



**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 20, 2023**  
**Community Meeting Room & Virtual**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners Participating:** **Hsinya Shen, Ben Miyaji, Nia Taylor, Lisa Waltuch**  
(participated remotely under “just cause”)

**Commissioners Absent:** **Loren Gordon**

**Staff Present:** **Elise DeMarzo**, Public Art Program Director  
**Nadya Chuprina**, Public Art Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Shen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - PAC Regular Meeting May 18, 2023 **Moved:** Commissioner Miyaji;  
**Second:** Commissioner Taylor. **All in Favor.**

STAFF COMMENTS – Staff updated the Commission on the community meeting with artist Stephen Galloway selected to create site-specific artwork for the Fire Station 4 Redevelopment Project. Members of the public who attended the meeting at Mitchell Park library learned about Galloway’s previous work and shared input about the neighborhood to help inform the artist’s design development. Staff also updated the Commission on the recently concluded art maintenance and care projects.

**NON-ACTION:**

- 1. California Avenue District Murals** – Staff provided a summary of the pilot Murals Event that took place in the California Avenue District June 1-9, 2023. Staff shared images of the three completed murals by California muralists selected for the commissions. The painting of two murals on privately owned walls and one streetscape mural at the California Ave – Ash St intersection was followed by a well-attended public event and tour. The artists were onsite to introduce their murals to the public. Staff thanked all the volunteers and commissioners who contributed to the project and supported the artists. Chair Shen commended the staff for their planning efforts to realize this pilot. There was some discussion among the commissioners about the success of this pilot public – private partnership and the desire to bring more murals to various areas of Palo Alto.
- 2. Code:ART 2023** - Staff provided a comprehensive overview of the Code:ART interactive media festival returning to Palo Alto on October 12, 13, and 14<sup>th</sup>, and shared updated visuals and

descriptions of the updated event branding, featured installations, festival map, and public programming and tours taking place during the festival. The anchor installation will be by Nate Mohler and take place in King Plaza. Six Urban Interventions by Steven Wallace, Ruokan He, Pneuhaus, Jeffrey Yip, Cory Barr and Paul Mann, and Tong Wu and Yuguang Zhang.

- 3. PAC Annual Retreat** – Staff and Commissioners discussed the upcoming PAC Annual Retreat. Staff suggested holding this year’s retreat at the Downtown Library on a selected date in September. Staff will follow up with the Commissioners to identify a date based on everyone’s availability.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Community member Jasmin Aber addressed the Commissioners with a general question about artist opportunities, and artist selection processes for public art commissions in Palo Alto.

- 4. Public Art Commission Members** – Commissioners led a discussion about the necessity to increase the commission number back to seven members due to the consistently high volume of ongoing and planned projects and commissions, issues with quorum, and the need to have more diversity and community representation on the Commission. PAC Chair proposed that the Commissioners draft an official Request Letter to City Council requesting reinstating the number of PAC commissioners back to seven. The draft letter will be reviewed and approved by the PAC before submission to City Council in September. Commissioners are asked to direct any feedback or talking points to staff to forward to Chair Shen.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS: Chair Shen requested that a Public Art Commission Members item to review and approve the official request letter to City Council is added to the next meeting agenda.

CALENDAR: Next PAC Regular Meeting – August 17, 7 pm at City Hall Community Meeting Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 7:46 by Chair Shen.