



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. November 22, 2021

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Askari Sowonde

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. City Council Liaison Report – Reported the Generations film on Fil-American History was shown at the Empress Theatre; good attendance; thanked who attended the showing, thanked the Filipino American Historical Society, Mel Orpilla and TJ Walkup; reported she welcomed the Capital Christmas Tree,
- B. Commission Liaison Report – Reported that Felicia is working on the art grant policy and hopes to come to the Commission in January with her findings prior to taking to City Council; responded to questions.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. James Orlando, Board Chair, Vallejo Teaching Artists – provided an overview of the development of the Youth Art Magazine (YAM), took one year with many phases, served 150 students providing graphic design and creative writing classes; developed 3 online pilot editions, and inspired a group of young creatives to spend their summer working on the first printed edition of the YAM; students contributors came from 6 different Vallejo schools and ranged from 4th grade to 12th grade; printed 1500 hard copies, distributed for free throughout the City. Introduced Treva Nervis, Vice Chair of Vallejo Teaching Artist and mentor for project and Liberty Pierson, creative director. Nervis presented a PowerPoint presentation on the program and introduced Rayal Wilson, managing editor for YAM who spoke about what the project meant to him and working with the other students. Provided locations where YAM will be distributed.

- B. Jacalyn Evone, Kids-N-Film – provided a presentation on film project titled “Positively You” The Beauty of Our Diversity. The film project was completed and screened to the public for free on November 13th at the International Kids and Film Virtual Film Festival, and continued on demand on film festival site until November 15th, run on targeted Vallejo social media sites and other social media sites, and community access channel. Described the project process, call for participation flyer, project information sheet for parents, confidence and self-esteem building, develop memorization building and critical thinking skills, worked on speaking skills and vocal projection, engaged with working in front of the camera. Regarding marketing, over three-day weekend had 320 visitors to the Festival demand site, social media reached 1240 views on Facebook under one week, not including the LinkedIn or Twitter views, continue to share the film. Unanticipated results due to COVID, hesitancy by parents meant low participation in the beginning; positive side were students anxious to get back to in-person activities once COVID protocols were changed. Without grant from the Commission would not be able to complete project.
- C. Mel Orpilla, Filipino American National Historically Society – documentary film, Generations, Vallejo’s Filipino American History, based on his book, Filipinos in Vallejo; based on generations who have lived in Vallejo; contracted with filmmaker TJ Walkup to do the interviews; all interviews/filming done on stage at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum due to COVID; premiere at the Empress Theatre with reception; approximately 250 people attended the event, with numerous speakers including Congressman Mike Thompson and sponsors. Film about 50 minutes long, first cut, more editing to run under 50 minutes, make available to the schools; major showing will be next summer at the Filipino American National Historical Society’s National Conference in Seattle, Washington 40th anniversary of historical society. Commissioners asked for a link to view the film.
- D. Mario Saucedo, President, Solano AIDS Foundation – Dias de los Muertos started in 2013 to educate the community; goal was to bring education and prevention about HIV-AIDS in the community to the Latino community; with help from other coalition, started in Vallejo high schools; event is important because it is a culture event that honors ancestors and dead ones; with grant able to create gowns, education about HIV-AIDS, culture and entertainment; joined with MIRA Theater to present event for kids.
- E. Jim Kern, Director, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 2nd Annual Children’s Book Festival – Due to COVID, had to analyze how to have event; distributed about 150 books, age appropriate, nearly 400 adults and kids attended; craft supplies, and honorarium for performers; collaborative process with the Vallejo Literacy Alliance that put the event together to make it a success; performances were done virtually; about 500 people tuned in to live-stream on storytelling and performances, various people did story telling; craft activities were included with books in to-go bags; able to leverage funding to get finance from others. 3 takeaways – children’s literacy, get books in hands of kids at a young age; adaptability of the event due to COVID; collaborative effort, partners around the community.

6. COMMUNITY FORUM

None

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Hernandez seconded to approve the November 22, 2021 agenda. Approved unanimously, 5-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Loew moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to accept the minutes from the October 25, 2021 meeting with the correction of the spelling of playwright David Mamet. Approved unanimously, 5-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

9. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Art Grant Program Update

Renay was not able to attend meeting, provided written report read by Chair Vidor. Written report attached.

Information only.

B. Commission on Culture & Arts Grant Recipients

Chair Vidor added links to the posters containing the list of 2019 grant recipients and 2020-21 grant recipients.

Chair Vidor moved and Vice Chair Allen seconded to post the grant recipients posters on the city's website. Approved unanimously, 5-0, Commissioner Sowonde absent.

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

Commission Loew reported that the whole block where Izzy is located was sold. Nothing else has changed. Chair Vidor will forward the Visit Vallejo venue list to Commission Loew.

Information only.

D. Grants Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Vidor said there was nothing to report from the Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioners commented on ARPA, the lists of grants provided by staff, the need to get funding for the arts, thanked staff for providing the lists of grants, and the lists are being shared with others. Staff suggested the Ad Hoc Committee meet and make recommendations to the full Commission. Felicia Escover, Assistant to the City Manager, provided input regarding ARPA funds. It was mentioned that in the past the city has provided funds directly to artists and also contracted with a nonprofit to provide the funds to artists.

Information only.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Art in storage on Mare Island – Vidor suggested that art be installed; staff said there is a process for installation and when appropriate Commissioners will be allowed to review the art in storage
- Artist directory – Put on January agenda
- Retreat and goal setting – Waiting for report to be presented to City Council
- Waterfront Park – Vidor would like to see art installed along waterfront
- Art Grants Program – presentation by Felicia Escover in January
- Discussion about art on Mare Island

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Loew – reported December 18th Bob Caudle from Tahoe is performing with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.; Valentine's Day Megan Friedman and The Heartbeats, date to be determined; Saint Patrick's Day, Linda Howard performing with band Kith & Kin, Irish music.
- Commissioner Cook – Saturday, December 12th, 5:30 pm, Mira Theatre Guild and Bay Terrance Theater presents "Gay in America 1999", a photographic exhibit by Andreas Schmidt; 50 portraits of gay men in every state of the U.S.; fundraiser includes hors d'oeuvres and wine; presentation by the photographer, \$25.
- Vice Chair Allen – December 4th, Mad Hatter Parade; December 10th Capitol Street Stairs, indoor exhibit at the Vallejo Museum
- Chair Vidor – Capitol Street Stairs, Commissioner Mullen will be honored

12. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022; December meeting cancelled due to holiday

13. ADJOURNMENT – 8:06 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Dalia Vidor


DALIA VIDOR, CHAIR

Annette Taylor


ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON

Report for Commission on Culture and the Arts for November 22, 2021 Meeting

Bay Area Stage Theater – First payment of \$1,219.00 received – Extension requested and granted for completion of project.

Solano Chapter of Links – Received \$5,000

El Comalito Collective Received 1st payment of \$2,500

SheRoes – Completed

Kids-n-film – Completed. Jacalyn Evone will present final report this evening.

Shakespeare in the Park - Completed

Solano Aids Coalition – Received first payment. Project is complete. If Mario is well, he will present his final report this event.

Vallejo Choral Society has received their first payment. They will complete their project in December and can present in January of 2022.

Vallejo Symphony Orchestra – completed

Naval Historical Museum – Received 1st payment. Project is completed. Jim Kern will present final report this evening.

Shakespeare in the Park – Completed

Vallejo Teaching Artists – Received \$5,000 – They have completed their project. James Orlando will present his final report this evening.

Filipino American Historical Society – received \$5,000 – They have completed their project. Mel Orpilla will present final report this evening.

Vallejo Community Arts Foundation – Received \$5,000 – requested extension for the completion of their project.

Filipino Community of Solano County – completed

Olivia Fabrizio – Requested extension for her project. It will be completed in the Spring. Submitted items for 1st invoice which I am preparing.