



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. October 25, 2021

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. City Council Liaison Report – Reminded the Commissioners of former Commissioner Ken Mullen's celebration of life at the Empress Theatre. Questions regarding ARPA funds for arts were raised.
- B. Commission Liaison Report – Reported that city has two grant writing contracts, Evans Brooks and Townsend, and introduced Felicia Flores, Assistant to the City Manager, to provide more information on the grant writing contracts. Questions and discussion by Commissioner.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. None

6. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

None

7. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to approve the October 25, 2021 agenda. Approved unanimously, 6-0.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Loew moved and Commissioner Hernandez seconded to accept the minutes from the September 27, 2021 meeting with the correction of the spelling of Hanns Park. Approved unanimously, 6-0.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Renay Conlin asked the status of the Bay Area Stage Company and stated what is the timeline of the extension given for the grants. Olivia Fabrizio has not submitted an invoice, asked for an extension; El Comalito Collective finish event by December 31st, may be ready to do a presentation in January; Kids-N-Film finishing project and do a presentation in November; Solano AIDS Coalition's event beginning of November, make presentation in November; Vallejo Choral Society concert beginning of December, presentation in December; Vallejo Teaching Artists finishing project, presentation in November. VCAF providing workshops free and open to public, would like to do workshops throughout the year; Filipino Film Festival completing project on October 30th, presentation in November. VCAF can do a presentation in December. Recommended that Olivia Fabrizio submit a viable timeline to complete her project.

Information only.

B. Commission on Culture & Arts Grant Recipients

Chair Vidor is awaiting Commissioner Sowonde to send raw/original pictures to allow her to put in the links. Commissioner Sowonde said she will provide to Chair Vidor.

Information only.

C. Research Areas of Vallejo to Display Art and/or Hold Events

Chair Vidor said Commission Loew has worked out to fill out the venues, suggest Gretchen with Arts Vallejo.org to have a page to list venues and artists as resources. Commissioner Loew has not received any additional information, and will include a disclaimer for City and Commission, lists are informational only.

Information only.

D. Grants Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Vidor reported that Vice Mayor discussed the ARPA funds and is awaiting to find out the amount; ARPA information on the City website; Ad-Hoc Committee to meet to discuss what type of funds and how to approach the city regarding grants. Commissioner Cook suggest meeting within the next couple of months. Vice Chair Allen discussed the Long Term Funding Policy that was presented to the City Council and asked where is the policy now and what is the timeline. Vice Mayor reported that the request to have item place on a future agenda list was approved by the City Council. She will follow up with staff and the City Manager's Office.

Information only.

E. Black Lives Matter Mural

Commissioner Sowonde reported that its been over a year from conception to now to put this project together. Due to COVID paint ingredients are not available.

Requesting the Commission review the final draft mural and recommend to City Council. Asking for community participation and help paint on Saturday and Sunday; detailed what it will take to paint the mural and how long it will be allowed to stay in place; mural painting to happen end of May. Artists of the BLM mural are Askari Sowonde, Atsie Pirtie, Izzy Drumgoole, Liat Meitzenheimer, Mishel Adolph, Randy Babbs, Susan George, Verlannia Manchester, and Mario Saucedo.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Art in storage on Mare Island – on hold
- Artist directory – Separate from the venues list – contact Gretchen
- Retreat and goal setting – Waiting for report to be presented to City Council
- Waterfront Park – provide report at appropriate time, staff meeting with Tribe

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Chair Vidor – Ken Mullen's memorial at Empress Theatre on October 27th from 5 pm to 8 pm; RSVP to wife Robin, he will be missed, made great contributions to Commission; Shakesfear in the Dark still happening, haunted house, 2100 Sonoma Blvd, 5 pm to 6 pm lights on 6 pm to 9 pm light go off
- Commissioner Sowonde – Dias de los Muertos, November 7th; World AIDS Day, December 1st; Mad Hatters Event on December 4th, Kwanza ,December 30th, 6:30 pm to 9 pm; Izzy every Thursday has open mike, 1405 Georgia Street
- Vice Chair Allen – Open Studios, November 13th and 14th, currently on exhibit at Vallejo Museum rest of month
- Commissioner Cook – express condolences on Ken Mullen; Mira Theater Guild partnering with Mario Saucedo, showing Coco and other events; Kids-N-Film international showing on November 13th ; December 11th photographic fundraiser on gay life in every state; concerts for Migrant and Refugee Families
- Commissioner Hernandez – extend condolences to Ken Mullen's family, Mel's Generations Film, October 30th, VIP 5:30 pm, film starts at 7:00 pm
- Commissioner Loew – update on Bay Area Stage, push out rehearsals for Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, on pause, in its place doing David Mamet's American Buffalo, January 21st

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: November 22, 2021; December meeting cancelled due to holiday

13. ADJOURNMENT – 7:42 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Dalia Vidor



DALIA VIDOR, CHAIR

Annette Taylor



ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON