



Vacant, 1st District
Robin Rodricks, 2nd District
Sherrill Swan, 3rd District
Karen Chew, 4th District
Lisa Steel, 5th District
Karen Chee, Youth Commissioner

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SAN MATEO
COUNTY
ARTS
COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
555 County Center, Conference Room 1, 5th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Chair Rodricks called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Commissioners: Chee (Youth), Chew (Absent), Rodricks (Chair), Steel (Vice Chair), Swan

Staff: Bennett, Lockman, Tolmasoff

2. Agenda Amendments

There were none.

3. Oral Communications

Ms. Julie Fellers, President, Peninsula Arts Council Board, said she and other Council Board members (Alisan Andrews, Mary Alice Bowie, Beth Mostovoy, Steve Aguirre) were present to express their support of a public/private local arts agency but to express their concern that a newspaper article had indicated the County needed to start over to establish an arts council noting that Peninsula Arts Council for 20 years has been advancing and supporting the arts through such events as the Diamond Awards. She said that the Commission's Arts Educator of the Year Program was confusing as the Diamond Awards has historically included the honoring of arts educators. She said she was disappointed they had not received the Request for Proposals (for Consulting Services to Develop a Model and Implementation Plan for a Local Arts Agency). She said the Peninsula Arts Council exists and a new arts council did not need to be found.

4. Consideration of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of January 11, 2012

Commission Action: M/S Swan/Steel to approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion carried 5-0.

5. Reports

A. Curator's Report*

Ms. Silvestri said that there were exhibits in all three Galleries including three dimensional work in the Rotunda Gallery. She said she would like to get signage for the galleries and Plexiglas holders for artists' business cards.

6. Planning Workshop

A. Facilitated meeting with Consultant Louise Stevens, ArtsMarket

Ms. Louise Stevens' consulting firm ArtsMarket was hired by the County to develop a model and implementation plan for a local arts agency for San Mateo County.

Ms. Stevens provided background on her own experience in working with other entities to develop successful local arts agencies. She noted that she had been meeting individually with County Board and Commission staff and the individual Arts Commissioners. She noted the County had already done a needs assessment for the arts and what she was now recommending was to look at what the County already has in place for the arts and see where the key gaps were and how those might best be filled. She said one thing she recommended the Commission look at was where it made sense to park arts and culture in the County noting it was often parked in community development agencies, with economic development (tourism), or the Mayor's office. She suggested looking at King County in Seattle. She noted that in Indianapolis they developed six cultural districts and did so very inexpensively with a great return on a small amount of seed money. She said one question to think about was where culture could be parked in the County to have the greatest impact. She said the Commission was the steward of public funds and said they had to consider the value back to the citizens of the County for how those funds were used. "Are we doing as much as we can with this funding for the residents of San Mateo County?" She asked the Commissioners to think about the points she had mentioned and she would set up mini-conferences with them to discuss, and would work with staff and them to establish next steps.

7. Staff and Commission Reports

Youth Commissioner Chee announced the Youth Commission would host a youth conference at the College of San Mateo on March 17.

Chair Rodricks announced that Commissioner Chee would be recognized as a Young Woman of Excellence at the March 22 Women's Hall of Fame.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.