

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, October 17, 2013
Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Chambers
250 Hamilton Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Larisa Usich, Ally Richter, Kathleen Kavanaugh, Vikki Tobak, Trish Collins, Ben Miyaji
Commissioners absent: Amanda Ross
Staff present: Karen Holman, Council Liaison
Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Manager
Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Assistant II

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm by Chair Usich

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – University Avenue Tunnels moved to Non- Action
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - none

MINUTES – Commissioners reviewed the minutes of September 19. Moved: Richter, Larisa Seconded: Usich; and September 23, 2013. Moved: Usich, Seconded: Kavanaugh

Motion: Approve the minutes of September 19 and September, 23, 2013 as presented.

Moved: Usich; Seconded: Richter; Ayes: Unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commissioners reviewed the CIP Budget and Maintenance budgets.

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo introduced to the commissioners a new CSD staff member Public Art Program Assistant II, Nadya Chuprina and gave a brief summary of the Chuprina’s qualifications. DeMarzo reported to the commission the completion of 5 new permanent installations including Brad Oldham’s “Wise and Whimsy”, Bruce Beasley’s “Arpeggio 5”, and Roger Stoller’s “Cloud Forest” for the Mitchel Park Library and Community Center; Beth Nybeck’s sculptures at Hoover Park; and Morgan Bricca and Jen Schultz’s mural at Juana Briones Park.

PRESENTATION – Commissioner Tobak gave a presentation on Public Art projects around the globe that took place in 2013. The presentation included descriptions of the following case studies: 1. Rennes, France: "Tatitati tatata tatiti ti, un code dans la ville" by Bruno Peinado; 2. Mobile, AL: “The School of the Future” by Candy Chang; 3. Los Angeles, CA: “Elevate” by Joyce Dalal; 4. Sioux Falls, SD: “Robots in Public Space” by Paige and Jacque Frazee; 5. New York City, NY: “Rain Room” at MoMA NYC by Random International; 6. Shanghai, China: "Tribute to Mandela" by Phil Akashi; 7. Hamburg, Germany:

"Crossing the Elbe" by Anthony McCall; 8. New York City, NY: "An Artist Residency on the Streets of New York" by Banksy.

ACTION

City Hall Lobby Artwork - DeMarzo updated the commission on the status of the impending reconstruction of the City Hall lobby in January 2014 intended to expand the public space. DeMarzo introduced an opportunity to commission an interactive new media artwork to be installed in the renovated lobby space, and provided a rationale behind bringing an artist during very early stages of construction process to allow conceptual integration of the artwork into the interior design of the new space. DeMarzo recommended that the Commission allocate \$25,000 in 2013 and pledged to contribute \$25,000 from the 2014 CIP Budget. Commissioners asked questions regarding the future of the Community Gallery, limited timeline of the first phase of the project, artist selection process, and additional ways to fund the project by various constituencies. Some concerns were raised regarding allocating additional funds without knowing further details about the project. To address the issues DeMarzo replied that the Community Gallery will cease to exist due to the absence of the wall at the lobby used for exhibiting artworks; it would be impossible to provide more information about the project without bringing an artist on board, therefore it's essential to allocate the funds and commence the selection process sooner than later. Commissioners asked that Public Art staff would present a deadline for other city departments and stakeholders to come up with additional funds, and identify specific ways of community engagement. Commissioner Miyaji provided examples of successful new media public art projects in the Bay Area and noted that the City Hall Lobby Artwork can lead the way in the new-media Public Art trend for the City of Palo Alto and become the stepping-off point to commissioning larger budget projects.

Motion: Approve the requested funds of \$25,000 from this year's CIP and a pledge of \$25,000 from next year's CIP for the City Hall Lobby new-media artwork. Staff to keep the Commission apprised of fundraising efforts and deadlines.

Moved: Usich; Seconded: Tobak; Opposed: Richter; Ayes: Kavanaugh, Miyaji, Collins

NON-ACTION

University Avenue Tunnel Project - DeMarzo reported that there has been a delay of the selection process and approval of the selected artist and proposal. Staff will report back once there is an update.

1. Percent for Art Update – DeMarzo updated the commission on the status of Percent for Art in Private Development approval process. The percent for art ordinance was presented to Policy and Services Council on October 8, 2013 and passed unanimously and was referred to Council for adoption.

2. Online Database Update – DeMarzo updated the Commission on the development status of the new online database and discussed the rationale behind development of the

database including effective collection management by staff; promotion awareness about the collection and accessibility to information for general public. DeMarzo provided examples of pages with artworks in detailed views. Council Liaison Karen Holman talked about Parks and Recreation Mobile Apps and proposed that the Public Art Database could be plugged into that app. Commissioner Tobak inquired about other social media tools for the PAP. DeMarzo noted that the PAP intends to take advantage of this and other social media tools considering it has the staff capacity to do it now.

3. California Avenue Fountain – DeMarzo reported to the Commission that the staff will prepare a more complete report on the project development during the next Commission meeting.

4. Subcommittees - Chair Usich led discussion regarding division into new four subcommittees. The Commission agreed on initiating 4 sub-committees: Policy and Governance; Innovations; Outreach; and Ad Hoc. All commissioners noted a positive impact of migration from a multiple subcommittee structure to a 4-subcommittee system that would allow a larger level of interaction and more efficient working process. Commissioners to email staff regarding which subcommittees they would like to join.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Next meeting: November 18, 6PM – Joint Meeting with City Council, November 21, 2013, 7 pm, Council Chambers

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm