



Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City Arts Advisory Committee and Visual Arts in Public Places (VAPP) Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2012 • 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Victoria Hall Theatre

33 West Victoria St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:

Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair (Chair Pro Temp); Robert Adams, Roman Baratiak, Darian Bleacher, Carol Taylor, Nathan Vonk

Arts Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Present:

Judy Nilsen, Chair; Darian Bleacher, Teen Conlon, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Jacqueline Dyson, Martha Gray, Mary Heebner, Susan Keller

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Absent: Phyllis de Picciotto,

Liaisons Present:

Barry Winick, HLC, Frank Hotchkiss (City Council)

Liaisons Absent: Paul Zink, (ABR), Judith Cook (Parks & Recreation)

Staff: Ginny Brush, Executive Director

Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections (Absent)

Linda Gardy, Business Specialist II

Leslee Sipress, Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair (Chair Pro Temp) at 3:32 PM and roll was called. Prior to this, a tour of the New Vic (Victoria Street Theatre) and a presentation of future plans were shown to the group by Jonathan Fox, Ensemble Theatre Executive Artistic Director.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
3. **ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair
 - A. **Approval of Minutes** – Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2011 unanimously approved as submitted.
 - B. **Director's Report** - Ginny Brush
The Committee heard updates on the:
 1. *New County Community Services Department:* Restructuring of Departments at the County has created a new Community Services Department, pulling together (County Parks, Housing & Redevelopment, Library Services and Arts Commission). Herman Parker, the new Director of the Community Services Department, comes from City of Temecula, where he was involved with Parks & Recreation as well as public art and cultural events.
 2. *Status of RDA State Supreme Court Ruling:* The California State Supreme Court has decided to dissolve all Redevelopment Agencies in early February, 2012 leaving a very long list of local projects without funding. Projects already in the works are now in limbo until details have been sorted out.

OFFICE LOCATION:

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3. *Cultural Arts Enrichment Grants:* The Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation has recently granted \$30,033 to the County Arts Commission through an Arts Subsidy program. Funds will be distributed in the form of grants ranging from \$500 – \$5,000. The funds will be used to provide art and cultural opportunities to underserved children and rural areas that currently have little or no access to arts in the hopes of encouraging greater community engagement in the arts. The Cultural Arts Enrichment grants will be available for online submittal beginning in March, and again in 6 months. A panel made up of 3 County Arts Commissioners, one member of the Bowl Education Outreach Committee and Arts Commission staff, will review grants. Bowl Art Subsidy Funds for this program are generated from Bowl concert ticket sales—currently at 25 cents per ticket until 2014; then the arts subsidy goes to 50 cents per ticket).
4. *Poetry Out Loud:* The 6th Poetry Out Loud National Competition is currently underway with the County finals scheduled to take place on February 15, 2012 at the Board of Supervisors Room in Santa Barbara with six schools participating. The MC for the evening will be Paul Willis, current Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara.

4. VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE – Judy Nilsen called the meeting to order at 3:59 pm.

- A. Presentation on Paseo Nuevo Center Court Renovation- Trey Lindle, Macerich Corp., and Henry Lenny, Architect:** The committee heard a presentation and reviewed new drawings for the proposed renovations at Center Court at Paseo Nuevo. The Center Court project includes a revised pillar with a winged Nike-like bronze figure at the top (approximately 23 feet tall). Seating is proposed as contoured benches modeled after the George Washington Smith-designed benches near the Bird Refuge. There is fountain from which the pillar rises and the new plan replaces the amphitheater with moveable tables and chairs.

The following comments and suggestions were made by the Committee: addition of signage, proposed story poles might be a good idea to see how large the monument appears from far away, specific plantings rather than Boxwood would be more attractive, the new design might be considered too “grand” for a shopping mall (not whimsical enough). There was concern that the symbolism of the figure would not be understood. Barry Winick (HLC) was thanked for his input.

Final Approval was given with the following conditions to be met:

- Landscape boxwood should be reviewed.
- Proportions of the pillar relative to the figure be further evaluated.
- Signage to be considered.

M/S/C: Keller/Heebner (2 abstentions: Fairly-Green/Dyson).

B. Update on Didactic Public Art Panels for the Airport Terminal – Rita Ferri

Examples of signage to be installed at the Airport were presented and reviewed for font, format and content with one sign proposed for each piece of art (about 8.5 x11 inches) with information about the artist. Concerns were noted about the appropriateness and longevity of using web addresses on the signs.

Roman Baratiak suggested information of local events be available at the Airport for visitors to promote local arts.

C. Staff Reports – Rita Ferri

1. Update on City Hall **Hidden Treasures** photo exhibition: Three photographers known at the “Ordinaires (Rodger Dawson, Ken Pfeiffer and Fritz Pinney) will present images of the Downtown Historic Cultural Arts District in a show opening on *1st Thursday*, February 2, 2012 and running through January 25, 2013 at the City Hall Gallery, Santa Barbara City Hall, De La Guerra Plaza, Santa Barbara.
2. Update on Jardin de las Granadas: On January 11, 2012 Francis Michael Dawson replanted many of the plantings which had perished in the unexpected weather conditions and theft. Activities are being planned for the spring at the Jardin.
3. Channing Peake Gallery: The Berkus exhibition will be de-installed on January 23, 2012 and returned to the vault. The next exhibition, *Threshold* by artists Michele Simonson and Timothy Webb (Professors of Art at Cal Poly) showing underwater photographs taken in and on the Trinity River, will open on February *1st Thursday* from 5–8 PM and a walk thru gallery talk on March *1st Thursday*. On April *1st Thursday* there will be a poetry event coordinated by City Poet Laureate Paul Willis, *Poets on the Threshold*, featuring invited Santa Barbara poets.

D. Announcements

1. Roman Baratiak announced a film series to be shown at UCSB on Art and Architecture. He also lauded Paul Willis for the great job he’s been doing.
2. Robert Adams thanked Roman for the great job putting out the film series and Barry Winick for his sponsorship. He reminded everyone that the *Santa Barbara International Film Festival* begins January 26th. Also noted is the *Film Feast* with various restaurant participation and food paired with film themes.
3. Mary Heebner and her new book *Patagonia* are featured in this week’s *Santa Barbara Independent*.
4. Barry Winick announced that Westmont College plans their Art Museum re-opening in early May. Submissions from the Tri-County area are welcome, and Howard Fox will be guest curator (formally from LACMA).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2012 at 3:30 – 5:00 PM at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room.