

Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission  
Wednesday, October 9, 2013 – 1:00-2:30pm  
555 County Center, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Meeting Notes

**1. Roll Call:**

Commissioners present – D. Mulliken, Chair R. Rodricks, S. Swan, K. Chew  
Staff: J. Tolmasoff  
Commission staff: T. Sylvestri, E. Mallouh

**2. Agenda Amendments:** None

**3. Oral Communications:** No public speakers.

**4. Consideration of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 10, 2013**

Notes were added by Chair Rodricks.

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

**5. Reports**

**A. Curator Report:** Teresa Sylvestri reports that the shows are doing well, sales and exposure are on the rise with high reviews for the current painted furniture show (Rotunda), Moriarity/Dimmagian show (Caldwell), and Adult Disability Group (Community Gallery). Ms. Silvestri will nurture a closer relationship with the non-profit groups so that their exhibits and content continue to improve.

**B. Grant Program Manager Report:** Esther Mallouh has notified the arts organizations that the Commission's Grant Programs are now open for applications. She is following up with phone calls and other means of communication.

Ms. Mallouh and Juda Tolmasoff will be reserving workshop space at the San Mateo Main Library post haste.

Following up from the September meeting, the Chair read aloud an email from Deputy County Manager Peggy Jensen which reported the results of Ms. Jensen's conversation with County Counsel re: private schools and their eligibility for the Commission's *Micro-grants for Educators Program*. County Counsel's recommendation is that it is within the law for the Commission to award micro-grants to private schools, with a gentle caution and reminder that the supported art projects should not be slanted towards any political, religious, nor any other exclusive viewpoints and opinions.

Fiscal Sponsorship Discussion(R. Rodricks, E. Mallouh): At this time, there are 51 art organizations, with a <\$500k annual budget, that have been operating in San Mateo County for more than two years. There may be rare exceptions of fiscal sponsorship which may be reviewed and made for groups or organizations that do not meet these requirements. Proper due diligence, including at least two years of financial statements that demonstrate a fiscally responsible and financially sound infrastructure, would be one of the many vetting requirements.

The Commissioners expressed concerns and discussed pros and cons of fiscal sponsorship. Esther's research revealed that consistency is the main variant of these types of relationships. The parent company (fiscal sponsor) can have very little to full control of an organization's project. 10% or more headhunting fees are not uncommon.

In the end, the Commission could possibly have two types of applicants, 1) a qualifying grant applicant; or a 2) fiscal sponsor with proper qualifications, ie., Thrive, Compass Point, Silicon Valley Foundation, etc.

## **6. Staff and Commissioner Reports**

**Chair Rodricks:** reports that Sup. Carole Groom is hosting "Active San Mateo County", the fifth annual program looking at ways we can help people become more healthy and active by utilizing County amenities such as bay trails, beaches, bike sharing, etc.

**Commissioner D. Mulliken:** revealed that Caroline Goodwin of Montara is the County's first Poet Laureate. "...Her role as Poet Laureate will be to elevate poetry among San Mateo County residents and to celebrate the literary arts..." The Commission will extend their congratulations to Ms. Goodwin and looks forward to her contributions.

## **B. Staff Reports:**

**Juda Tolmasoff:** no news yet about the vacant 5<sup>th</sup> District Commission position. The Commissioners continue to wait patiently.

## **7. Discussion Items:**

**A. Proposal to Board of Supervisors for Measure A funds for the Arts Commission-brainstorming:** Commissioners Rodricks and Chew presented a number of ideas for the Commissioners for discussion and inspiration. The Commission and staff agreed to pursue and broad stroke plans for the following ideas:

Public Art: Sherill and Esther

Website: Teresa, Donald, Robin

Cultural Faire: Karen

Additional funds for Grants Program: Esther, Robin

**9. Adjournment:** at 2:29pm.