



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. February 27, 2023

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, Dalia Vidor, Askari Sowonde

Absent: Commissioner Rochelle Del Rosario

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. City Council Liaison Report – No report
- B. Commission Liaison Report – No report, remarks offered during agenda items

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. None.

6. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

None.

7. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Cook seconded to approve the February 27, 2023 agenda. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Del Rosario absent.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Loew moved and Commissioner Hernandez seconded to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2023 regular meeting. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Del Rosario absent.

9. **ACTION CALENDAR**

- A. **California Arts Council State-Designated Cultural District**

Staff reported that the funding for the California Arts Council (CAC) was amended to support only the existing cohort of 14 districts. The City of Vallejo has been added to CAC's Prospective Cultural Districts roster and will be notified once funding allows for new designations. Carmen Slack notified staff that six years ago she asked the City of Vallejo be added to the list. Staff responded to questions.

Information only.

B. Grant Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Vidor provided an update on the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge grant submission. City is requesting \$550,000 with a 10% community engagement for a total \$565,000. Project title is Vallejo Youth: Voices and Vision; combination of spoken word and mural/painting aspect. Provided details of proposed grant and identified community partners involved with the grant proposal. Submittal is first round, notification to come in Spring 2023. Community partners were acknowledged and thanked. If the City is not selected for Bloomberg grant, we have the framework to apply for other grants.

Vice Chair Cook reported that the Ad Hoc Committee was considering applying for a Grants for Art Projects from NEA in February prior to the Bloomberg grant opportunity. There is a second window for the NEA grant application process, deadline July 6th; awards given in April 2024 with a Summer 2024 proposed project start date. Ask other Commissioners be involved with researching NEA grant.

Information only.

C. Vallejo Teaching Artists (VTA) – Youth Public Works Project

James Orlando updated the Commissioners on the grant they received a few years ago from the Commission that funded the VTA Youth Art Magazine (YAM, which is in its third edition. Reported on an exposure grant – the Public Works Project. Introduced Leah Tumerman, local muralist, who discussed the five different modules of the project. Requesting access to the city's collection, the ability to interview one of the Commissioner(s), and having a place where students can make a presentation. Commissioners provided comments.

Chair Hernandez moved and Commissioner Loew seconded the request from VTA for assistance with project. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Del Rosario absent.

D. Goals and Work Plan 2023

At the last meeting staff asked the Commissioners to group the proposed goals to put in the presentation to the City Council. Commissioner Vidor went over the list she provided which was divided into four groupings. Commissioners discussed goals and provided input. Discussed images to include in the presentation. Commissioners volunteered to provide photos and images. Staff offered to schedule meetings to collect and go over photos and images.

E. South Waterfront Park

Commissioner Vidor requested the Commission draft a letter to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to install the Silent Company sculpture in their proposed development; gave an overview the artist, Gordon Newell.

Michael Nimon, Economic Development Director, gave an update on the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation project and the waterfront area; Tribe to help city in designing the park; project will have tourism and cultural components, etc.

Commissioners discussed the previous attempts to develop the park, outreach to indigenous and other local artists, community input, artistic statement of Silent Company and the placement of the piece on the waterfront.

Commissioner Vidor moved and Vice Chair Cook seconded that the Commission draft a letter to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, through the City Manager, to inform them of the availability of a large piece of art, the Silent Company, that may be included in the design of the South Waterfront Park and to include local artists in the design of their park. Approved unanimously 6-0, Commissioner Del Rosario absent.

F. Artists Registry

Commissioner Loew reported there are no updates.

Information only.

G. Highlighting Artists in the Vallejo Weekly

Vice Chair Cook provided an update; highlighting two per month; reported who have submitted artists; ask the Commissioners who have not submitted an artist to contact artists and get the submissions going. Articles on art pieces may also be featured

Information only.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Items on the Future Agenda List

- Waterfront Park – Discussed
- Long-term citywide arts and culture strategy -

11. Announcements and Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Loew reported that next weekend is the closing weekend for Game's Afoot; March 11th Kith & Kin, March 18th and 19th Aca-Word, April 14th and 15th Laugh Your Taxes Off
- Vice Chair Cook reported the Vallejo Arts Fund deadlines for the remaining grants - Next Level Artist Grants, Arts Cultural Space Grants, BIOPIC Centered Arts & Cultural Practice Grants, Youth Arts Grants, are open for applications and the deadline to apply is March 18th, 2023. Application workshops held regularly at LaDells Shoes on Georgia Street.

Verismo Opera is currently performing FAUST at Mira Theatre Saturdays & Sundays through March 12th.

- Commissioner Allen announced the annual trivia night at Naval and Historical Museum this Saturday

12. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2023

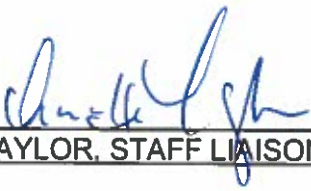
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – 7:42 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Andrea Hernandez


Andrea Hernandez, CHAIR

Annette Taylor


ANNETTE TAYLOR, STAFF LIAISON