



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
Samaruddin Stewart, District 5

County Manager's Office
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 — 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom meeting

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call** – Roll Call and meeting began at 3:02 pm.
In Attendance: Commissioners Gordon, Stone, Liaiga-Anoa'i, Sweeney, Krishnan, McHugh, Stewart and Heise
Absent: Commissioners Seymour and Hernandez Arriaga
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Juda Tolmasoff
Guest: Irma Zoepf
- 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 Sweeney made a motion that we approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'i seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
- 3. Agenda Amendments**
Director noted that the Presentation of State of California Form 700 by Brian Kulich needed to be rescheduled to the January 2022 meeting.
Action Item 8 will be added to part C to discuss scheduling meeting dates and times for 2022.
- 4. Oral Communications**
None
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of September 15, 2021, meeting
Motion made by Commissioner Heise to accept the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'i. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
- 5. Reports**
 - A. Commissioner Reports:**
 - **Commissioner Krishnan:** Attended and loved the Racial Justice Summit. She was chosen to ask a question of the panel, Arts as Agents of Change. Thanks to Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits and Thrive Alliance.

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- **Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga:** She was grateful to be included as a panelist on the Arts as Agents for Change session. She has been working on arts advocacy with the Californians for the Arts and met with 6 state legislators about supporting the arts and about the arts/artists as second responders.
- **Commissioner Gordon:** The PJCC art gallery was finally open after 18 months and featured a Polish artist.
- **Commissioner Stone:** Attended the panel on Arts as Agents for Change session, and thought it was very well done. She asked the Director about follow up on ways to increase accessibility to Filoli. Robin stated that she had spoken to Supervisor Groom and Filoli citing a big part of the problem getting with accessibility has to do with transportation as the venue is remote. They discussed the possibility of working with SamTrans to create a “Surprise Saturday” where busses would be available to take residents to various arts and culture destinations within the County.
- **Commissioner McHugh:** Reported that the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival was cancelled. The “Make It on Main Street” program has gained some traction and venues are starting to open more. The Coastal Arts League has 3 shows and Sanchez Adobe held its annual 50-50 show. She attended the Pacifica Arts League show, and it was extremely crowded.
- **Commissioner Heise:** She worked with on the Arts Commission DEI statement. The North Fair Oaks project has been meeting every 2 weeks. Murals are installed, 16 of them done by one artist. They also now have a call for artists and community input for the theme, “What is a healthy community?” The Causeway mural does not have a theme and is a celebrating of art different than most other community murals. She reported that she is a docent for the Cantor Art Museum and the Fine Arts Museum who is providing access tours, both in person and virtual, to people with limitations.
- **Commissioner Sweeny:** Attended the North Fair Oaks Community Council meetings and thought the process was interesting. The Arts Redwood City group has been circulating a Countywide survey regarding the Center for Creativity and have received over 1,000 responses so far. Attended Open Studios at Cubberley.
- **Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'i:** Celebrated Filipino New Years. Daly City has a Youth Poet Laureate. A group of Daly City residents are finding “historic gems” (mostly murals) to preserve and clean, looking for support and working with South San Francisco. Looking to increase STEAM and STEM programs. Kick off in February 2022, looking for \$2M to build it out and increase youth representation and investment. The Winter Wonderland Festival was full of culture.

B. Staff Reports

- **Robin Rodricks:** New Curator started in November and the first exhibition will be Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, a retrospective tribute to the past curator and artist, Boris Koodrin. Also, planned are exhibits featuring sculptor Libby Libior’s work in the Rotunda Gallery and Latifat Apatira’s botanical prints in the Community Gallery. More coming in January. Working with the Health Center and productive calls with SAMCEDA and The Visitor’s Bureau on future projects. Redistricting was finalized with not many changes to district lines, as results from the Census were delayed due to COVID.
- **Mara Grimes:** Focused on the grants program, 31 applicants, 13 from new organizations. There was a big divide around DEI, and we will provide a workshop in Jan. 2022 to address this. Working with SamTrans and San Mateo County Office of Education on Art Takes a Bus Ride program and would like 4-5 Arts Commissioner to be judges. Partnering with Offices of Ed for San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara for day long program for arts educators, Art as LIFE! on February 2, 2022.
- **Director reported for Juda Tolmasoff:** Please be sure to get your vaccines and boosters and encourage others to do so as well. Although the County is doing well in this area, the State numbers are rising.

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6. Action Item

A. Adoption of recommended Cultural Equity Statement

Commissioners Heise and McHugh presented the Cultural Arts Equity Statement on behalf of the ad hoc committee. They reported that they attended several sessions with Irma Zoepf of the Zbridge after presentations and discussions with Irma and Shireen Malekafzali, the County Chief Equity Officer. The group decided to move from creating a policy to a statement instead. The draft was also shared with community members and Commissioner Krishnan for their input. Commissioner Heise stated that the Commission will need to tie the statement to the Strategic Plan. It was also agreed that the statement would be added to both the Arts Commission and Office of Arts and Culture websites, shared with the Board of Supervisors and County Management, and with the community at large through our email blast and social media.

Commissioner Sweeney noted that the statement showed a new way of looking at things and was a cultural shift in thinking. Commissioner Krishnan noted that the CAC looks very closely at equity work and that this statement would be viewed favorably. Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'i stated that she takes great pride in how the Arts Commission shows up and supports the DEI works as we step forward and promote the importance of it. She appreciated the diversity of thought. Irma Zoepf admired the work and effort the team put in and suggested that we celebrate our accomplishments as pioneers in the DEI area. The Commissioners expressed thanks to her for her support and work with the Commission.

Commissioner Krishnan moved to adopt the Cultural Equity Statement; seconded by Commissioner Stone. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

B. Discussion and Approval of Recommended 2021 Grants

Director presented the recommendation of the grant awards pointing out the two options. Admin-Manager explained that the biggest factor that set the organizations apart according to the panelists was the question around equity. The organizations with lowest ratings could not articulate how equity and diversity was integrated into their work. The panel and review of the applications made it clear that we need to provide more support in this area.

Commissioner McHugh: Not all organizations had resources and the equity issue was dumped on them during Covid.

Commissioner Heise: Questioned that two of the applicants were not located in San Mateo County. Admin-Manager stated that the programs/services they provided were in San Mateo County.

Commissioner Krishnan: Glad that the Commission can fund the top 20 organizations.

Commissioner Gordan: For those organizations that need help with equity, would it be possible to help them write statements in the future? Director stated that the OAC plans to offer an equity workshop for all applicants in January 2022.

Commissioner Sweeney: Since there was a clear division in scoring from 45-40, suggested possibly funding the top 18 scoring 40 and above with \$4,500 and those scoring from 39-37, an additional 4, with \$2,250 to spread the dollars out a bit further.

Commissioner Stewart: The organizations that made the case for equity should get the higher amount, and a need to provide feedback and assistance in the future.

Commissioner Stone suggested fund the top 18 organizations with a grant in the amount of \$4,500 and organizations that ranked 19-22 with an award amount of \$2,250. Commissioner Sweeney made this motion; Commissioner Krishnan seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

C. Determination of Arts Commission meeting dates and times for 2022

Director suggested the Arts Commission returns to meeting bi-monthly, on the odd months only from 3:00-5:00 P.M. beginning in January 2022. The Commissioners agreed unanimously.

7. **Discussion Items**

A. Presentation of State of California Form 700 postponed until the January 2022 meeting

8. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:00-5:00 pm