



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. March 28, 2022

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:02 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioner Dalia Vidor

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. City Council Liaison Report – Reported that her report will discussed later under ARPA funding. Welcome to commissioners.
- B. Commission Liaison Report – Reported that main topic will be on ARPA funds.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Stacey Loew, Bay Area Stage Company, gave an overview of the Bay Area Stage (BAS), a non-profit that's been in existence for 14 years, started in 2009 with Stacey Loew and Jeff Lowe; produced over 54 musicals, dramas, comedies and music show cases, frequently utilize children in shows; in 2014 started the Bay Area Stage Junior theater workshop. Normally produce 2 Junior Theatre workshops a year, one in the Summer and the other in the Winter, normally musicals, due to COVID in 2020 replaced musicals with straight plays that have smaller casts and without singing and dancing. Originally planned to have 2 workshops, plans changed due to low number of children auditioning, had to cast 3 adults and voice over to make workshop continue. First workshop from August 8, 2021 through September 16, 2021, 6 weeks course with performances September 17th, 18th, and 19th 2021. BAS keeps children workshop affordable by staff doing the bulk of the work; hired outside contractors for Keeper of the Tales due to Stacey and Jeff being in workshop; BAS never turns away children due to parents lacking funds, grant money helped by waiving six of the eight tuition fees. Help Us, Mr. Holmes was the second production, postponed by one week due to one of the students affected COVID; both workshops were successes with full houses. BAS Junior actors are working on the adult production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" slated to open in May 2022. Shared how art of theatre benefit children.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM

Rick Weyrich, resident artist of Temple Art Lofts, provided information regarding use of the gallery space of the Temple Art Lofts for Open Studios and 2nd Friday Art Walk; was advised by manager that a drug rehabilitation company is trying to secure a lease for the gallery space; residents of building concerned; investigating what the building is zoned for.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Loew seconded to approve the March 28, 2022 agenda. Approved unanimously, 6-0, Commissioner Vidor absent.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Cook moved and Commissioner Del Rosario seconded to accept the minutes from the February 28, 2022 meeting. Approved unanimously, 6-0, Commissioner Vidor absent.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Renay provided that the only remaining awardees who have not presented are Olivia Fabrizio and the Solano County Links. Have not completed projects, may complete this month.

Information only.

B. Long Term Arts Funding Policy Update

Staff reported that the City Manager's Office has not assigned anyone yet; on hold until further notice. Questions regarding delays of moving this forward; mentioned North Mare Island \$3 million purchase of land, city missing out due to not having a policy for long term funding for the arts. Vice Chair Verder-Aliga said there is a community benefit to the North Mare Island agreement. Will provide details to the Commission.

Item continued to April meeting.

C. Public Art Policy

City Attorney's Office continues to work on the policy.

Item continued to April meeting.

D. Grants Ad Hoc Committee

Vice Chair Cook reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee is in the process of sorting ARPA funds and General funds allocations. Will continue to review other grant opportunities. Commissioner Allen asked if the Ad-Hoc Committee work directly with

the Grant Consultant. Staff will check with the City Manager Office if the Ad-Hoc Committee finds grants that they would like to pursue.

E. Artists Registry

Gretchen Zimmerman provided information on the Vallejo Arts Alliance; she was responsible for the website, morphed into the arts and entertainment calendar; one of the things they wanted to do was an artist directory; taken off line due to information being outdated; takes time to get information from artists, takes follow up. Chair Hernandez asked if the Commission wants to pursue having a registry and who wants to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee. Commissioner Del Rosario, Commissioner Loew volunteered to be on Ad Hoc Committee with Commissioner Allen and Gretchen Zimmerman volunteering to be a resource.

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Sowonde seconded to form an Ad-Hoc Committee to work on Artist Registry. Approved unanimously 6-0 with Commissioner Vidor absent.

F. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Vice Mayor Verder-Aliga reported that she followed up with the Commission's questions regarding if ARPA funds be swapped for General Funds and can the City Council allocate additional funding from General Funds for culture and the arts. Both require an action by the City Council; the additional General Funds requested will be discussed at the budget meeting for the new fiscal year. Vice Mayor will request additional funding for the Commission on Culture and the Arts.

Discussion followed regarding establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee and including Solano County Arts Council (SCAC) as a possible administrator of the ARPA funds along with VCAF. Commissioner Sowonde, Chair Hernandez, Commissioner Allen volunteered for the Ad-Hoc Committee. Commissioner Sowonde will contact Carmen at SCAC to find out if she is interested. The Ad-Hoc Committee will meet to interview VCAF and SCAC to make a recommendation to the full Commission to make a recommendation to the City Manager. It was discussed if small businesses could be included with non-profits. Discussed that ARPA funds are not for programming, for operational expenses, personnel, rent, insurance, etc.; the administrator will assist with filling out the applications and technical assistance.

Commissioner Allen moved and Chair Hernandez seconded that the ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee consists of Chair Hernandez, Commissioners Sowonde and Allen. Approved unanimously 6-0 with Commissioner Vidor absent.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Art in storage on Mare Island
 - Staff discussed having the Commission hold a special meeting to review the arts in storage or have Commissioners meet in groups of less than three to

accommodate the Commissioners schedule. First step is for Commissioners find out what's in storage, then discuss next steps.

- Retreat and goal setting – City Council held its goal setting meeting on April 11, 2022. Economic Development top priority.
- Waterfront Park – Project moving forward
- Vocational School of the Arts – Discussion in May

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Vice Chair Cook announced that April is National Gardening Month, Mira Theatre Guild having a free plant exchange on April 24th
- Commissioner Allen announced that the Vallejo Garden Tour that benefits the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum is happening on May 15th

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: April 28, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:01 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Andrea Hernandez

Andrea Hernandez, CHAIR

Annette Taylor

ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON