



Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

**City Arts Advisory Committee
and
Visual Arts in Public Places (VAPP) Committee
Minutes
Thursday, October 18, 2012 • 3:30 - 5:00 pm
David Gebhard Public Meeting Room
630 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:

Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair; Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair; Carol Taylor

Arts Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Robert Adams, Roman Baratiak, Darian Bleecher, Nathan Vonk

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Present:

Teen Conlon, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Phyllis de Picciotto, Jacqueline Dyson, Martha Gray, Susan Keller

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Absent:

Judy Nilsen, Chair; Darian Bleecher, Mary Heebner

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 Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair at 3:38 PM and roll was called.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes of September 20 were not approved as submitted (with no quorum)

B. Director's Report - Ginny Brush
The Committee heard updates on the:

- 1. Results of the Americans for the Arts “Arts & Economic Prosperity IV Study”** were presented on October 4th at the Lobero Theater. Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider made opening remarks and read a City Proclamation recognizing October as National Arts & Humanities Month. Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research and Policy at Americans for the Arts presented an informative report on the “Arts and Economic Prosperity IV” study comparing National results and trends to Santa Barbara County. Kathy Janega-Dykes from the Santa Barbara Conference and Visitors Bureau & Film Commission provided information on the economic impact of Cultural Tourism in Santa Barbara County. The annual photo of this year’s City Grants recipients was taken prior to the event. A County Proclamation recognizing October as National Arts & Humanities was also sponsored by Chair Doreen Farr at the Board of Supervisors October 2nd meeting.

OFFICE LOCATION:

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County Courthouse

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Last week Ms. Brush met with Zoe Taylor, Interim Director of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce following up on the Economic Impact Forum initiating a conversation about how the Chamber Community might work more closely with the Arts Commission and the Cultural Arts community.

- 2. Cultural Arts Enrichment (CAE) Grants:** The Arts Commission is now in the grant review stage of its second round of **Community Art Enrichment Grants**. These are countywide grants with funding support through a partnership of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation and its Arts Subsidy Fund. The grant application deadline was September 30th and there were 31 applicants requesting grant funds for the \$25,000. Grants will be reviewed on October 16th by a committee made up of Arts Commissioner's from 1st, 2nd and 4th Districts as well as a member of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. Grant applicants will be notified in early November 2012.
- 3. Pianos on State Project:** Staff met with the key stakeholders and collaborators to move forward with Pianos on State Street. From November 1-12th ten pianos are planned to return to State Street, and one will be in the baggage claim area at the Santa Barbara Airport Terminal. The Project includes a half dozen non-profit groups collaborating to make this project possible and in conjunction with the New Noise Festival and Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation's Annual Instrument Drive.
- 4. Search for 2013-15 City Poet Laureate.** Paul Willis' term as City Poet Laureate comes to an end at the end of the year. At the next Arts Advisory meeting, guidelines for selection will be presented and the next City Poet Laureate Search Committee will be selected. The City Poet Laureate search announcement goes out in early January and deadline for nominations is the second week in February. The Search committee recommendation will be made at the City Arts Advisory March meeting and announced to the public soon after. The installation of the new City Poet Laureate will take place in early April 2013 at City Council as part of National Poetry Month.

Ms. Brush reminded Arts Commissioners about this year's **Poetry Out Loud** program and encouraged them to outreach to teachers at high schools throughout the City to expand the program to more schools this year.

C. Presentation on Arts Alliance – Ricardo Venegas, Neighborhood & Outreach Services Coordinator for the City Parks & Recreation.

The program began in 2005 thanks to a \$3,000 City Community Arts grant for the Ortega Park Mural Restoration Project. Seventeen youth participated in that project & working under the direction of a professional artist, and restored eight murals. The successful project developed into the Santa Barbara Arts Alliance, an art based mentoring program that reaches out to 40-60 youth per year (ages 13 – 21). The program encourages youth to develop life skills and to connect to the community through art. The program has impressive statistics on how participating by the students lowers juvenile delinquency.

The SB Arts Alliance involves participants in all aspects of mural design and painting, and also community service projects such as graffiti abatement and neighborhood clean ups. Youth receive free mentoring, art related workshops, instruction in digital arts, photography, mural painting & design. The City saves thousands of dollars per year in costly graffiti vandalism repairs, with an overall 98% success rate in eliminating previous ongoing graffiti vandalism at every location where the youth have put up a mural. Five murals created by 27 youth participants from the Eastside and Westside went up in Bohnett Park, thanks to a City Community Arts Grant of \$3,000 from the SB County Arts Commission.

D. Update on the Focus on the Funk Zone – The October 6th day long event was “wildly successful” drawing good crowds and increasing community awareness of the Funk Zone. The Arts Commission partnered with the Youth Interactive and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art to create a Pop-up event with the mobile arts lab (a repurposed shipping container). Artist Patrick McElvoy worked with Patsy Hicks’ of the Museum’s Teen for Teens Program to create a Funky Cultural Field Station linking the Funk Zone event to the SBMA downtown working with amateur ham radio operators to transmit cultural reports from the Funk Zone to the Museum. Because the project was also linked to Cain’s Arcade “Cardboard Challenge” Day, a LA film crew came up to document students involved in the creating Cardboard sculptures and “devices”. View at: <http://funkzone.net/focus-on-the-funk-zone/>

Additionally, Crista Dix had more than 1000 people through her Wall Space gallery on that day and Nathan Vonk President of the Arts Collaborative reported that there was approximately \$40,000 in art sales on the day at various locations. The Charrette exhibit at The Arts Fund was drew by a wide variety of groups including potential developers. The next step is to more formally organize volunteer efforts and consider a “community coordinator/outreach” position to continue the work started and plan more “Focus on the Funk Zone” events.

4. VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE – Suzanne Fairly-Green called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm in Judy Nilsen’s absence.

A. Presentation on the need for restoration of Marge Dunlap’s “It’s Raining” public art fountain_
Betsy Gallery and Alf Ramirez (with Edwin Laing).

The fountain, located on private property (Los Aves) was established in 1985 and has since fallen into disrepair. A Powerpoint presentation was made to the group. While VAPP members acknowledged the need for restoration and conservation of the fountain, the fact the fountain is located on private property and was approved prior to existing VAPP guidelines presents some challenges. The committee encouraged Ms. Gallery and Mr. Ramirez to follow up directly with the owner. Staff will follow up with Carol Kenyon, past VAPP chair who was instrumental in the original approval process to get more information.

B. Update on Joint Meeting of Architectural Board of Review, Airport Commission and Visual Art in Public Places Committee: Ms. Brush thanked members of the Committee for providing comments and input on the proposed public Art Element installation by Douglas Lochner. The next step in the process will be to return to the Architectural Board of Review for approval.

C. Staff Reports - Rita Ferri

1. Herbert Bayer’s Chromatic Gate The Arts Commission is currently in the process of completing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Arts Commission for the restoration and is finalizing estimated expenses for scaffolding and fencing, surface preparation and restoration. We now have a revised start date of December/January if everything progresses smoothly. Funding support for Restoration of Herbert Bayer’s Chromatic Gate to date is a total of \$89,000. Additional funds beyond those needed for the current restoration will remain in the Arts Commission’s art dedicated conservation fund for the ongoing and future maintenance of the Gate.

The Arts Commission is presenting an event on Sunday, October 21 at the former home of Herbert Bayer in Montecito. The current owners Mr. James and Stella Melillo will conduct the first tour of their beautifully remodeled home which was the original Santa Barbara Polo Club, built in 1912 by Francis T. Underhill.

2. City Hall Gallery: Rita is currently working on a proposal for an exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Herbert Bayer to open for February 1st Thursday in 2013 for the City Hall Gallery. This exhibition will coordinate with the Gate restoration and feature works from Santa Barbara and California collectors. Paul Hobson, Bayer's gallery assistant has offered to loan two works for the exhibition that were gifted to him by Herbert Bayer. All the works will be from the local community to save costs. The exhibition will coordinate with the restoration of the Chromatic Gate. The proposal and examples of work will be included for consideration and approval at the November 2013 meeting.

3. Channing Peake Gallery:

Figure Fragments: The Part As the Whole exhibition opened to a large crowd of 250 people on September 6th, 1st Thursday, with 25 artists. The exhibition had previously opened on a smaller scale in Betteravia with 11 artists. The exhibition includes painting, mixed media, photography and three-dimensional works. Priscilla Bender-Shore, professor emeritus of Santa Barbara City College and eminent figurative artist was the guest Curator, who also gave a walk-thru tour with me, on October 4th, 1st Thursday. Additionally, some of the exhibition artists, including Mary Heebner, Sol Hill, Patricia Houghton Clarke and others were interviewed by Lael Wageneck, from County TV who is editing a program which will play on Channel 20, the SB County Station. This exhibition will continue until January 2013. The exhibition was generously underwritten by Sarah Jane Lind, with additional funds provided by Sheila Lodge.

D. Announcements

1. Robert Adams' art exhibition opens at the Architectural Foundation on October 19th and another opening was announced at Kirkegarde Framing in the Funk Zone.
2. Opera Santa Barbara is offering a free admission to their dress rehearsal to staff and committees on October 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm *M/S/C: Fairly-Green/Conlon*. The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2012 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room.