



# Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE and  
VISUAL ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES (VAPP) COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 19, 2015  
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

## MINUTES

**Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:** Robert Adams, Darian Bleecher, Nina Dunbar, Elizabeth Owen, Marylove Thralls, Nathan Vonk, Margie Yahyavi

**Visual Arts in Public Places Committee Present:** Darian Bleecher, Jaqueline Dyson, Suzanne Fairly, Martha Gray

**Visual Arts in Public Places Committee Absent:** Judy Nilsen, Teen Conlon, Phyllis de Picciotto, Mary Heebner, Susan Keller

**Liaisons Present:** Michael Drury, Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC)

**Liaisons Absent:** Frank Hotchkiss, City Council; Courtney Miller, Architectural Board of Review (ABR), Judith Cook, City Parks & Recreation

**Staff Present:** Ginny Brush, Executive Director; Lyn Semenza, Department Business Specialist

**Staff Absent:** Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Arts Advisory Chair, Robert Adams, called the meeting to order at 3:32pm and Roll Call was taken. There were no changes to the Agenda.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*No public comment.*

### CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

*No changes to the agenda.*

### CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Subject: Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION:** Nina Dunbar made a motion to approve the February 19, 2014 meeting. Darian Bleecher seconded. Nathan & Martha abstained. *Motion Passed.*

### ARTS ADVISORY ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. **Subject: Recommendation from the 2015 City Poet Laureate Ad Hoc Search Committee – Marylove Thralls, Chair**

The Ad Hoc Search Committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> to review the nominations for the next City Poet Laureate. Council Member and Arts Advisory Liaison, Frank Hotchkiss were unable to attend but provided input. After careful and thoughtful deliberation, the committee came to a unanimous decision to recommend Sojourner Kincaid Rolle. Nathan Vonk made a motion to recommend Sojourner Kincaid Rolle as the City Poet Laureate for 2015 to 2017. Darian seconded the motion. *Motion Passed.*

The recommendation will be presented to City Council for approval and the installation scheduled for April 7, 2015.

#### OFFICE LOCATION:

1100 Anacapa Street  
3rd Floor, Rotunda Tower  
County Courthouse

☎ 805/ 568-3990

☎ 805/ 568-3991

#### MAIL:

Post Office Box 2369  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93120

**B. Subject: Selection of Community Arts and Organizational Development Grant Review Panels**

The following Arts Advisory Community Members will serve on the City Grants Review Panels.

**Community Arts Grants** (Review meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>): Marylove Thralls, Robert Adams, and Margie Yahyavi. Darian Bleecher will serve as an alternate.

**Organizational Development Grants** (Review meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>): Nina Dunbar, Nathan Vonk, and Elizabeth Owen.

**C. Subject: Update on Community Arts Workshop (CAW at) 631 Garden Street** – Nathan Vonk reported that with the City's contribution \$300,000.00 received last year, the project should soon see a completion of Phase 1 of the small building and it will be ready for Summer Solstice Celebration to move in within the next few months. The fundraising process continues, specifically focused on the David Shelton Public Art Gates, which is a very prominent feature of the project. A website has been created and it will include a video by Russ Spencer about the CAW space.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Subject: Executive Director's Report**

**1. 2015 Santa Barbara County Poetry Out Loud/April as National Poetry Month**

Aldrin Ysip, Santa Barbara Poetry Out Loud Champion competed in the Poetry Out Loud State Competition in Sacramento on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. He did very well placing in the top 8 of the 40 Counties competing. He will do a recitation at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisor's office in connection with a resolution recognizing April as National Poetry Month.

**2. Santa Barbara City Poet Laureate Installation/Proclamation scheduled for Tuesday, April 7**

In preparation with **April as National Poetry Month**, staff has organized a Proclamation to be presented at the April 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting which will coincide with the installation of the new City Poet Laureate. The Mayor will be inviting the new Poet Laureate and past Poets Laureate to a brief meeting in her office prior to the Council meeting.

**3. Save the Date and plan to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Countywide Arts Symposium to be held Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Canary Hotel from 8:30am-3:00pm.**

An EventBrite invitation went out last week for the *Annual Arts Symposium*. This year's Keynote speaker will be Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson who is a senior adviser to the Arts & Culture Program at the Kresge Foundation. She will speak on creative placemaking strategies for community engagement and the social impact of the arts. In 2013 President Obama appointed Maria to the National Council on the Arts. She serves on the boards of directors of the National Performance Network and the Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on Creative Placemaking, Community Engagement, Advocating for Arts Education in schools, SB Arts Collaborative Update on the CAW restoration and opportunities and other topics of interest to the arts & cultural committee.

