



Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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

Thursday, November 15, 2012 • 3:30 - 5:00 pm
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:

Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair; Robert Adams, Darian Bleecher, Nathan Vonk

Arts Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair; Roman Baratiak, Carol Taylor

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Present:

Judy Nilsen, Chair; Darian Bleecher, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Martha Gray

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Absent:

Teen Conlon, Phyllis de Picciotto, Jacqueline Dyson, Mary Heebner, Susan Keller

Liaisons Present:

None

Liaisons Absent:

Frank Hotchkiss (City Council), Paul Zink, (ABR), Judith Cook (Parks & Recreation), Barry Winick (HLC)

Staff: Ginny Brush, Executive Director

Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections

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 at 3:37 PM and roll was called.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
3. **ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair called to order.

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2012 were approved as submitted (M/S/C: Vonk/Adams)

B. Director's Report - Ginny Brush

The Committee heard updates on the:

1. **NEA Our Town Grant:** Several non-profits and individuals involved in organizing the Focus on the Funk Zone event are exploring the idea of developing a Letter of Interest (LOI) for an NEA Our Town grant, due in mid-January. The grant requires support of at least one nonprofit and one government agency. Staff from the County Arts Commission, The Arts Fund, members of the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative, and other individuals involved in recent Funk Zone activities have met informally to discuss the idea. NEA Our Town grants serve to fund creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life, encourage greater creative activity, foster stronger community identity and a sense of place, and revitalize economic development.

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2. Community Arts Enrichment Grants (2nd Round): Grants were reviewed on October 16th by County Arts Commissioners Holly Unruh, Brenda French, and Geraldo Ayala along with Sandy Stahl, a member of the Bowl Foundation Education Outreach Committee. Staff drafted panel comments along with “Yes” and “No” letters that went out on November 7th along with a press release. Fifteen grant applications were approved for funding in amounts ranging from \$600 to \$2,750 for the \$25,000 in grant funds available. These funds are the result of a partnership agreement with between the County Arts Commission and the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation’s Arts Subsidy Fund.
3. State and Local Partnership Grant Contract: Ms. Brush reported that contract materials have been submitted for the California Arts Council 2013-14 State and Local Partnership Grant along with an invoice for 90% of funds.
4. Pianos on State Street: This event was a great success this year, largely the result of increased collaboration and greater sponsorship support. The program kicked off on 1st Thursday in November. It helped promote the New Noise Festival the following weekend and the Bowl Foundation’s Annual Instrument Drive. Eleven pianos, painted by artists in the SB Arts Collaborative were displayed--- ten Downtown and one in Baggage Claim at the Santa Barbara Airport. The Airport requested that the piano in Baggage Claim remain there throughout the Holidays. Now in its 3rd year, Facebook “likes” were significantly up and more performers used social media to let friends and fans know where and when they would be playing. Pianos on State Street is made possible through a strategic collaboration with the SB Arts Collaborative, the SB Bowl Foundation, the Arts Commission, Notes 4 Notes, the New Noise Festival, and the SB Education Foundation who provided a group of volunteers to help with covers and replenishing rack cards. This year the Arts Commission was able to enlist the support of the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization and City Parking to facilitate the logistics of covering and uncovering the pianos each day.

C. Selection of Poet Laureate Search Committee Members: Members of the ad hoc Poet Laureate Search Committee were selected to coordinate this year’s Santa Barbara Poet Laureate search and establish a timeline to begin in January 2013 with the Poet Laureate to be installed at City Council in April of 2013. The Poet Laureate will serve a 2-year term. Selected members were: *Fairly-Green, Dyson, Vonk; and Nilsen (if needed)*.

D. Update on the Funk Zone: Nathan Vonk had no report, but agreed it was an “incredible event” and accepted congratulations from Judy Nilson and the group.

4. **VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE** – Judy Nilsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:54 pm.

A. Herbert Bayer exhibition proposal for City Hall Gallery-Rita Ferri, Visual Arts

Coordinator/Curator of Collections: The committee considered a proposal for an exhibition of work by Herbert Bayer proposed for the City Hall Gallery for installation in February, 2013 and remaining on display for one year. The works will encompass the period of the late ‘70s and early ‘80s when Bayer lived and worked in California. Many of the artworks have already been located. (*M/S/C: Gray/Nilsen*)

B. Staff Report: Rita Ferri

1. The Herbert Bayer Chromatic Gate:

There was an in-depth inspection of the Chromatic Gate on November 13th. A Sculpture Restoration Specialist climbed on top of the Gate and noted that there were no deep breaches into the metal on the top and only a small amount of rust. Other sites where paint was

bubbling up were inspected and probed, still no sign of break-thru of the metal. This serves as a good indicator that water has probably not seeped inside the Gate and bodes well for the restoration and painting. The Arts Commission has written a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Agreement between the City and the Arts Commission for the restoration and is finalizing the proposal from the Sculptural Restoration Specialist for the restoration and a future maintenance plan.

2. Historic Cultural Arts District exhibition updates:

- a. The Channing Peake Gallery current exhibition *Figure Fragments: The Part As the Whole*, with guest curator, artist Priscilla Bender-Shore, will continue until the end of January, 2013. At our October 1st Thursday in the gallery, County TV interviewed curator Bender-Shore and some of the exhibition artists including Sol Hill, Mary Heebner, Patricia Houghton-Clarke and others. The results of that interview can be seen on Channel 20 County TV or on the Arts Commission website at with these links:
<http://youtu.be/yiMdN9WIGQI>
http://sbcounty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=11&clip_id=1670
- b. Las Aves Fountain: Rita spoke with Carol Kenyon, a past Chair of the Visual Arts and Public Places at length about the history of Marge Dunlap fountain at Las Aves. Ms. Kenyon sent a follow-up email to clarify her thoughts on installation and restoration of the fountain from her perspective as a member of Architectural Board of Review at the time when the sculpture was brought through for approval.

D. Announcements

1. The Arts Commission's annual holiday reception will take place on December 6th in the Channing Peake Gallery and will include public announcement of the Arts Commission's 2012 Leadership in the Arts Award.
2. Robert Adams thanked the group for those who attended his art exhibition at the Architectural Foundation on October 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2013 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room.