



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
Samaruddin Stewart, Dist. 5
Vacant, District 5

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 — 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Location: ZOOM

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** – Roll Call and introduction of guests.

Present: Commissioners Stephen Seymour, Kimberly Gordon, Elizabeth Stone, Jeanne Heise, and Harini Krishnan.

Absent with notice: Commissioners Richard Rojo, Laura McHugh, and Edward Sweeney.

Staff present: Commission Director Robin Rodricks, Chief Legislative Juda Tolmasoff.

2. **Agenda Amendments**: NONE.

3. **Oral Communications**: NONE.

4. **Consideration of Minutes** of June 3, 2020 regular meeting

Moved to adopt as submitted made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Gordon; motion passes unanimously.

5. **Reports**

A. STAFF REPORTS:

Director Rodricks reported:

- \$50,000 was received from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for re-granting to the Commission's COVID-19 Relief grantees who specifically work with disproportionately-impacted populations.
- The California Arts Council application *Fellow of Color* is almost completed; the Director expresses thanks Commissioner Gordon for her assistance in drafting text for the application.
- The County is launching a new Office of Equity and Social Justice under the County Manager's Office; a landscape is being compiled and a dashboard is being created. The office should officially open in October 2020.

Juda Tolmasoff reported via the Director:

- The County Health System COVID website has been expanded to be more robust with deeper data.

- Reminded Commissioner to help inform their networks on the importance of completing the U.S. Census.

B. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- Commissioner Krishnan met with Library in support of the Americans with disabilities Act celebration.
- Commissioner Seymour reported on a new mural by Carlos “Kookie” Gonzales at the entrance to San Bruno CalTrain station; the mural supported by Supervisor Dave Pine with a \$25,000 contribution, and other funders including the San Bruno Community Foundation.
- Commissioner Stone reported that she executed a summer camp for 35 students.
- Commissioner Gordon reported assistance to the director with the California Arts Council “Fellow of Color” grant application, due July 31. If selected, the Fellow would help with implementing some of the new strategic arts/culture plan.
- Commissioner McHugh provided a written report, read by the Director: Arts organizations in District 3 seem to be restarting events (Sanchez, Coastal Arts League) with on-line talks, virtual shows and even some limited in-person openings. However, with new restrictions on sheltering being implemented this week, re-closures of in- person events are likely to be the case. Individual artists are adversely impacted by the cancellation of the 32-yr tradition of Silicon Valley Open Studios which would have been held in May, but was then potentially rescheduled to August and now cancelled. Artists are challenged to create on-line shows, classes and marketing channels. Most seem to be trying to re-engage with their creative processes and waiting it out. Mirada Art at Miramar Beach has the opportunity to have some outdoor showing and gets a lot of outside visitors walking by on weekends.
- Commissioner Stephen Seymour: Commissioner Seymour has been distributing face shields.

6 Discussion Item

A. Open discussion of next steps for Commissioners in their Strategic Plan Initiative. Each Commissioner may have up to 8 minutes to share their thoughts, ideas, and plan (if any) for their initiative, and ask for ideas or assistance.

- D1: Commissioner Krishnan provided a document outlining three areas of focus (attached) for her 6.1 initiative, “Fostering Equitable Opportunities for students to explore creativity.” Her plan was based on the San Mateo County Office of Education’s new arts/creativity strategic plan.
- D1: Commissioner Seymour reports that as schools were under SIP, and it is now Summer, his 6.2 initiative, “Foster current arts programs that are include and engage students” arts education,” is on hold.
- D2: Commissioner Stone has provided an Action Item Memo for her initiative, 4.1, to be discussed under Agenda Item 7.
- D2: Commissioner Gordon provided a preliminary proposal (attached) for her 1.4 “Annual Countywide celebration of the arts.” The proposal suggest that, due to

pandemic, the festival be conducted online, and perhaps include a DIY Art Sunday . A potential outreach-partner would be the County's neighborhood associations.

- D3: Commissioner McHugh provided a written report on her lead initiative 4.1, "Develop and approve diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and approaches." The report was read by Director and included: Commissioner McHugh strongly feels that the OF/BY/FOR/ALL model, for which she attended a California Arts Council presentation, is the most effective way for the Commission to achieve initiative 4.1," As such, she and the Director met with County Library staff who is using the OF/BY/FOR/ALL method; Commissioner McHugh said she had hoped the Commission would be able to tag on to the Library's OF/FOR/BY/ALL membership, but that does not appear feasible at this time. Her plan now is to put together a proposal to proceed with an OF/BY/FOR/ALL cohort membership. She welcomes ideas on approaching this initiative.

D3: Commissioner Rojo was not present to discuss his lead initiative, "Advocacy Tools and Training."

- D4: On behalf of Commissioner Sweeney, the Director reported that she will be virtually-meeting with Commissioner Sweeney in August to discuss potential alternative funding sources and current county funding for his initiative, 2.2.
- D4: Commissioner Heise provided an update on the COVID grants and shared ideas for potential grant categories in the new fiscal year (attached document). She will be doing further research on types of grants and best practices.
- D5: Commissioner Stewart: Commissioner's Lead initiative for public art in the new County Center building is on hold due to pandemic and a re-design of the building with a new architect. Staff will keep Commissioner Stewart apprised as to when the project moves forward.

7. **Action Item:**

A. Motion to proceed with search for funding for Arts & Civil Rights program:

There was robust discussion on Commissioner Stone's Action Item Memo for her lead initiative 2.2: *Vote to move forward with working to secure funding for Arts and Civil Rights Project.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone and seconded by Commissioner Krishnan to fund up to \$5,000 in seed funding to be matched by securing outside funding. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. **Adjournment:** 5:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED