



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Mahdad Nassiri, District 1
Deepa Nair, District 2
Aileen Cassinetta, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
Josephine Deciron, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, District. 5
Reno Anoa'i, District 5

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call** Commissioner Heise called the meeting to order at 3:10 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Heise, Magbilang, Shaikh, Deciron, Cassinetta, and Nair
Absent: Commissioners Anoa'i, Hernandez Arriaga, Nassiri, and Seymour
Staff: Connie Juarez-Diroll, Mara Grimes, and Jacki Rigoni
- 2. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 3. Oral Communications**
None
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of July 19, 2023, regular meeting
Commissioner Magbilang moved that we vote on the minutes at the next meeting as there was not a quorum.
Seconded by Commissioner Deciron. Approved unanimously.
- 5. Reports**
 - A. Staff Reports**

Mara Grimes: The activities of the Office of Arts and Culture since the last meeting included:

 - The California Arts Council (CAC) awarded seven Individual Artist Fellowships Grants (emerging and established) to San Mateo County artists including Commissioner Shaik. The OAC worked closely with the other arts councils in the Central Region to promote the opportunities and review the panel recommendations. San Mateo had one of the highest number of applicants in the region.
 - County Poet Laureate event, a Children's International Poetry Festival at the Half Moon Bay Library on August 5, 2023. The event featured 6 children's authors who shared their work and engaged the families in art projects and face painting. Casa Circulo Cultural provided many of the decorations along with ALAS who also provided delicious Mexican food for the families. Over 50 families attended, and the Poet Laureate arranged to give away book bags and books to each child.
 - The annual Poetry Out Loud high-school student competition is coming up and she has started outreach to schools, teachers, and youth organizations. She received an email from the juvenile probation teacher she worked with last year and they are interested in participating again this year. She asked that the Commissioners share the opportunity with their networks and will send flyers soon.

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

- She is in conversations with the juvenile probation department about the possibility of collaborating on a mural lead by a muralist who will work with their students.

B. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Cassinetto: The Commissioner shared a written report regarding the launch of the Youth Cultural Ambassador program. Seven YCA were chosen and attended an orientation on August 12 where they shared their ideas for projects. The projects will have a social justice theme and will be presented from January – April 2024 consisting of concerts, art exhibitions, poetry workshops, and open mics. She also noted that Eva Chen, one her of her mentees and received an Emerging Individual Artist Fellowship grants from the CAC. She announced that she co-edited an anthology, *Dear Human at the Edge of Time: Poems on Climate Change in the United States* that tells stories through poetry of climate justice and resilience. The book has gotten wide attention including an endorsement from Senator Josh Becker, featured as part of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and a partnership with the American Geophysical Union.

Commissioner Deciron: She suggested that we consider creating a climate change assessment. She also stated that she has been talking with Sanchez Art Center, the mayor of Pacifica and Supervisor Mueller. She wondered if there was a directory of arts organizations for District 3. She initiated the idea of art popups in local businesses and a convening of the poets in the County.

Commissioner Heise: She advised that she has been attending the monthly ARTS RWC meetings. Also, the North Fair Oaks Healthy Community Mural will have an unveiling on October 7 from 11:30am- 1:00pm. The art is remarkable and not to be missed. The Causeway Mural Committee has selected an artist and the artwork will be adhered to the space using a vinyl wrap. Ms. Juarez-Diroll remarked that the Project Development Unit (PDU) is currently getting bids on the vinyl wrap and the surface preparation. Commissioner Heise added that she is attending DEI training from the Fine Arts Museums where she is a docent. Lastly, she noted that the Redwood city Library is hosting an event called Pathways to Equity highlighting the story of Redwood City's Equity Mural on September 27 at 6:30pm.

Commissioner Magbilang: She shared that she has been working on many mural projects in her district. The City of Colma is celebrating it's 100th anniversary and has commissioned a mural on F Street. They had a difficult time getting muralists interested but have finally chosen Julie Engleman who has become very popular in the County recently. Daly City Public Library Associates held their second annual Art and Lit Festival. They had a big crowd this year which included youth dancers from Noorani Dance, Commissioner Shaik's nonprofit. By holding the event at the Serramonte Mall, the event captured a larger audience. She attended several other arts events in her district including Daly City Hall's display and reception for one of Carlos Kookie Gonzales' murals, Happy Picasso Art Studio, and the Doelger Senior Center. She stated that Daly City will be looking for their next Youth Poet Laureate and that Hillsborough-Burlingame has a Youth Poet Laureate too.

Commissioner Shaikh: She shared that was great that her dancers could be part of Daly City Public Library Associates Art & Lit Festival. She would like to assist the Arts Commission in creating a directory of arts organizations should they decide to take this project on. She mentioned that she was attending the new Springline's silent disco. The group is a developer in Menlo park and trying to be a good neighbor by hosting fun events. She also indicated that she would like to connect with Commissioner Heise to learn more about District 4. She stated that she would like to create a collaborative opportunity for dancers and poet laureates and is very interested in the Youth Cultural Ambassador event on January 20.

6. Discussion Items

A. Overview of the recruitment process and search for Executive Director

Ms. Juarez-Diroll stated that a job description had been posted several weeks prior and that they had done extensive outreach. She went on to say that the standard time for the County's Human Resources department is 3 weeks. The County received 33 applications total, and she and Ms. Rigoni have narrowed it down to 11 excellent candidates. She indicated that she, Commissioners Heise, Seymour and Deciron, and Ms. Rigoni would be on the initial interview committee. They would be tasked with narrowing the potential candidates down to the most qualified 2-3 applicants. Ms. Rigoni added that they were all really great applications, and she is excited by this new opportunity for the Arts Commission. Ms. Juarez-Diroll informed the group that she will meet with Mr. Callagy and Supervisor Corzo for the final interviews and to decide. She hopes to have someone in the position by the end of the year. Ms. Rigoni added that the new person will bring new energy and new strengths.

B. Future of the Strategic/Work Plan and a preview of how working with a facilitator can help.

Ms. Juarez-Diroll reminded the Commissioners that the previous Director had indicated that the strategic/work plan needed to be revisited and updated. She offered to provide a professional facilitator who has worked with other County Commissions to assist with the process. She had had a conversation with her already and would like to move forward with the process but to be mindful of the new director. She suggested that the facilitator could call the Commissioners individually to get their thoughts and ideas. By taking this initial step now, we would be in a better position to start working right away once the new director is in place. She asked the Commissioners if it would be alright if the facilitator, Debbie Schecter reached out to them now. They Commissioners agreed and the Admin-Manager was asked to send their emails to connect her with them. Commissioner Shaik asked if we would update the existing plan or create a new one. Ms. Juarez-Diroll advised that this decision would be made by the Commissioners and the new director.

C. Countywide Celebration of the Arts Updates

The Admin-Manager advised that Countywide Celebration is coming along nicely. She has secured 22 diverse local performers showcasing musicians, poets, dancers, singers, and actors. Visual artwork will be displayed by Art Bias and AZ Gallery. Several groups/artists will provide art projects for children of all ages. She noted that she has had some challenges with San Mateo Parks & Recreation, but everything has been worked out. She stated that we have a wonderful and experienced emcee, stage manager, and photographer. She indicated that she had sent all of the Commissioners a schedule and assigned them jobs and times.

D. Making meetings more accessible; best times to convene

Ms. Rigoni shared that it has been brought to her attention that meeting during the day could be an equity issue. She went on to say that many of the County Commissions meet in the evenings as daytime meetings might be keeping some people from participating as they cannot get time off from work. She suggested that we think about the meeting time, frequency, and the venue. Commissioner Cassinetta recommended we consider moving the meetings to different parts of the County to accommodate more people and that she preferred evening meetings. Commissioner Magbilang added that we should consider the frequency because if you miss a meeting, there is a gap of four months between meetings. Ms. Rigoni recommended that we check the by-laws to see if there are any meeting times, frequency and venues stated.

The Admin-Manager suggested that she could create a Doodle Poll for the Commissioners which would include options for Monday-Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm, 5:00-7:00pm, and 6:00-8:00pm; 1-hour every month or 2-hours every other month; and multiple meeting places in addition to County Center.

8. Adjournment

Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: September 20, 2023 – 3:00-5:00 PM