



Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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

Thursday, February 17, 2011
Granada Garage 2nd Floor Meeting Room
1220 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:

Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair; Suzanne Fairly-Green; Judy Nilsen; Michael Humphrey; Robert Adams; Darian Blecher

Members Absent: Roman Baratiak

Visual Art in Public Places (VAPP) Committee Members Present:

Judy Nilsen, Chair; Phyllis de Picciotto, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Martha Gray, Teen Conlon; Darian Blecher, Jacqueline Dyson, Susan Keller

Members Absent: Mary Heebner

Liaisons Present: Susette Naylor, (HLC)

Liaisons Absent: Judith Cook (Parks & Recreation), Frank Hotchkiss (City Council), Paul Zink, (ABR)

Staff: Ginny Brush, Executive Director

Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections

Linda Gardy, Office Professional

1. **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL** –Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** None.
3. **ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes** – January 20, 2010. The Minutes of January 20, 2010 were approved as submitted. Nilsen/Adams.

B. Director's Report – Ginny Brush

1. Americans for the Arts & Economic Prosperity IV (AEP4) study: The Commission is participating in the Americans for the Arts national study and will be engaging nonprofit art and cultural groups to help gather audience survey information from communities countywide. The participation cost for the study is \$7,500. The last AEP study provided compelling evidence that the nonprofit arts and culture were a \$77.6 million industry in Santa Barbara County--one that supports 2,288 full-time equivalent jobs and generated 7.62 million in local and state government revenue. We anticipate those numbers to be significantly higher as we engage more of the arts community in the survey.

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Improvements in technology and social networking should make the task easier. A Spanish language version of the Survey will be available this year as well.

Results will give a meaningful picture of the how arts and cultural groups have fared during the current economic downturn. Santa Barbara is one of twenty agencies in California participating. To date the Arts Commission has received funding support from the City RDA, Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau and Film Commission, Santa Barbara Downtown Organization, UC Institute for Research in the Arts at UCSB, (County office of Community Development,) and Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau. We are still waiting to hear from Santa Maria area Chamber of Commerce. A press release was sent out in January 2011 and all forms have been made available online. Staff will present information at the next Brown Bag Arts Lunch on March 3, on the value of the AEP4 study for regional arts groups and encourage their support by selecting events to survey and to have their organizations commit to gathering surveys quarterly to send to Americans for the Arts in Washington DC. The first will be due at the end of March. Survey results will be released in 2012.

2. Staff has scheduled a Hard Hat Tour of the New Airport for Wednesday, March 16th at 4pm. Please be prompt and be sure to wear comfortable, sensible shoes. The tour will begin promptly at 4pm. You may park in the enclosed area (with construction trailers) behind the Rental Car Building. Please confirm that you will be attending so that we have an exact head count.
3. Community Arts Workshop, (CAW) Task Force Strategic Plan - A draft version of the Strategic Plan and Community Needs Assessment document was well received when reviewed by the City Redevelopment Agency, and edits are being incorporated in the final document. At the present time, City RDA staff is at a minimum, so things are moving more slowly than anticipated.
4. The 6th Annual Arts Symposium is scheduled for Friday, April 15, at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion in Santa Barbara from 8:30 am -3:00pm. The focus will be on providing guidance for developing successful collaborative models for arts & cultural groups. Recent successful collaborative projects and programs will be highlighted. The format will remain the same as last year with ample time for community breakout and brainstorming.

The first Arts Career Day has been scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. The event is intended to provide students with career information and the varied possibilities of a career in the Arts. Guest Speakers and Arts Professionals will address the students and be available for Q&A. A behind-the-scenes tour of museum departments will provide students access to the variety of career opportunities. The project is the result of a collaboration with The Arts Fund, County Arts Commission, Art Without Limits, County Office of Education, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Granada Education Outreach, VADA at Santa Barbara High and Willow Rock Writers.

The State Local Partnership (SLPP) grant is due in late April. These funds are used for Arts Commission staff salaries and are leverage to get matching funds from the City and County. The California Arts Council will be making a site visit to Santa Barbara in time for the *1st Thursday* event in March and the quarterly Brown Bag Lunch Meeting. Ginny will be taking Rob Lautz, Arts Program Specialist for the State-Local Partnership Program of the California Arts Council on a tour to many of the local arts organizations and events.

C. Report from City Poet Laureate Ad Hoc Committee - Suzanne Fairly-Green reported the deadline for nominations for the Poet Laureate is February 22nd. The Committee has already received several nominations. The Recommendation Committee will meet at a location that has SKYPE capabilities in order to include Poet Laureate, David Starkey who is currently in Italy. The Committee will bring their recommendations for approval to the Arts Advisory Committee on March 17th. The City Council will approve the recommendations at the April 12th City Council meeting.

4. VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE- Judy Nilsen, Chair, called the meeting to order 3:50 pm.

A. Request for approval of decommissioning of the Paseo Nuevo Center Court

Amphitheater. Trey Lindle made a presentation to the Arts Advisory Committee last month regarding the ongoing safety and maintenance concerns of the Public Art at Center Court. The owner of Paseo Nuevo wants to do some major renovations at the Mall, including the center court area, and wants to pursue revisions to the existing center court public art amphitheater. The twenty-year old center court is showing wear and he noted the height of the wall has been a safety and liability issue. Management plans to continue to maintain the area as a public gathering and performance space and provided initial drawings include a moving water element, bench seating along the lowered retaining wall, open center for performance and traffic flow, and decorative tiling in the fountain and seating area.

VAPP member Susan Keller made a motion to approve the deaccessioning of the public art element at Paseo Nuevo Center Court. The art element consisting of an outside tile amphitheater with water features is to be removed due to public safety and ongoing maintenance issues; The motion also stated that every effort be made to re-purpose the artist-designed tile materials to a public location in proximity to the mall. Suzanne Fairly Green seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee liked the concept of increasing visual access around Center Court and suggested pushing the new public art design element at Center Court further to raise it out of the basic level. The committee suggested the use of a distinctive pattern in paving to define the performance space and materials that don't require significant maintenance.

B. Arts Collaborative - Art in the Mayor's Office Program - J. Nilsen

Judy Nilsen reported that the Arts Collaborative had over 60 submissions and some truly excellent examples of the talent and diversity of Santa Barbara's artist community for the inaugural "Art in the Mayor's Office" Exhibition, a collaboration with the SB Arts Collaborative. She thanked the selection panel Mayor Helene Schneider, Ginny Brush, Rod

Hare, Judy Nilsen, Nathan Vonk and Joseph LaCorte. Congratulations to our selections to exhibit Gary Chafe, Matti Berglund, Laura Lynch, Ray Hunter, Chris Potter, Katy Zappala, Joan Rosenberg-Dent. With limited space, the collaborative selected seven artists whose work will be on display for the next three months, and will be featured during the Downtown Organization's *1st Thursday* event on March 3rd. Applicants were encouraged to resubmit for the June exhibition. The Arts Collaborative will be sending out notices for the next event.

C. Update on the Airport Expansion Project – The Channing Peake *Fiesta Mural* is in storage at the airport. Possible install dates are May or June of 2011. The 18ft. tile medallion, by Lori Ann David, for the floor of the Airport is completed, and her installation may be around the same time. The basic elements for Colleen Kelley's iron kelp railing design, which will be attached to premade railings, have been fabricated. The mezzanine railing and the railings at the waiting area are close to being finished. The gates have not been worked on yet. Karen Ramsdell, director of the SB Airport and Fred Sweeney the architect visited Jeff Shelton's studio to see the progress. The railings will not be installed until May or June 2011. The painted and stenciled beam project by Vidya Gauchi, will be the last indoor project completed and is the one project that can not be done ahead of time. The artist is awaiting the okay to go in and measure the beams, adjust her stencils and paint it in place with scaffolding and her crew. Her project may not be done until June or July.

The RFP for the Airport projects for the Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum and Library Foundation had a review committee meeting and narrowed the candidates down to two artists whose qualifications, experience, and stated approach were most aligned with the project vision. These artists will advance to the interview phase of the selection process in March and are invited to bring further information in the form of a concept proposal for 5-6 "translucent banners", a concept budget and an example of one of the designed banners. There were five artists or teams that applied for the project.

D. Staff Report – Rita Ferri

1. Chromatic Gate: The Arts Commission is waiting to hear from donors in LA that have a large collection of Bayer's work, concerning our recent request for a donation. Rita met with Barry Berkus last week for a second time to formulate a follow-up letter to them giving them more definitive information on the budget and reporting to them how the community might help fund this project as well. The Arts Commission also recently met with Jill Zachery of City Parks & Recreation after a suggestion by Paul Casey of the City Community Development Department encouraging the Arts Commission and the City to explore if there is way to collaborate with Parks in its proposed upgrade of the open space area surrounding the Gate.

2. *Channing Peake: Mural Studies*: The exhibition opened on February *1st Thursday* from 5-7pm at City Hall Gallery with remarks by Mayor Helene Schneider and Karen Ramsdell, the Airport Director at 6pm. There was a large crowd between 100 and 150 who viewed the exhibition throughout the evening. Many of the collectors, donors and the general public attended the exhibition. This year-long exhibition documents and honors the historic and artistic significance of Peake's studies, and of Channing Peake as an artist of note in our community.

3. Channing Peake Gallery: *Art Inspired by County Parks* exhibition moves to the Santa Maria Betteravia Gallery this Saturday. Currently on County TV Channel 20 is the 1st Thursday event, *Whose Woods These Are: Poetry Inspired by Art in County Parks*, hosted by David Starkey, our Poet Laureate. If you haven't seen the event airing on television, you can also go to the Arts Commission website and click on the link which will take you to the program.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Phyllis de Picciotto announced that the Green Shorts Film Festival is now accepting entries. The Community Environmental Council (CECO), in partnership the Traffic Solutions has opened the third annual Festival. Submissions are due by 4 pm, March 18th. The Festival is an annual online film festival about saving the planet, helping the environment and being green. The 2011 contest theme is "Powered By the People". Videos are limited to two minutes in length. Several awards will be offered in different categories.
- B. Susan Keller announced that Santa Barbara Revels will be hosting a "Pub Sing" at Dargon's Irish Pub & Restaurant on March 14th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The admission fee includes a songbook, beverage and a fun time.
- C. Robert Adams said that Bayard Hollins "A Restless Land" exhibition will be held at the Architectural Foundation Gallery with an Artist's Reception: Friday, March 4, 5-7 pm. Colorado artist Bayard Hollins has a long-standing connection to California's central coast. Born into a family of artists and writers, he grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley on a ranch once owned by renowned artist Channing Peake. Hollins experienced Peake's studio and all the lore surrounding it from a young age. The Architectural Foundation Gallery is located in the historic Acheson House at the corner of Garden and East Victoria Streets in Santa Barbara, with an entrance on Garden Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm, or by appointment.

6. NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next meeting will be March 17, 2011 at 3:30pm at the David Gebhard Meeting Room.