 meeting, as submitted, carried by the following vote:

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

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

V. Presentation by Richmond Poets Laureate and Discussion

Rob Lipton, Richmond, advised that he, along with Daniel Ari and Ciera-Jevae Gordon had served as Richmond's Poets Laureate for the past three years. He proposed a continual literary arts program for Richmond and suggested student workshops and collaboration with schools and RYSE; monthly readings (to potentially be co-sponsored by Poetry Flash) with readings at different levels and with the possibility readings could be scheduled at a number of venues throughout Richmond; monthly writing workshops; panel discussions; and with funding pursuing the Richmond Anthology of Poetry. He asked the RACC if it was in favor of continuing the current poets laureate or pursuing a recruitment, and/or having the current poets laureate run the proposed literary arts program.

Commissioner Barnes suggested that Mr. Lipton check out 826 Valencia as a model, noted the interest of Rigger's Wine Loft to host readings; supported a literary art program, and suggested the RACC support that type of project.

Arts & Cultural Manager Michele Seville explained, when asked, that the Richmond Poets Laureate program had been ongoing for six years; each poet laureate served a two-year period and that period would expire in July 2019.

Commissioner Wiley recommended seeking new poets laureate.

The RACC requested a summary of Mr. Lipton's vision for a literary arts program and acknowledged his offer of help to recruit new poets laureate. The RACC also thanked Mr. Lipton for his presentation and his service.

VI. Report on Richmond Writes! Poetry Omissions and Select Subcommittee

Ms. Seville reported that because of the way the last call for Richmond Writes! Poetry had been worded and given that an old email address had been used, two elementary school classes and one individual had sent poetry to the wrong email address. As a result, 76 poems had not been read or judged. Since the judges who had judged this year's poems were no longer available, she requested a RACC subcommittee to read the poems, which would be judged for first, second and third places and two honorable mentions, to be awarded with certificates. All the poems would be printed in a small book to be available by the beginning of next year and made available to the teachers and students involved.

Commissioners Kirk and Mizrahhi volunteered to read and judge the poems.

VII. Report on Work Plan Rough Draft

Chair Balisle presented the rough draft of the Work Plan for comment.

Commissioner Barnes reported that the RACC and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) had recommended actions that were in draft form. The actions had been identified in the form of goal statements with two issues identified and actions proposed, and for every action desired the problems and issues would be explained. She highlighted the six outcomes that had been described, identified a proposed timeline, requested comments, and sought the best way to move forward.

Chair Balisle recommended an executive summary attached to the Work Plan and member(s) of the PAAC to be involved in the discussion of the document.

On the discussion and Commissioner Wiley's question of the appropriateness of the term limit issue in the Work Plan, Ms. Seville explained it was necessary for the PAAC to be created by a resolution or ordinance and term limits would be a given. The RACC decided to take the issue of term limits out of the percent for art section and place it in its own category in the Work Plan.

Given the need for the RACC and PAAC to have an ability to review the document prior to submittal to the City Manager's Office, it was recommended that the RACC meet again to discuss the proposed Work Plan. As part of the discussion, Commissioner Wiley recommended that the economic development impact be identified, the issue of business licenses be raised, more money be dedicated to the arts, and the top priority be designated as approval of procedures for the One Percent for Public Art in Private Development Ordinance.

VIII. Presentation and Vote on PAAC Recommendation for Officer Moody Underpass Public Art Design

A PowerPoint presentation was provided for Masayuki Nagase's proposal for the Officer Moody Underpass public art design, which had been designed in conjunction with the Ohlone people and where the landscape plan would include edible plants for harvest. The plan was presented along with examples of Mr. Nagase's work. The estimated installation time was expected to be in the fall of 2020. The focus had been on native lore and history because the site was a shell mound. A dedication by Ohlone tribal members would be scheduled once the park had been completed and the tribal members would name the park.

Motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner Mizrahhi to approve the final design submitted by Masayuki Nagase to the PAAC for the Officer Bradley A. Moody Underpass, with an informational plaque to become a permanent part of the installation, carried by the following vote:

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

IX. NPA Reports

Chair Balisle reported that her project *“One Richmond Unifying Community Mural”* by Alfonzo Leon had been extended to October 31, 2019 because of the business license issue.

Commissioner Mizrahi read a letter from those involved with *“Bridging the Gap” Mosaic Mural & Benches* by Anna Scaiano, who had thoroughly enjoyed the process, and while Commissioner Mizrahi had been disappointed that the RACC had not been recognized as facilitating the project, it had been a big success. She added that Ms. Scaiano had expressed a desire to provide a presentation of the process at the next meeting.

Commissioner Horne reported that Antu Antinao would be teaching a five-week program for *“Son Jarocho for Richmond”* at four different locations. The first class would be held on May 28, 2019.

Commissioner Kirk advised that Tania Pulido had requested an extension for *“Richmond Purple Tree Collard.”* She would provide an update on the timeline at the next meeting. For future grants, she recommended a video of the process (before and after) by each grantee.

Commissioner Cohen reported that two performances of RYSE’s production of *“Youthtopia: In the Face of Gentrification”* had been presented on May 25. He added the RYSE production had been very successful and very well done.

Reporting on projects that had no current RACC liaison, Ms. Seville stated that Christy Chan, *“Inside Out” Visual Art Projection*, was working with the City to be able to project onto the wall adjacent to the Richmond Arts Center, and a number of stipulations were involved. She also reported that Dr. Shantina Jackson continued to work with PAL on the *“Cops & Kids Mural”* and an update would be provided this week.

X. Social Media Committee Update

Chair Balisle stated she had been posting on Instagram and had been getting positive responses, and had been doing the same thing on Facebook and Twitter.

XI. Richmond Arts Salon Update

Commissioner Wiley had no report at this time but would send out an email information report.

XII. Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Report

Chair Balisle highlighted the presentations and discussions from the last PAAC meeting on May 14, when Winifred Day had identified a public art proposal for the 12th and MacDonald multifamily project that would feature Dormitory O.

XIII. Staff Report

Ms. Seville reported that the public art for Pt. Sheridan would be presented to the City Council at its June 18, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Barnes reported on the Community Conversations Grant and advised that meetings had been held with the art and design team in Berkeley, and meetings had been scheduled for December 2, 2019 and sometime in the spring of 2020, to curate and produce a conversation about Richmond and the arts.

Chair Balisle suggested an all included fashion show in the spring.

Ms. Seville stated that John Toki's sculpture was being glazed and fired and would soon be reassembled and installed at the Family Justice Center.

XIV. RACC Pride Participation

Commissioner Mizrahi identified the concert and performers scheduled for the Richmond Pride event scheduled for June 2, 2019 at Marina Bay Park, and invited participation by RACC members who might want to help.

XV. Announcements

Commissioner Barnes reported that the Richmond Living Map (R-Map), a project shared with the East Bay Center and the Healthy Richmond Initiative as part of a ten-year plan, had just been printed. The longer term goal was to create a digital map that would connect youth and community around the arts.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, noted that the City Council had identified the fact that there were three vacancies on the RACC and he had told the Youth Council of those vacancies and encouraged the youth to apply.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. to the next meeting on June 25, 2019.