

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 16, 2014**  
Palo Alto Civic Center  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
7:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**       **Larisa Usich, Amanda Ross, Kathleen Kavanaugh, Ben Miyaji, Trish Collins, Vikki Tobak, Ally Richter.**

**Commissioners Absent:**       **none**

**Staff present:**               **Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Manager**  
  **Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Assistant II**

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Usich.

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none

ADDITIONS, CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS - none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Commissioner Usich moved to approve the November 21 Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Miyaji. All in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Commissioners reviewed the CIP and Maintenance Budgets. Commissioner Usich asked to pull out the notation of the additional allocation of \$25,000 for the City Hall Lobby New Media Artwork from the CIP Budget under future PAC approved expenses.

STAFF COMMENTS – DeMarzo updated the Commission on the following developments that have taken place since the November 21 Public Art Commission Meeting:

1. Donation of the Nathan Oliveira sculpture: The paperwork was approved and the sculpture was accessioned into the City Collection of Public Art. Staff had a concrete fabricator on site to provide an estimate for the pad to secure the artwork in the Art Center courtyard.
2. Our Town Grant: Division of Arts and Science, CSD submitted an Our Town Grant application with Theaterworks as a primary partner. The grant will designate the Cubberley Community Center into an arts destination while providing opportunities for more interaction between multiple stakeholders, community members and visitors. The staff approached several social practice artists with the possibility of creating art projects in the late Fall 2014 should the division of Arts and Sciences receive the grant. The grant recipients will be announced in July 2014.
3. Percent for Art in Private Development: the new ordinance became effective in January 2014. The staff has developed applicable materials that are now available on the City of Palo Alto website. Staff is currently working on the necessary process documentation and supporting the Planning Staff as needed with documents and informational support.

## ACTION

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Art Commission – Commissioner Usich opened the nomination discussion and nominated commissioner Kavanaugh to be the next Chair of the Public Art Commission. Commissioner Kavanaugh accepted the nomination. Commissioners voted all in favor. Commissioner Usich opened the nomination discussion for the post of Vice Chair of the Public Art Commission and nominated Commissioner Miyaji. Commissioner Miyaji accepted the nomination. Commissioner Usich announced the newly elected officers – Chair Commissioner Kavanaugh and Vice Chair Commissioner Miyaji.

MOTION: Commissioner Usich moved the motion to approve the nomination of Commissioner Kavanaugh as the next Chair of the Commission. The Commission voted all in favor. Commissioner Tobak moved to approve the nomination of Commissioner Miyaji to be the next Vice Chair of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously. All in favor.

2. University Avenue Tunnel - Approval of artist selected to create a temporary installation in the University Avenue tunnels. DeMarzo summarized the project history, provided details on the selection panel composition and announced the name of the selected artist – Ala Ebtekar. Commissioners Tobak and Usich presented a detailed report on the artist selection process, and the proposal of the selected artist.

MOTION: Commissioner Usich moved to support the nomination of the selection panel and approve artist Ala Ebtekar to create a temporary art installation for the University Avenue Tunnels. Seconded by Commissioner Miyaji. All in favor.

## NON-ACTION

1. Public Art in Private Development – DeMarzo updated the Commission on the progress of the implementation of percent for art in private development. The Staff conducted first preliminary consultations with private developers who expressed interest in placing artwork on site. The Staff proposed that the Commissioners would choose a date for a special meeting to discuss the process for working with private developers.
2. Water Quality Control Plant and Household Hazardous Waste Facility – DeMarzo provided updates regarding the development status of the project and presented slides of the fabricated artworks. The artist is in process of the art fabrication. Tentatively, the installation is expected in March 2014.
3. Municipal Golf Course – Chuprina updated the Commission about the development status of the project. The call was launched in December to create a pool of qualified artists interested in the project with the entry deadline on February 2. Staff provided information on the preliminary timeline for the artist selection process. Commissioner Miyaji volunteered to serve on the artist selection panel.

4. City Hall Artwork: DeMarzo provided updates regarding the development status of the project. The call was launched in January with an expected deadline on February 10. Currently, the staff is receiving a high volume of interest among new media artists.
  
5. Subcommittees: Commissioner Usich led discussion regarding the subcommittee structure. Commissioner Ross updated the Commission on the development status of the draft of the Subcommittee structure working document. The document aims to focus on the program procedures and guidelines for new commissioners. The Commission identified the best way of reporting their status updates as a monthly updates by each subcommittee. The Commission discussed plans going forward and updated the Subcommittee list. Twice a year (tentatively, January and June) the Commission would review the work progress and composition for all Subcommittees. The Governance Subcommittee had been changed and now is comprised of Commissioners Miyaji, Kavanaugh and Usich. Commissioner Kavanaugh wished to leave the Outreach Subcommittee. Commissioners Tobak and Kavanaugh presented the updates of the Innovation Subcommittee focusing on the subcommittee goals – bringing new ideas and concepts for the public art program - and editorial calendar – bringing updates of global and nationwide trends and developments in the field of public art.

#### FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The next meeting: February 20, 2014, 7pm at Council Conference Room.

The Commissioners discussed ideas for the special Commission meeting and tentatively agreed to set up the meeting on January 24.

The tentative date for the Public Art Commission Annual Retreat was proposed for a Friday in February 2014 from 8:30 AM -12:30 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – none.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.