**4. Community Arts Enrichment Grants Spring Cycle Announced**

The deadline for the Spring Cycle for Community Arts Enrichment Grant is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff has updated the website and a press release went out this week. Commissioners Gera Ayala, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Catherine Boyer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and Dennis Smitherman, 5<sup>th</sup> District will be serving on the grant review panel as well as a representative of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. There is \$14, 200 in funding available for this grant cycle.

5. Ginny will be attending the California Arts Council convening of California Arts Advocates and all State and Local Partnership (SLPP) partners in Sacramento on April 15 and 16 and will miss the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Nathan Vonk made a motion to adjourn the Arts Advisory meeting. Margie Yahyavi seconded. The Arts Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

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VISUAL ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL  
Suzanne Fairly called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (VAPP) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

**Subject: Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections Report**

**1. City Hall Gallery**

The current City Hall Gallery exhibition, *Ray Strong: Shared Vision/Common Ground* has been installed and will be on view until February 18, 2016. The opening reception will be *1st Thursday*, June 4, 5-7pm, with opening remarks by Mayor Helene Schneider at 6pm. The City Hall Gallery exhibition coincides with a City-wide celebration of Ray Strong's work and legacy in Santa Barbara scheduled to launch in June 2015. Participating artists are Meredith Brooks Abbott, Whitney Brooks Abbott, Marcia Burt, Don Crocker, Bill Dewey, Michael Drury, Larry Iwerks, Ann Sanders and Thomas Van Stein; as well as some of Ray Strong's.

The exhibition celebrates Ray's teaching, his mentoring and his environmental legacy in Santa Barbara. There are some portraits of Ray painting and teaching, images from Camino Cielo, his favorite location for 'Ray Day' (Jan. 3rd, his birthday), one of his original palettes, sketchbook images of him and some poignant observations of and memories of Ray.

**2. City Hall – Room 15**

Recently the Arts Commission completed the installation of Colin Campbell Cooper paintings in Room 15. Four paintings from the City's collection are on display from the original bequest to the City from Cooper's estate. Room 15 was recently painted and remodeled and is used for many City-wide meetings and functions throughout the day. We are pleased that these paintings are now out of the vault and able to be viewed by a wide audience.

**3. Channing Peake Gallery**

The current photography exhibition, *Under the Influence: Responses to Place* exhibition, co-curated by artists Kam Jacoby and Karen Gearhardt-Jensen, originated at the Betteravia Gallery in Santa Maria, and was later expanded to include both North and South County artists and brought to Santa Barbara's Channing Peake Gallery. The exhibition includes black and white and color photography that demonstrates how a sense of place (specifically the Central Coast and its environment including geology, geography, weather, faults, drought etc...) influences and directs the creative process. The result is magical mix of images, seeing and experiencing the land in new ways. The *1st Thursday* opening reception event on March 5 was well attended and we are looking forward to the next *1st Thursday*, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6pm which will feature a meet-the-curators and photographers evening and a walk-thru of the exhibition. The exhibition continues until May 22, 2015.

**4. Jardin de las Granadas Update**

The sculpture project by Francis Michael Dawson, *Stochastic Possibilities*, at the Jardin de las Granadas will be deinstalled on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and traveling to a new public location outside the city. Originally installed for one year in late 2010, it has suffered in the last year due to the severe drought conditions.

Staff is pursuing sculpture installations possibilities, and will reconvene the Ad Hoc State of the Art Gallery Review committee when proposals and funding are in place.

**5. Updates on Two Potential Public Art Projects**

In November of 2014 Patrick Conway, Vice-President of Regency Centers, of the 5 Points Shopping Center in Santa Barbara, contacted Arts Commission staff about a plan to include public art on their newly remodeled Upper State Street property. Nancy Grinstein, one of the owners of a mixed-use building at 10 East Yanonali St. contacted staff and indicated a desire to include public art murals on their building in the Funk Zone. Both have been contacted by staff and neither project is ready at this time to bring proposals to the committee for input or review.

Chair Robert Adams reported on his attendance at the City's Advisory Groups and Commissions at which he provided an update on key Arts Advisory and VAPP Projects. Some questions were raised about the Crescent Crossing Public Art bench at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Visual Art in Public places (VAPP) meeting was adjourned at 4:20PM.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next City Arts Advisory and Visual Arts in Public Places Committee meeting will be April 16, 2015 in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, If you need auxiliary aids or services or staff assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission at (805) 568-3990. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will usually enable the City to make reasonable arrangements. Specialized services, such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, may require additional lead time to arrange.

**REPORTS:**

Copies of documents relating to agenda items are available for review at the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission office at 1100 Anacapa Street, 3rd Floor Rotunda Tower, and agendas and reports are also posted online at [www.SBArtsCommission.org](http://www.SBArtsCommission.org). Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Arts Advisory Committee/Visual Art in Public Places Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission located at 1100 Anacapa Street, 3rd Floor Rotunda Tower during normal business hours.