



Harini Krishnan, District 1  
Stephen Seymour, District 1  
Kimberly Gordon, District 2  
Elizabeth Stone, District 2  
Laura McHugh, District 3  
Richard Rojo, District 3  
Jeanne Heise, District 4  
Edward Sweeney, District 4  
Pauline Fong, District 5  
Samaruddin Stewart, Dist. 5

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## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

April 17, 2020 — 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

### MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** – Commissioners Samaruddin Stewart, Pauline Fong, Jeanne Heise, Edward Sweeney, Laura McHugh, Kimberly Gordon, Stephen Seymour, Elizabeth Stone, Harini Krishnan.

Staff: Director Robin Rodricks; Legislative Aide Juda Tolmasoff

2. **Agenda Amendments** - None

3. **Oral Communications** – None

4. **Consideration of Minutes** of January 15, 2020 meeting

Commissioner Heise moved to approve; Commissioner McHugh seconded. Motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Reports** - None

6. **Action Item**

The Commissioners discussed a proposed COVID-19 relief grant program. This program would provide automatic grants to the Commission's 2019 grantees, and \$3,500 grants to new applicants. The Director anticipates approximately 13 to 18 applicants. Applicants are to be awarded grants from funds remaining in the Commission's budget for grants.

- Commissioner Krishnan agreed with the Director's proposal of continuation grants to 2019 grantees.
- Commissioner Stone was concerned with small grants, as organizations could possibly still lose their business. She was hesitant about grants for rent and utilities. She recommended grants for programming and pandemic recovery as a priority.
- Commissioner Fong recommended grant applications be evaluated on a case by case basis; Commissioner Krishnan agreed.
- Commissioner Sweeney stated that performing arts cannot do their work, and what is important is that they are able to pay rent in this current situation.

- Commissioner Fong suggested moving up bullet on COVID recovery programming to be first.
- The Commissioners agreed to be flexible with any additional funding that the Commission may receive and that it should be evenly distributed among the grantees that are given an award.

Commissioner Heise moved to approve the motion with the following changes:

- Move up the bullet on recovery programming to be first
- Add the missing sentence from the grant guidelines
- Be flexible with the distribution of any additional funds the Commission may receive.

Commissioner McHugh seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**7. Discussion Item(s)**

Commissioner Seymore reported he is working with a group in Marin to make face shields to donate to the frontline workers and is working on respirators and PPE.

Commissioner Krishnan reported she is procuring masks to donate to a Bronx hospital.

Juda Tolmasoff reported good news: by residents following stay at home orders, the County's COVID curve is going down. It has come at a cost; the County will be looking at departments for budget cuts and is hoping not to lay off staff. The County has put together a long-term work group on how to roll out back to normal; it will depend on how other states are opening as well. Three times a week the County holds an "elected officials" meeting to update them on COVID status. San Mateo County Strong has given out the first two rounds of grants through the County's core non-profits. She encouraged people to keep looking at SMC Strong for future funding opportunities for other non-profits. She reminded the Commissioners to complete the US Census and to encourage others to do so.

**8. Announcements - None**

**9. Adjournment - The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: May 2020, date/time/location to be determined**