



Arts Advisory

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 16, 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,

Arts Advisory Committee Members Absent: Margie Yahyavi

Visual Arts in Public Places Committee Present: Darian Bleecher, Teen Conlon, Jacqueline Dyson, Suzanne Fairly, Martha Gray, Mary Heebner

Visual Arts in Public Places Committee Absent: Judy Nilsen, Phyllis de Picciotto, Susan Keller

Liaisons Absent: Frank Hotchkiss, City Council; Courtney Miller, Architectural Board of Review (ABR), Judith Cook, City Parks & Recreation; Michael Drury, Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC)

Staff Present: Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections; Lyn Semenza, Department Business Specialist

Staff Absent: Ginny Brush, Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Arts Advisory Chair, Robert Adams, called the joint meeting of the Arts Advisory and Visual Art in Public Places (VAPP) Committees to order at 3:34pm and Roll Call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kenneth Loch spoke about the spiritual practice of creativity.

Ricardo Castellanos, Christa Gallagher and Jonathan Hernandez spoke in support of the proposed Youth Interactive temporary mural installation at the La Entrada Project.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No Executive Director Report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Subject: Approval of Minutes**

ACTION: Nathan Vonk made a motion to approve the March 19, 2014 meeting. Martha Heebner seconded. *Motion Passed.*

OFFICE LOCATION:

1100 Anacapa Street
3rd Floor, Rotunda Tower
County Courthouse

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. **Subject: Proposal to Relocate and Renovate “Crescent Crossing,” 2002 public sculpture created by Donald Davis** – Marck Aguilar, Special Studies Planner, City of Santa Barbara. [ACTION REQUIRED]

The committee received a presentation by City staff member Marck Aguilar and a recommendation from Arts Commission Staff regarding a proposal to relocate and renovate the *Crescent Crossing* Public Art Piece by Donald Davis in the 600 block of State Street.

The intent is to relocate the uniquely designed artwork in a cost-effective way while preserving the integrity of the artist’s work. The recommended relocation site is near the railroad depot just off of State Street on a small triangular lawn area. The sculpture would still maintain a State Street address and would be exposed to nearby pedestrian traffic as well as train travelers. It would be a specialized deinstallation and a fairly easy renovation and installation at the new site.

The Committees applauded the thoughtful approach to the relocation and for involving the artist in the process. Committee members asked if surrounding businesses and key stakeholders were consulted and given an opportunity to weigh in on the installation at the new site. The proposed location belongs to the City of Santa Barbara. Staff assured that stakeholders had been consulted including Sheila Cushman, past director of MOXI (Museum of Exploration and Innovation), who was very enthusiastic about the proposal. Other businesses and groups include the Indigo Hotel (MCA Satellite Space), Downtown Santa Barbara, the original landscape architect for the Crescent Crossing project. Marck Aguilar commented that while Amtrak has not yet been approached he has been in contact with the Successor Agency staff which manages the site.

ACTION: Mary Heebner made a motion to approve the proposed relocation of the “Crescent Crossing” sculpture by Donald Davis to the recommended grassy location near the train depot with future discussion of the details of the actual installation/base at the new site. Jacqueline Dyson seconded. Marylove Thralls abstained. *Motion passed.*

- B. **Subject: Youth-Created Temporary Mural Project Created for Display on Plywood Barrier Panels along Lower State St. at the La Entrada Project Construction site** – Nathalie Gensac, Director Youth Interactive/Media for Good. [CONCEPT APPROVAL REQUEST]

The committee received a presentation by Nathalie Gensac on proposed Santa Barbara culture/lifestyle-themed murals intended to eliminate neighborhood blight and add cultural and visual vibrancy during the construction phase of the La Entrada project. The site is near the location of the Mason Street (AMASS Gallery) mural project. The building at the corner of Mason and State was razed for construction.

The project proposes to create sixteen 8ft. x 6ft. vignettes depicting the “Best Days of our Lives in Santa Barbara,” and will be installed on the 500 ft. long plywood barriers during the duration of the construction phase of the La Entrada project. This project will provide opportunities for emerging youth artists to work with local established artists on creating large scale temporary murals.

ACTION: Nathan Vonk made a motion for concept approval of the La Entrada Mural Project with final details to come back to the committees for final approval. Darian Blecher seconded. *Motion Passed.*

- C. **Subject: Proposal/plan for inclusion of Permanent Public Art at the Five Points Shopping Center at 3942 State St.** [NO ACTION REQUIRED]

The committee received a presentation by Don Hollis and Dawn Vitale of the Hollis Group on a proposal by Regency Center's Developer Patrick Conway to include public art in the recently renovated Five Points Shopping Center.

The proposed visual program is intended to enrich and enhance the experience at Five Points, using the exterior walls as large-scale blank canvasses in order to capture the essence of coastal California themes and Spanish style architecture in a fresh modern take with some twists and unexpected surprises. The committee noted that the artwork also harkens back historically to the previous trompe l'oeil wall paintings that once graced the mall.

Hollis Group received very positive feedback and the support of the project from the Arts Advisory and Visual Art in Public Places (VAPP) Committees.

D. Subject: Update on Community Arts Workshop (CAW) at 631 Garden Street – Nathan Vonk/Judy Nilsen

The committee received an update on progress on Phase 1 of the CAW renovation and the David Shelton Solstice Public Art Gates. [NO ACTION REQUIRED]

Nathan Vonk reported that CAW received the building permit for the 2nd building. The skylight and roll-up doors will be installed on the smaller building in preparation for Solstice to move in. Youth Interactive will use the building afterwards. The Gates are currently being used as the focal point for fundraising efforts.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Subject: Executive Director's Report

There was no Director's Report as Ms. Brush was absent.

Subject: Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections Report

1. City Hall Gallery

The current City Hall Gallery exhibition, *Ray Strong: Shared Vision/Common Ground* is on view until February 18, 2016. The opening reception will be *1st Thursday*, June 4, 5-7pm, with opening remarks by Mayor Helene Schneider. The exhibition celebrates Ray's teaching, his mentoring and his environmental legacy in Santa Barbara.

Organized in conjunction with the Ray Strong Project, an initiative of Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, it includes a series of events and exhibitions coalescing in June of 2015 at museums and galleries in the Santa Barbara area. Other participants include The Easton Gallery, James Main Fine Art, Santa Barbara Art Association, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Wildling Museum and Sullivan-Goss, An American Gallery.

2. Channing Peake Gallery

The current photography exhibition, *Under the Influence: Responses to Place* exhibition, co-curated by artists Kam Jacoby and Karen Gearhart-Jensen, will remain on view until May 22, 2015.

Next *1st Thursday*, on May 7th at 6pm, the County Arts Commission features a unique POP UP event titled *Mad Art*, with a panel discussion "Art Saves Lives: Mental Illness and Art" moderated by Stacy McCrory, Clinical Director of the Mental Wellness Center with Dr. Susan

Guy, Psychiatrist, J.T. Turner, Psychologist and Executive Director of Phoenix House and joined by artists. There will be a debut of *Mania*, a short 3D film by artist Lucia Grossberger Morales and an opportunity for the audience to view it with 3D glasses; in addition, artwork will be displayed by participating artists in the Peake Gallery.

The exhibition is intended to shed light on the correlation between mental illness and creativity and the therapeutic relationship between both. This event was created in collaboration with the Mental Wellness Center, and the Southern Santa Barbara Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). For more information visit www.mentalwellnesscenter.org

3. Jardin de las Granadas

The sculpture project by Francis Michael Dawson, *Stochastic Possibilities*, at the Jardin was deinstalled on Tuesday, April 7th and traveled to the Lucidity Festival at the Live Oak Campground where plants were reinstalled and it was on view during the festival.

The County Arts Commission is pursuing other future sculpture possibilities and will reconvene the City Sculpture Review committee and conduct an RFP for new art works in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT – The Arts Advisory/Visual Art in Public places (VAPP) meeting was adjourned at 5:10PM.

NEXT MEETING:

The next City Arts Advisory and Visual Arts in Public Places Committee meeting will be May 21, 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. 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.