



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Mahdad Nassiri, District 1
Deepa Nair, District 2
Aileen Cassinetto, 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

County Executive's Office
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 405, Redwood City CA 94063

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Vice Chair, Commissioner Heise called the meeting to order at 3:10 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Heise, Magbilang, Cassinetto, Nair, and Youth Commission Liaison Zhao
Absent: Commissioners Anoa'i, Hernandez Arriaga, Nassiri, Deciron, Shaikh, 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, and September 20, 2023, regular meetings.
Minutes were not considered as there was not a quorum in attendance. Will be voted on at the January 17, 2024, meeting.
5. **Reports**
 - A. **Staff Reports**
Connie Juarez-Diroll:
 - She thanked the Commissioners for their work and explained the reason for the tour of the County Galleries was due to that in the future we hope that the Commissioners will play a bigger role in the exhibitions. She noted that currently we have space to display art in the 400 County Center building, near the Executive suite, in the café downstairs and the Rotunda. Once the new building is complete there will be space in a community room and near the café. Although we have a public art policy, we need to develop a policy for County exhibitions. There was recently an issue in the city of San Mateo, and we want to avoid a situation like that. She stated that we would like the Arts Commissioners to work with the curator for future selections and also look at the possibility of community input.
 - As previously mentioned, the Arts Commission will be updating their strategic plan with the help of a consultant, Debbie Schechter. The first step is to conduct a short survey which will go out at the end of the week, and we hope to have 100% participation.
 - She updated the Commission on the search for a new Executive Director. The top 4 candidates were interviewed by Supervisor Corzo, CEO Callagy and herself and one rose to the top. They will offer the position soon and hope to have a new director in the new year.

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.

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

- Admin-Manager introduced Bethany Zhao who will serve as the Youth Commission Liaison to the Arts Commission to provide more youth voices in our work. Bethany started her own non-profit, Youth for Political Engagement, and provided an art project for children at the Countywide Celebration of the Arts in September. Bethany introduced herself and said that she is excited to work with the OAC and the Arts Commission as she wants to make sure that everyone can have access to the arts.
- The annual Poetry Out Loud high-school student competition is in full swing. She has been doing outreach to schools, the San Mateo County Office of Education, local organizations and departments working with youth. The juvenile probation teacher confirmed they will participate again this year. The competition date is set for February 8, 2024. She asked Commissioners to share the opportunity and flyers with their networks.
- In collaboration with Thrive Alliance, she is working on a workshop on December 5th titled Crafting Wellness: The Intersection of the Arts and Mental Health. The workshop will be interactive including a film from BraveMaker, dances from ZiRu Dance, and rhythm and movement by the Art of Yoga (all Arts Commission grantees.) Additionally, artist Neil Murphy will be doing some art-making with attendees and Youth Poet Ambassador Lauren Lin will recite some of her poetry addressing her own mental health issues. We have invited experts from One Life Counseling and San Mateo County Behavioral Health Services to speak on a panel with the grantees. She added that we hope that this will be the first in a series of conversations on the topics.
- She announced that she's working with a marketing and communications consultant provided at no-cost as part of the grant from CZI. Upon his recommendation she has created a calendar of arts and culture events that will be posted on the website starting in December and promoted in the December newsletter. She created a form so that people can easily list their events. We will also work on sharing the events in our newsletter and social media to support our vibrant arts ecosystem.

6. Discussion Items

A. Presentation of the status of the Center for Creativity

The Center for Creativity Steering Committee Members, Kent Manske, Susie Peyton, and Lisa Preville attended the meeting to present the completed \$70k feasibility study to the Arts Commissioners, noting that they are the first group to receive the update. They plan to meet with other key stakeholders including City leaders, County leaders, developers, and philanthropists. The arts center is now a formal "Community Benefit" as voted by the Redwood City Council in February 2022.

Kent Manske started by thanking Supervisor Slocum, CEO Mike Callagy and Commissioner Heise for their past support. He introduced himself as an artist and activist. Ms. Peyton stated that she had deep ties in the Redwood City art community as an arts advocate, member of ArtsRWC, an Art in Action docent, and past board member on the Redwood City Parks & Art Foundation. Ms. Preville said she was a researcher and resident of Redwood City.

They provided a detailed slide presentation noting the key highlights of the study and how a Center for Creativity would benefit County residents. While sharing this presentation with key stakeholder, they are also beginning to talk to them about ways to move the project forward in regard to venue and financing. Ms. Rigoni suggested they apply for Measure K funds from the County as applications are open now. Ms. Peyton and Mr. Manske stated they have had positive conversations with the CEO and Supervisor Slocum in the past and plan to meet with them again soon.

B. Viewing and discussion of Current Gallery Exhibits of the status of the Center for Creativity

The Commissioners and Admin-Manager viewed the current exhibitions. They made notes about what they noticed and plan to discuss at a future meeting.

C. Revising meeting structure, reporting, and engaging with the OAC staff/programs

The Commissioners suggested that we postpone this discussion until the January 17, 2024, as there was not a quorum in attendance.

D. Making meetings more accessible; best times to convene

The Commissioners suggested that we postpone this discussion until the January 17, 2024, as there was not a quorum in attendance.

8. **Adjournment**

Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:54 pm

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: January 17, 2024 – 3:00-5:00 PM

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