



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. – 8:00 P.M. February 28, 2022

CHAIR
Dalia Vidor
COMMISSIONERS
Trevor Allen, Vice Chair
Stacey Loew
Kathy Cook
Askari Sowonde
Andrea Hernandez
Rochelle Del Rosario

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Dalia Vidor, Chair, Vice Chair Trevor Allen, Commissioners Kathy Cook, Stacey Loew, Andrea Hernandez, Rochelle Del Rosario

Absent: Commissioner Askari Sowonde

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. City Council Liaison Report – Welcomed and congratulated Commissioner Del Rosario on her appointment and Commissioners Allen and Sowonde on their reappointment.
- B. Commission Liaison Report – Welcomed and congratulated Commissioner Del Rosario on her appointment and Commissioners Allen and Sowonde on their reappointment.

Commissioner Del Rosario was asked to tell the Commissioner about herself.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Laura Pyles, President, Vallejo Choral Society (VCS), gave an overview of the Vallejo Choral Society and the project. VCS is in its 104th year, season runs September to May; produce three programs and perform six concerts annually; has 35 active members from Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield and American Canyon. Its mission is to foster a vibrant and diverse interactive choral community, including the people of Vallejo. Due to timing, their project changed and funds were used to support activities this Fall for live in person concerts. Produced and performed free concert in Vallejo on December 12, 2021; approximately 140 in attendance. Grant proceeds supported an artistic director and collaborative pianist, rehearsal venue, concert venue, instrumentalists (harp, organ) and printing. Title of program was “An English Christmas”, first live concert performance in more than 20 months. Next event, Songs of Flight Concert and Gala, March 6, 2022, 2:00 pm.

- B. Edgar Arturo Camacho, El Comalito Collective, gave an overview of the El Comalito Collective project. The Collective is an art gallery and community space that showcases underrepresented artists through a variety of media that sparks consciousness. Their mission is to create networks that build support and foster opportunities for marginalized voices through works that explore the intersections of, but not limited to, race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and gender, through a decolonial lens. Grant proceeds used for three exhibitions, 53 family friendly painting workshops in English and Spanish, 10 artists talk collaborations, and 5 guest artist facilitations. Exhibitions were done virtually, solo exhibition done through Zoom with 50 in attendance; 500 in attendance for other exhibits done in two parts; a combined 38 artists exhibited. They made the cover of Carquinez magazine and was nominated to be community heroes for teaching free online art classes on KRON4 Heroes. Funds were used for art materials, including donating materials to families who couldn't afford them; equipment (GoPro, Ring lights, Tech Arm, etc.), facilitation stipends for guest facilitator, website, virtual gallery, design programs, high speed internet, livestream service, etc.; facilitation/operation costs.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM

None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Vidor asked that the agenda be rearranged placing the election of Chair and Vice Chair to the end of the agenda. Vidor moved and Vice Chair Allen seconded to move Item 9A, Election of Chair and Vice Chair to end of the agenda. Approved unanimously, 6-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

Commissioner Hernandez moved and Vice Chair Allen seconded to approve the February 28, 2022 agenda. Approved unanimously, 6-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Allen moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to accept the minutes from the January 24, 2022 meeting. Approved unanimously, 6-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Renay provided written report; attached to the agenda packet. Commissioners asked if VCAF will send a final report and if the Commission should survey the 2021 grantees.

Information only.

B. Long Term Arts Funding Policy Update

Staff reported that Felicia Escover, Assistant to the City Manager, has taken another position outside of the City of Vallejo and will no longer be working on this policy. Felicia's duties will be assigned to someone else. Discussion followed on funding goals; not just one goal, proposing many different funding streams. Look at what's realistic, not have to go to voters for a vote, move policy forward as soon as possible.

Item continued to March meeting for staffing update.

C. Grants Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Vidor reported that the ad-hoc committee met with the representative from the California Consultants, and city staff; reviewed list of grants. Asked consultant to look into grant for Economic Development Administration ARPA funds for travel, tourism and outdoor recreation to fund festivals and art walk; look into how it will work out to apply for ARPA funds for tourism to support culture events; other grants for Commission to review at a later date; granting cycle, matching funds. Also requested looking for grants for public art projects, purchases and opportunity to provide funding for sub grants.

D. Artists Directory

Chair Vidor mentioned as pointed out by Felicia Escover, other cities have artists' registry and not artist directory, onus on the artists to put themselves on the list. No need to build a directory, build a registry. Discussion followed on how to proceed; should it be connected to the events; create an ad hoc committee, do artists need to be vetted; suggest reaching out to Gretchen Zimmerman.

Item continued to March meeting; invite Gretchen Zimmerman.

E. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Staff read some of the requirements to utilize ARPA funds, more restrictive than using General Funds. May need to restructure how grants are given out and who may administer the grants. Asked if ARPA funds be swapped for General Funds and can the City Council allocate additional funding from General Funds for culture and the arts.

Item continued to March meeting.

F. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Cook nominated and Commissioner Allen seconded Commissioner Hernandez as Chair. There were no other nominations. Approved unanimously, 6-0; Commissioner Sowonde absent

Commissioner Hernandez nominated and Commissioner Loew seconded Commissioner Cook as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Approved unanimously, 6-0; Commissioner Sowonde absent

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Art in storage on Mare Island – Tentatively schedule in April or May
- Retreat and goal setting – Waiting for report to be presented to City Council
- Waterfront Park – Project moving forward
- Highlighting artists in the Vallejo Weekly – April agenda

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Due to time, Commissioners were asked to send their announcements to staff

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: March 28, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:03 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Dalia Vidor

DALIA VIDOR, CHAIR

Annette Taylor

ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON

Report for Commission on Culture and the Arts for February 28, 2022 Meeting

Bay Area Stage Theater – First payment of \$1,219.00 received – Extension requested and granted for completion of project. **Will complete project at end of February and present to the Commission in March.**

Solano Chapter of Links – Received \$2,500 will possibly complete project in March of 2022

El Comalito Collective Received 1st payment of \$2,500 – **presenting a report this evening**

SheRoes – Completed

Kids-n-Film – Completed

Shakespeare in the Park - Completed

Solano Aids Coalition – Completed

Vallejo Choral Society – **Presenting a report this evening**

Vallejo Symphony Orchestra – Completed

Naval Historical Museum – Completed

Shakespeare in the Park – Completed

Vallejo Teaching Artists – Completed

Filipino American Historical Society – Completed

Vallejo Community Arts Foundation – Completed

Filipino Community of Solano County – Pisa Sa Nayon - Completed

Olivia Fabrizio – Requested extension for her project. **It will be completed in the Spring (April) She received her first payment of \$2,500.**