



Harini Krishnan, District 1
Stephen Seymour, District 1
Kimberly Gordon, District 2
Elizabeth Stone, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
Laura McHugh, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
VACANT (1 seat), District 4
Victoria Magbilang, Dist. 5
Reno Anoa'i, Dist. 5

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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Zoom link

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair Kimberly Gordon called the meeting to order at 3:01 with roll call. Chair
In Attendance: Commissioners Gordon, Heise, Seymour, Stone, Anoa'i, Magbilang, McHugh
Absent: Commissioners Hernandez Arriaga, Krishnan
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Shawna Vesco

2. **Action Item** Chair
 - A. AB361 Remote Meeting Requirements: in keeping with the recently enacted California AB361 and Governor Newsom's suspension of Brown Act Open Meetings law, vote to approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Seymour made a motion that we approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Heise seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
 - B. Director requested that the agenda be changed to accommodate new information regarding the budget. She has been directed by the CEO Fiscal and Legislative Director that since the Office of Arts and Culture has moved from a trust fund to funding from the CEO office, the Commission cannot vote on the recommended budget until the County budget is set on September 27, 2022. She recommended that the Commission make the following motions:
 1. Postpone the budget vote and take a vote solely on the Commissioner Stones' request for \$1,400 for the Filoli/CASA project.
 2. Add the Director's presentation on the County's public art projects to replace Action Item 8A.Commissioner Seymour moved that we adjust the agenda as recommended by the Director. Commissioner Magbilang seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

3. **Introduction of New Commissioners** Chair
The Chair welcomed the new D5 Commissioners Magbilang and Anoa'i. Commissioner Magbilang said that she was very happy to be part of the Arts Commission and looking forward to working with everyone. Commissioner Anoa'i stated that it was an honor and a privilege to serve on the Commission and that he is looking forward to learning from the others. The Director noted that Commissioner Anoa'i is the son of former Arts Commissioner, Manufou Anoa'i.

4. **Oral Communications** Chair
To allow the public to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, please use the Zoom "Raise hand" feature and the Chair will recognize you at this time. Speakers are limited to two minutes.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Arts Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the Board of Supervisors Office, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by e-mailing jtomasoff@smcgov.org. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days notice. Please call (650) 599-1005 (voice) or e-mail jtomasoff@smcgov.org. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

5. **Consideration of Minutes** of July 20, 2022, Regular Commission meeting: will be considered at November meeting.

6. **Reports**

A. Staff Reports

Robin Rodricks: Director stated that public art projects continue to keep her busy. She is working with the Projects Development Unit (PDU) and will share outline details later in her report.

Mara Grimes: Much of her time has been spent on the Countywide Celebration of the Arts, both the event and the online calendar. She is also getting ready to launch the Microgrant Educator Art Program next month.

Shawna Vesco: She stated that she is currently working on final details for the San Mateo High School Student Art Showcase and the Disabilities Art Showcase in partnership with the Commission on Disabilities.

B. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Seymour: The show at AZ Gallery ends on September 3rd. There were 14 artists working throughout the weekend and 100's of viewers. This show was supported by Dragonfly Community Arts, and it also coincided with the ribbon cutting-ceremony for the Japanese Memorial at the Bart Station.

Commissioner Stone: Stone and the Director met with Filoli Gardens. They provided them with information about artists, especially women artists. Filoli told them they are expanding their programs/services to include more under-represented people. Good future partnership possibilities.

Commissioner Heise: North Fair Oaks (NFO) launched their survey at the NFO festival. The survey is meant to provide community members with the opportunity to guide the shape of the mural. The call for artists is underway. She attended a meeting with the Director regarding a sculpture for County Center which is already designated. The Causeway Mural project is almost fully funded. The project is slated to become the gateway to the arts in Redwood City.

Commissioner Magbilang: Magbilang is working to create an art scene in Daly City. Daly City currently has a call for digital artists. She is working on an Art & Lit Festival to be held at Serramonte Mall on Nov. 5th that will include artists, authors, performers, and poets. She attended the Art Takes a Bus Ride student awards with Mara Grimes at SamTrans bus barn.

Commissioner Gordon: Gordon thanked everyone for their work on making the Countywide Celebration such a big success. A special shout out to Commissioner Krishnan as emcee, Commissioner McHugh for the art project, and Mara Grimes for managing the event.

Commissioner McHugh: She thanked everyone for helping to make the art project run smoothly and was impressed that not one square got lost.

8. **Action Item**

A. Discussion and Approval of the Filoli Program Expenditure Director
Commissioner Stone stated that she was working on a program with Filoli and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). The event would take place on Sept. 22 at Filoli who is donating the space for a BBQ dinner and art projects for the children from CASA. Filoli also donated passes to the CASA mentors so that they would bring the children they are working with anytime. The art activities have a harvest theme and Mara Grimes is overseeing this part of the program with other volunteers. The County Culinary Services will provide the food for the expected 40-50 children and their mentors. The cost is \$1,400. Commissioner Gordon made a motion that we approve the \$1,400 expenditure. Commissioner Seymour seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.

7. **Discussion Items**

A. Debrief on Arts Celebration Month

Chair

Chair started the discussion by posing questions about what worked and what might we change for the future in terms of one day vs. one day in each district, whether August the best month to hold the event, and the value of the online calendar.

Commissioner Stone stated that she felt that the diversity of the types of groups performers and the varying ages was great. She wondered in the San Mateo Daily Journal had been invited to the event. She noted that the audience was good; there needed to be more chairs; maybe other performances in other parts of the part in future; the event ran very smoothly, and the sound system was good; consider food and water availability for future; and there was a traffic jam near the tables.

Commissioner Seymour shared that he felt the absence of not being there. He suggested that we not go back to San Mateo next year and instead move it around the County. We should consider partnering with a group like the Lyons club that could provide food and drinks.

Commissioner Gordon added that we could use banners next year to advertise the event. In future we could outsource the art project to other groups.

Mara Grimes noted that we had 132 performers and that we should consider a stipend next year for participants. We should also consider not only different venues, but also the month and time of day for a future event.

B. Discussion of Executing the Grant Cycle in Spring 2023

Director

The Director recommended that we return or grant back to the spring format so that we are able to disburse the maximum amount of funds available and possibly to more organizations. We have two asks out now for funds and will not know until later in the year if we will receive the funding. Also, any monies not used by the spring can be rolled into the grant program. Commissioner Heise noted that this change in timing would leave a 4–5-month gap for nonprofits. Commissioner Gordon and Mara Grimes agreed that if we wait until spring we will potentially have more to give and can give higher amounts than in 2021 and to more organizations.

C. Presentation of Public Art Projects

Director

The Director stated that much of her time is being spent on six current public art projects. She shared a presentation that highlighted the projects and wanted to enlist 1-2 Commissioners for each:

- **Causeway Bridge Mural:** Connects the jail to the courthouse in Redwood City. They need additional funds. There is no theme for the mural. Commissioner Heise and the Director are on this committee.
- **NFO Healthy Community Mural:** The mural will depict the healthy community covering 16 panels. Commissioner Heise and the Director are working with the NFO Cultural Collective. The RFP opened on Aug. 18th and the project is expected to be completed by spring 2023.
- **Cordilleras Mental Health Center:** This facility will feature an indoor art hanging system, outdoor art pavilion, and a water feature outside including using reclaimed wood for chairs and tables. Commissioner Heise and Director are on this committee.
- **County Office Building 3 (COB3):** New building will host galleries and possibly a permanent art collection (need \$ first). No Art Commissioners have volunteered for this committee yet.
- **Veterans and First-Responders Memorial:** The County co-owns the space with the State Justice Department. Commissioner Heise and the Director are on this committee.
- **Navigation Center:** Project to bring homeless population into security located on the east side of 101 in Redwood City. The housing will provide 240 beds and there is a courtyard where public art could be placed. No committee has been established yet.

The Director ended her presentation by stating that down the road there are other projects coming such as the revitalization of Flood Park in Menlo Park and Pescadero Plaza. Senator Berman has provided \$2M for the downtown plaza and 2 small parcels of land have been purchased. No definite plans or dates yet.

Commissioner Gordon thanked the Director for the presentation and asked her to show the presentation with the Commissioners. She also asked the Commissioners if they were interested in any of the projects to contact the Director. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16th to approve the budget and the past minutes. She asked the group if this date was okay or if they wanted to meet sooner. The Commissioners agreed to keep the date. Commissioner Stone noted that she is doing another event with Filoli on December 3, "Holiday Lights" and will need volunteers if anyone is interested in assisting.

9. Adjournment

Chair

Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm.