



Vallejo Room
JFK Library, 1st Floor
505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
www.cityofvallejo.net

MINUTES

COMMISSION ON CULTURE & THE ARTS SPECIAL MEETING 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. November 16, 2022

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 10:03 a.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Andrea Hernandez, Chair, Vice Chair Kathy Cook, Commissioners Stacey Loew, Trevor Allen, Dalia Vidor, Rochelle Del Rosario, Askari Sowonde (arrived 10:07 a.m.)

4. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

None

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Vidor moved and Commissioner Loew seconded to approve the November 16, 2022 agenda. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to accept the minutes from the October 24, 2022 meeting. Correction to the next meeting date on the agenda. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

7. **ACTION CALENDAR**

A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

The Commissioners reviewed the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee for the ARPA Nonprofit Arts/Culture Grant Program. Grant amount available was \$90,000. The Grant Administrator, Solano County Arts Council, provided 11 qualified applications to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review. The grant amount requested by the 11 applicants totaled \$103,500, \$13,500 over the allocated amount. The Ad-Hoc Committee recommended dividing the overage, \$13,500 by 11, take that amount of \$1,227 from each request which totaled \$90,003. Each application was voted on separately.

- 1) 7 Generations Intertribal Council – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 7-0
- 2) Miral Theatre Guild – Request \$7,500, Grant \$6,273; approved 6-0-1 (with Vice Chair Cook recusal)
- 3) Solano AIDS Coalition – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,733; approved 7-0
- 4) Vallejo Center for the Arts – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 7-0
- 5) Vallejo Project (VASA Educational Services) Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 7-0
- 6) Vallejo Teaching Artists, Inc. – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 7-0
- 7) Filipino Community of Solano – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 6-0-1 (with Commissioner Del Rosario recusal)
- 8) On the Fringe Visual & Performing Arts – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,773; approved 7-0
- 9) Solano County Arts Council – Request \$8,500, Grant \$7,273 – approved 7-0; Note: Due to the \$3 over the allocated amount, SCAC volunteered to reduce their grant by \$3 from \$7,273 to \$7,270
- 10) Vallejo Choral Society – Request \$10,000, Grant \$8,733 – approved 7-0
- 11) Vallejo Symphony Association – Request \$7,500, Grant \$6,273 – approved 7-0

Recommendations will be forwarded to City Council for their acceptance and approval.

B. Goal Setting/Work Plan FY 2023

Staff provided the Commissioners a copy of the Culture & Arts Commission FY 2020 goals and the list of suggested ideas for FY 2023 provided by some of the Commissioners. Michael Nimon, Economic Development Director reported on long term funding, different strategies and how development fees. Comments by Commissioners included other fee possibilities, vacancy tax rate for empty spaces, creative ways to move art forward such as targeting specific industries; pilot programs, pop-ups in buildings, Measure P, more funding and start implementing, already overtaxed, Hewlett Packard interest, create district in downtown, matching grant funding, filming position to capture film dollars.

The Commissioners reviewed the previous goals from 2020

- 1) Analyze and make recommendations to the City Council regarding new funding mechanisms for arts and culture activities in Vallejo – **Continue**
- 2) Analyze, monitor and help implement an inclusive and transparent mechanism to distribute city funding to support arts and culture activities including funds allocated for the grants program – **Amended to clarify that funds received outside of General Fund for art be placed in the “public art project fund” and not the General Fund, to the extent possible**
- 3) Draft and recommend to City Council a long-term citywide arts and culture strategy based on the Arts and Culture Elements of the General Plan – **Agenized for further discussion**
- 4) Analyze and make a recommendation regarding all aspects of city-owned public art – **Continue; include gift and loan policy listed in #8 as subset; agenize**

- 5) Enhance visibility and public input to ensure transparency and community involvement in the deliberations and decisions of the Commission – **Continue**
- 6) Provide support and make recommendations regarding city support for arts and cultural activities and events throughout Vallejo - **Continue**
- 7) Provide support and make recommendation regarding city support for arts and culture organizations including workshops, training, provision tools and other resources – **Agenize for future meeting a general educational grant application and resource workshop(s)**
- 8) Recommend an arts and culture gift policy to the City Council – **Becomes subset of #4, add loan policy**
- 9) Facilitate public discussion and make recommendation regarding arts and cultural activities in connection with significant city development activities including, but not limited to, the waterfront and Mare Island – **Continue**
- 10) Ensure that the Commission for Culture and Arts is fulfilling its responsibilities and goals as outlined in the City Charter and the Public Arts Policy – **Continue**
- 11) City staff reach out to Hewlett Foundation regarding grant funding – **Commissioner Sowonde to provide contact information**

Suggested Ideas/Goals for FY 2022/23

- 1) Move the Long Term Funding for Art forward – Discussed during 2020 goals
- 2) How to include and activate neglected areas of Vallejo (Springstowne, Tennessee Street and Sonoma Blvd corridors, South Vallejo, etc.) – **To be addressed under #3 of the 2020 goals**
- 3) Outreach to artists of color and cultural community leaders – **Identify artists and cultural groups, invite to make a presentation, include as part of registry**
- 4) Establishing partnerships with other Commissions to work together to achieve common goals – **Make alliances with various Commissions on specific projects**
- 5) Recommendations that the City commission art by indigenous artist(s) to acknowledge and honor the indigenous heritage that was here before Vallejo, and the land upon which the city was founded – **Can be expanded to be all inclusive, part of strategy recommendations**
- 6) How EDD can/does support the CAC in its advice and requests to the City for long term funding – **Discussed and addressed under #1 of the 2020 goals**
- 7) Establishing annual NEA and CAC grant cycle submissions with city grant writer, consultants or city staff – **Goes with #6 above; currently doing**
- 8) Pursuing designation of Arts & Cultural District within the state of CA – **Staff presentation at January 23rd meeting**
- 9) We are simply an advisory capacity commission vs some other Vallejo commission(s), or arts commissions in other cities, that have a broader official decision making role. Which COV Commissions have greater direct decision making authority? How do we gain more authority in decision making with regards to the arts & cultural development of Vallejo and what would that look like? – **Discussed and withdrawn by Commissioner submitted until Commission becomes more effective in the future**
- 10) The visibility of the Commission is imperative – **Discussed**
- 11) Having a liaison that supports our vision – **City council liaison, energized more on behalf of Commission**

- 12) Stop avoiding and answer the questions that have been asked for at least 6 years – **Discussed**
- 13) Budget should increase so that the community can truly benefit – **Need more money for the arts**

By motion, Commissioner Allen moved and Chair Hernandez seconded to accept and approve the Commission on Culture and the Arts goals and work plan for FY 2023.
Approved unanimously 7-0.

8. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE:** January 23, 2023

13. **ADJOURNMENT – 1:00 p.m.**

ATTESTED:

Andrea Hernandez

Andrea Hernandez, CHAIR

Annette Taylor

ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON