



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. June 27, 2022

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. City Council Liaison Report – Reported that fiscal year is ending on June 30th, new start, new funding.
- B. Commission Liaison Report – No report, comments to address agenda items.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Certificates for Capital Street Stairs Working Group – Vice Mayor Verder-Aliga presented Certificates of Appreciation to members of the Capital Street Work Group. Members are Mike Brigandi, BJ Conrad, Robin Gross, Dragana Monson, Maureen Moore, Ken Mullen, Sarah Nichols, Dalia Vidor.
- B. Lynette Henley – No presentation.
- C. Olivia Fabrizio, Individual CAC Grant Recipient, gave an overview of her project of creating animal sculptures out of waste and plastic; picked five animals that are special to area and recreated them out of waste sourced from Vallejo. Animals include Giant California garner snake, egret, scope changed as they were collecting trash; setbacks included finding property to place sculptures and not having waste pick up on sites that don't have Recology contracts, onsite trash disposal was not legal; concept of trash cans worked into the sculptures was part of the beginning but not legal to do at this point. Sculptures are about 85% completed, thought had until end of August. Fabrizio responded to questions and comments by Commissioners; says she cannot meet the June deadline nor July 31st deadline if extended.

6. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Loew seconded to approve the June 27, 2022 agenda. Approved unanimously, 7-0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Vidor moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to accept the minutes from the May 23, 2022 meeting correcting the spelling of Ferlinghetti. Approved unanimously, 7-0.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Renay provided a written report read by staff. Staff gave an update on conversation she had with Solano County Links, Inc. representative.

Information only.

B. Long Term Arts Funding Policy Update

Staff reported that there are no actions to report. Comments by Commission.

Item continued.

C. Public Art Policy

Staff reported that there are no actions to report.

Item continued.

D. Grants Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Cook reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee met with city staff and grant consultant, California Consulting, to discuss the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant; matching one-to-one grant, apply as local arts agency which allows to sub grant, \$10,000 to \$150,000, falls under the benchmark for consultant assistance, city will work directly with Commission, target February 2023 grant portal window; Ad-Hoc Committee meet now and Fall to identify a number of possible projects; present to City in December, receiving funding for projects in January 2024. ARPA funds cannot be used as matching funds; other departments may apply for grants. Ad-Hoc Committee may meet again in August. Ask Finance if there are matching funds that may be used. There are large grants that Commission may apply. Question if there is there a mechanism to have the public donate funds for the art.

Chair Hernandez moved and Commissioner and Commissioner Cook seconded that the Ad-Hoc Committee proceed with the NEA grant. Approved unanimously 7-0.

E. Artists Registry

Commissioner Del Rosario reported the Ad-Hoc Committee is doing a phase report and is still in discovery stage as to what others are doing; need to meet with artists as to what they would like to see as part of registry; talk with team that started gathering information; important work.

F. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Staff reported that she met with the ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee and Carmen Slack, Solano County Arts Council (SCAC) to review draft agreement and make comments; Carmen is working on attachments that will go with the agreement. Staff responded to questions by the Commission.

Information only.

G. Highlighting Artists in the Vallejo Weekly

Staff provided the list of names received by the Commissioners. Vice Chair Cook she felt that the procedures are still in flux; talked about a lottery to pull names decide the best way to move forward create a procedure in the first launch; integrate into the artists' registry and be an incentive; reach out to artists on list, request a bio from them and photos representing their works of art or work being done in the community; discussed if the article/page have a name; discussed formatting, how many artists to feature at a time. Commissioners to provide suggested name of column to staff prior to next month's meeting; tentatively start in August. Commissioner Sowonde added her two names to the list.

Decided to move forward with procedure, may edit as needed.

H. Vocational School of the Arts

Commissioner Sowonde reported that she has been working to bring a vocational school of the arts to Vallejo; combine with vocational and credited; vocational along with the arts; concentrate on those who do not want to go to college; will visit Oakland School of the Arts, San Francisco and Antioch; presented the need in Vallejo, named some of the committee members who are involved, involve SBA and others; different courses offered. Responded to questions and comments by Commission.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Art in storage on Mare Island
Staff handed out schedule of times Commissioners selected; added Commissioner Sowonde's date. Will contact PW.
- Retreat and goal setting – City Council to review goals in July.

- Waterfront Park – No update. Discussion of what involvement the Commission may have.

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Allen announced on July 2nd at 5:30 Vallejo Naval Museum, Commissioner Sowonde is curator; July 31st on Mare Island
- Commissioner Loew announced that Cat on a Hot Tin Roof August 5th – 21st; manning beer tent for 4th of July
- Commissioner Vidor announced that “Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park will be performing Much Ado About Nothing at Hanns Park July 30th and 31st at 4 pm. Bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy free show. Lost an actor and are looking to replace Antonio. If anyone interested in auditioning they should contact vallejoshakespeare@gmail.com
- Commissioner Cook, Pride Month

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: June 27, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:06 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Andrea Hernandez

Andrea Hernandez, CHAIR

Annette Taylor

ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON