



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 22, 2021

CHAIR
Dalia Vidor
COMMISSIONERS
Trevor Allen, Vice Chair
Stacey Loew
Ken Mullen
Kathy Cook
Askari Sowonde
Andrea Hernandez

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Ken Mullen

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. City Council Liaison Report – No report

B. Commission Liaison Report – Reported that the gift policy and long term funding policy were forwarded to City Attorney Office (CAO) for review; CAO will be drafting a new overall policy

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Izzy Drumgoole, event center at 1405 Georgia Street – Ms. Drumgoole reported what she's been doing at this location and a brief history of her work in San Francisco; looking to rebrand area as Midtown Vallejo; Studio 1405 is multi-faceted space, have two suites side-by-side, one an event center for private and public events, other side is the artist collective and boutique; healing garden in back; building in the process of being sold, try to buy, offer rejected, looking to put in another offer. Commissioners discussed putting item on the agenda to support organizations like Izzy with long term funding; Vice Mayor Verder-Aliga said the \$400,000 discretionary funds may be discussed at a City Council in May; also money from the federal government coming in. VMC 3.60.010 Public Art Project Fund and 3.60.020 Use of Funds were discussed; ask that staff check to when the fund was last funded. Also mentioned was to put together a map of locations of art/cultural collectives and open studios as a way to highlight struggling businesses.

6. **COMMUNITY FORUM**
None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Sowonde seconded to approve the Marcj 22, 2021 agenda. Approved unanimously, 6-0 with Commissioner Mullen absent.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hernandez moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. Approved unanimously, 6-0 with Commissioner Mullen absent.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Support for the North Bay Venue Coalition

Commissioner Cook reported she was on a call with Assemblyman Grayson and others who are working on the behalf of live venues and performing arts organizations; gave an update on the dire situation that cultural organizations and independent operators in; expressed need for targeted funding for live venues. Mr. Grayson discussed letter from Assemblymember Laura Friedman; any correspondence from district would be moved forward and sent to Budget Committee through his office. A more detailed proposal was sent to Mr. Grayson for live performing arts venue. Additional grants are available.

Information only

B. Art Grant Program Update

Renay Conlin, Vallejo Community Arts Foundation, reported that seven organizations and individuals have submitted invoices and checks have been sent out; others need to submit invoices. The Symphony will resubmit invoice, which will make eight submissions. Ms. Conley named the ones who submitted invoices. Discussion followed. Remind awardees to make appointment with staff to receive remaining funding after project is completed.

Information only.

C. Draft Loan Policy

Continue discussion to have Loan Policy be attached as an addendum to the Gift Policy. Discussed to move this forward. Recommended to create an Ad-Hoc Committee to draft Loan Policy. The Ad-Hoc committee will be Commissioners Cook, Loew, and Vidor; will bring their recommendations to the next meeting.

By consensus move forward with an Ad Hoc Committee reporting back to Commission

D. Californians for the Arts – San Francisco Bay Area Regional Conversation

Chair Vidor reported that this was a Zoom discussion regarding art advocacy in the Bay Area and California; moving the arts away from gig economy into contracts, gives more legitimacy and give artists greater opportunity to get regular employment,

health insurance, and other opportunities; California Creative Core hiring local artists installing them into the Public Health sector; also discussed a plan for re-opening; will provide links of resources.

E. City Council Goal Setting

Select representatives to attend the City Council goal setting and bring forth the Long Term Funding for the Arts Policy and the Gift Policy.

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Loew seconded to select Chair Vidor and Commissioner Sowonde to represent the Commission at the City Council goal setting. The Long Term Funding for the Arts Policy and Gift Policy are the two policies to bring forward. Approved unanimously, 6-0 with Commissioner Mullen absent.

Vice Mayor Verder-Aliga said that she will ask that long term funding for the arts be put on a council agenda before the end of the year.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

Chair Vidor informed the Commissioners that they may recommend an agenda item to staff. Staff will discuss the number of items proposed with Chair Vidor. Discussion followed regarding the list of names currently on the Future Agenda list; it was suggested to look at the different districts and smaller organizations; create a slide with organizations Commission has worked with, funded in the last two years.

Commissioner Cook request that Suite Treatments be placed on Future Agenda for next month.

11. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: April 26, 2021

12. ADJOURNMENT – 8:03 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Dalia Vidor



DALIA VIDOR, CHAIR

Annette Taylor



ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON