

Regular Meeting of the San Mateo County Arts Commission
Wednesday, November 13, 1:00-2:30pm

Minutes

1. **Roll Call:**

Commissioners Present: Donald Milliken, Robin Rodricks, Sherrill Swan, Karen Chew
County Staff: Juda Tolmasoff, Peggy Jensen
Commission Staff: Teresa Sylvestri, Esther Mallouh

2. **Agenda Amendments:**

None

3. **Oral Communications:**

None

4. **Consideration of Minutes** of Regular Meeting of October 9, 2013

Motion to approve by Chew, seconded by Swan. Motion passed 4-0.

5. **Reports**

A. **Curator's Report:** A purchase was made of Nancy Woods' furniture art, currently showing in the Rotunda, by friend of Neil Young who presented it to him on his birthday. Boris Koodrin is currently showing "Life Thinly Sliced," an exhibit of painted doors, in the Caldwell Gallery, which will run through December. Linda Watson is showing water colors of travel scenes in the Community Gallery. The Curator is currently working on the 2014 gallery schedule.

B. **Grants & Workshop Program Manager's Report:** The Manager has received 36 applications from public school teachers for the \$100 micro-grants. The schools are in low income areas. Discussion occurred about including private schools who serve low income students; Commissioner Milliken presented this as an equity issue. Ms. Jensen will check with County Counsel to see if legally, County funds can be given to private schools in low income areas. Grants Manager Mallouh requested that Milliken provide her a list of private schools that need additional funds for the arts, if County Counsel says it is permissible to provide grants to private schools. A Grants Application Workshop to be held by Mallouh on December 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the San Mateo Library. Mallouh has identified a candidate to lead the Marketing Workshops in May and September. Estimated cost: \$1000.

6. **Staff and Commission Reports**

A. **Commissioner Reports:** The Chair reported that the Hewlett Foundation awarded the Arts Commission \$22,000 per year for 2 years in matching funds. A contract for review is being sent to Ms. Jensen and grants are expected to be issued using these funds in FY-2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

B. **Staff Reports:** Ms. Tolmasoff: Reported that \$9750 has been granted to the Arts Commission from the California Arts Council (CAC). The Chair will review the CAC evaluation of the grant application. District 5's Supervisor is making an effort to find a Commissioner from that district. The administration at the new Fair Oaks health clinic is interested in getting art for the facility. Ms. Tolmasoff will work with our Curator to see what is possible. Additionally, a recent request was made from a government official for art for his office. It was noted that the Commission has no budget for this and suggested that the official's office get the word out that they are looking for art for their office. Ms. Tolmasoff will follow up. Ms. Jensen reported that starting in 2014, Commission meetings will be held in the County Manager's office.

7. **Discussion Items**

- A. It was agreed that Commissioners Rodricks and Chew will work with schools to promote and encourage students to apply for the California State Summer School for the Arts program, as they did last year, as well as plan the reception for the student scholars in late spring or early summer – TBD. The long term goal is to increase the number of students selected from San Mateo County.
- B. A draft of an Arts Commission promotional handout will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- C. Proposal to the Board of Supervisors for Measure A Funds:
 - 1. Commissioner Rodricks will discuss obtaining additional grant funds with Mallouh.
 - 2. Commissioner Chew presented ideas for a Global Village Cultural Faire. Ms. Jensen suggested that this be part of the annual County Fair and that Boris Koodrin, who heads up the Fine Arts Division at the County Fair, should be contacted for thoughts and recommendations. Chew will contact Mr. Koodrin and look at the costs.
 - 3. Commissioner Swan presented ideas for public art including public art sculptures from recycled materials throughout the county (similar to the SF Hearts project). Possible objects are brussel sprouts (top agricultural product in County) and acorns. Other ideas were solar lighted sculptures, art /art activities at the Youth Services Center, park and rec area signs, sponsor of the SamTrans bus art contest, and library sculptures at libraries in low income areas. Swan will make contacts to follow-up on these ideas.
 - 4. Commissioners Milliken and Rodricks, and Curator Silvestri presented a diagram of a web site which could be a hub for County artists and art appreciators. Their next step will be to get cost information to create a budget.

8. **Adjournment** 2:40pm.