



City Council Chambers
Vallejo City Hall
555 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
www.cityofvallejo.net

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON CULTURE & THE ARTS REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M. July 28, 2025

CHAIR
Daniel Weiss
COMMISSIONERS
Dalia Vidor (Vice Chair)
Trevor Allen
Andrea Hernandez
Margaret Miller
Chris Thorson

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Daniel Weis, Vice Chair Dalia Vidor, Commissioners Trevor Allen, Margaret Miller, Chris Thorson

Absent: Commissioner Andrea Hernandez

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Councilmember Matias reported on City Council items priorities, public safety programming, safe passage to school program, negotiations with Sheriff's Office, monitoring the progression of the cultural district application, interviews for Commission appointments, talking with funders of the arts
- B. Commission Secretary Report – Staff reported that Doug Darling is interested in making a presentation at the September meeting.

6. **PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENDATIONS**

None.

7. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

Sarah Wright, Chair of Beautification Commission, thanked Commission and Sister City for participation on the placement of the Onigawara.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Allen moved, and Vice Chair Vidor seconded to approve July 28, 2025, agenda. Approved 5-0.

- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Weiss moved, and Commissioner Thorson seconded to accept the minutes from June 23, 2025, regular meeting. Approved 5-0.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. BLACK LIVES MATTER MURAL PROPOSAL

Askari Sowonde showed a presentation of the first Black Lives Matter Mural on Santa Clara Street, showed examples of types of murals that can be on walls and possible locations. Discussion followed.

Chair Weiss moved and Commissioner Allen seconded to approve the concept of a Black Lives Matter mural to be put on city property, designed by the youth of Vallejo to be brought back at the design stage. Approved 5-0. Chair Weiss suggested that the Commission on the Culture & the Arts work with the Beautification Commission to identify more spots for murals. Staff recommended a joint meeting be held in the Fall. Councilmember Matias reported that the Economic Development Commission identified scooping an art event as part of their work plan.

B. PLACEMENT OF THE ONIGAWARA

Erik Rzomp, staff to the Sister City Commission and Executive Assistant to Mayor Sorce, provided background of the Onigawara, a gift from Sister City Akashi. Piece of art was vandalized and Japanese Garden where the sculpture was located was in disrepair. Sculpture was refurbished by a local artist and garden landscaped. Decision is to identify where to place the refurbished Onigawara either back outside in the Japanese Garden or indoors at a location to be determined. Discussion followed.

Public comments by Pelton Stewart, Rick Weyrech, Jerry Downs and Jean Cherie.

Questions and discussion by Commissioners. Chair Weiss moved and Vice Chair Vidor seconded to place the Onigawara outside to proximity where previously located with additional lighting on a tall pedestal, taller height than previously. Approved 5-0

C. CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL CULTURAL DISTRICTS GRANT PROGRAM

Carmen Slack, Christina Walkup, TJ Walkup, Solano County Arts Council, provided an update on what progress made to complete the application, due August 7th and history of the arts and culture in Vallejo. Questions and discussion.

Chair Weiss moved and Commissioner Thorson seconded to recommend that the Arts and Entertainment District outlined in the Downtown Specific Plan be used as the boundaries for the Culture Arts District with the option of expanding the district later and recommend that the City Manager give directions to the Planning and Development Services Director to sign the letter regarding land use. Approved 5-0

D. MEASURE P FUNDING REQUEST

Chair Weiss reported that he and Commissioners Hernandez and Thorson, Measure P Ad-Hoc Subcommittee met and thought they would make the presentation at that the August Measure P Oversight meeting, which was cancelled. Staff reported that a date

for a September Measure P Oversight meeting had not yet been selected and that City staff makes the presentations to the Commission and City Council, with Commissioners' assistance. Commissioner Thorson presented the draft proposal which addresses two of Vallejo's compelling needs, safety streets, intersection and crosswalks; and educational and leadership opportunity for Vallejo youth. Suggestion to add a pilot program to the proposal. The draft budget was discussed.

Public comments by Melvin Cowan, Founder of Enough Housing.

Vice Chair Vidor moved, and Commissioner Allen seconded to present the proposal as drafted with the addition that this is a pilot project. Approved 5-0.

E. GOAL SETTING/WORK PLAN

Staff request the Commissioners provide necessary information to complete the work plan. Continue item to September meeting.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Inventory/Storage Policy of Artwork – Add to September agenda.
Artists Registry – Keep

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Allen announced the exhibits at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum
Vidor announced Shakespeare in the Park tour ending at Vino Godfather Winery on
August 15th and 16th .

Next meeting scheduled for September 22, 2025

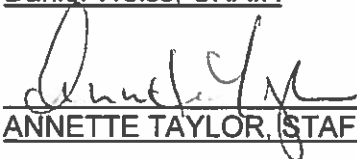
13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Chair Weiss at 8:49 pm

ATTESTED:



Daniel Weiss, CHAIR



ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON