



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. July 25, 2022

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 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 she inquired about the ARPA funding that funds do not expire; requested another \$100,000 either from General Funds or ARPA funds; was told General Funds not available at this time. Responded to questions. There is a request to the City Council for matching funds for grants since ARPA funds cannot be used for that purpose.
- B. Commission Liaison Report – Reported on the City Council goals FY 2022-23; goals are economic development; strategy, youth programming, affordable housing plan, and police reform.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Lynette Henley – Solano County Links, LLC gave a background of the organization and an overview of project. Grant was used to infuse minority students in Vallejo Unified School District in two classrooms with poetry and the gateway that poetry allows students to explore their feelings, emotions, and things they are interested in through poetry and spoken word. Did a six-week course with two classrooms at Hogan Middle School with six graders and class at Solano Middle School/Widenmann Academy. Vallejo's first poetic laureate and former member of the State Board of Education spoke with the students during five of the six week course. Students had opportunity to begin first draft during the time the guest visitors were there. Having hard backs of the books published along with artwork; using company that works with schools to publish the literary work and artwork; take 20 days, back in August; present to the Commission, JFK and Springstowne Library, and library at each of the schools. Ms. Henley responded to questions. 60 students participated; make up of students were African American, Latino, Asian, Filipino,

Korean and Vietnamese. Questions regarding students making presentation were answered.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM

None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Loew seconded to approve the July 25, 2022 agenda. Approved unanimously, 7-0.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cook moved and Commissioner Vidor seconded to accept the minutes from the June 27, 2022 meeting. Approved unanimously, 7-0.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Staff gave an overview of the two outstanding grants. Olivia Fabrizio's project changed from original submittal, did not contact Renay Conlin to discuss change. There were questions to Ms. Fabrizio regarding where the structures were to be installed, when the decision to change the scope of the project, and when the structures would be completed.

Commissioners discussed the Solano County Link's projects. Recommended that the deadline be extended to August 15th and fund the project. Commissioners discussed the Olivia Fabrizio's project. After the discussion, Ms. Fabrizio decided to not go forward with the grant; not able to have sculptures placed by August 15th.

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 will meet in August and report further recommendations in September, NEA matching grant. Current grant called the California Nonprofits Performing Arts grant issued by the State of

California and administered by the California Office of Small Business Advocacy; simple application; various amounts, no timeline on disbursement of funds, \$45 million to distribute; website: canonprofitperformingarts.com.

E. Artists Registry

Commissioner Loew reported on her visit to the Mare Island Artists fundraising event to get information from artists for the new artist registry. Gretchen Zimmermann offered to assist with the registry. Commissioner Del Rosario said they are doing research as to what other cities are doing. Ms. Zimmerman offered to help with survey.

F. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Staff reported that the contract was signed by Solano County Arts Council and is being routed for city signatures. Once contract is executed, Ms. Slack will start marketing the program. Funds are secured for the program. Will provide information to Ad Hoc Committee.

G. Highlighting Artists in the Vallejo Weekly

Vice Chair Cook reported that the schedule would be one artist/artwork per week, starting in August. There are 22 remaining issues of the Vallejo Weekly for the rest of the year. Asked which artists have submitted their information and decide what to call the column. Staff reported that Commissioners Vidor and Sowonde had submitted information on four artists. Names for the column were discussed. Selected was "Arts in the City" provided by the Commission on Culture and the Arts. Vice Chair Cook randomized the names that had bio information; Sherry Tobin, Randy Babbe, Atsie Pirtie, and Liberty Pierson.

H. Art in Storage

Staff thanked Commissioners for attending the art in storage tour of Building 535. There are art pieces missing, Public Works staff will look for the missing items as they go through the buildings. Agendized future discussion at next meeting.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Retreat and goal setting – Perhaps in November.
- Waterfront Park – No update.

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- No announcements due to time

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: September 29, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:21 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Andrea Hernandez

Andrea Hernandez, CHAIR

Annette Taylor

ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON