



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**SPECIAL MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES**

June 28, 2021

This meeting was conducted electronically.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**CALL TO ORDER 3:32 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

**Arts Advisory Committee Present:** Robert Adams, Frederick Janka, Kai Tepper, Jenna Nicole Tico, Marylove Thralls

**Liaisons Present:** Oscar Gutierrez, Santa Barbara City Council

**Liaisons Absent:** Michael Drury, H.L.C.

**Staff Present:**

Joshua Haggmark, Acting Public Works Director, City of Santa Barbara  
Jessica Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner, City of Santa Barbara  
Eric Goodall, Project Engineer, City of Santa Barbara  
Nina Johnson, Senior Assistant to City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara  
Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture  
Hannah Rubalcava Grants and Contracts Manager, Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**1. State Street Underpass Art Project [COMMENTS ONLY]**

Jessica Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner from the City of Santa Barbara's Public Works Department, provided an overview of the State Street Underpass Project design to widen sidewalks along State Street and under the underpass from Yanonali to Gutierrez Streets. The project addresses collision patterns to increase safety along the corridor and aims to strengthen critical active transportation connections between the Downtown and Waterfront neighborhoods. The Project will be constructed in 2022 and is inclusive of a photometric lighting study to ensure lighting for safety purposes.

J. Grant shared that once the Vision Zero State Street Undercrossing project is complete there will be future art opportunity sites within the widened sidewalks and adjacent retaining walls. A funding source has not been identified. City staff requested feedback from the Arts

Advisory Committee on integrating art infrastructure in the proposed corridor. The City requested Committee feedback regarding infrastructure to add to help create electric and structural support for art to be added at a later in the development and once funding has been obtained. All requires coordination with Cal Trans

N. Johnson shared information collected from the Community Underpass meeting at the Community Arts Workshop in November 2017, which is also available on the City's website at <https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/business/downtown/underpass.asp>.

**Liaison Comment:**

Councilmember O. Gutierrez: Are the plans finalized? Was there an open bidding for aesthetic?

Public Comment opened at 4:13 p.m. and the following individuals spoke:

1. Mark Goerner
2. Kym Cochran
3. Ethan Turpin
4. Colleen Kelly
5. Barbara Parmet
6. Diane Mackenzie
7. Robin Elander
8. Jamie Dufek

Written Public Comment was provided by:

Jonathan PJ Smith, Kym Cochran, Mark Goerner, Diane Mackenzie

**Committee Discussion:**

Marylove Thralls: What is the impact of downlighting? Corridor seems dark at night. Will vandalism be an issue and how is it possible to protect future artwork? Can there be a plan in place with potentially continuity of themes regarding choosing which artwork will be shown?

Kai Tepper: Appreciate the public comment. Share concern regarding involvement of artists in the design process. Will design interfere with the potential for multidisciplinary artists to show work? One example is the columns, which could alternatively be a space to show work. Possible to slow the process down? Possible to hear from sound engineering experts about electricity needs? What are the processes or conversations in place moving forward to ensure equity in process? Is it possible to invite community members to give feedback about necessary elements for infrastructure?

Margie Yahyavi: Hearing agreement that there will be a rotating display of art and an exhibition area. Want to be sure to have infrastructure in place to support sculpture weight, light art, performance art and visual arts.

Robert Adams: Some of the artistic components of the design, such as the railings, could be an opportunity for artists. Can the space be closed off once in a while for music or performance opportunities? Lighting seems scary and inadequate. What will the role of the new State Street Advisory Committee be for art? Some opportunities for art additions, temporary or permanent, could be stairwell risers, planter walls, art embedded into paving and lighting, which is especially needed. Possible to slow process down?

Jenna Nicole Tico: Has there been discussion about the use of renewable energy resources to support the infrastructure design for light art? With abundance of solar resources, is it possible to incorporate this into light art infrastructure development?

Frederick Janka: General consensus is that the most ideal situation for artwork would be the most blank slate possible. What is the timeline to share feedback and pursue additional public comment regarding infrastructure requested for arts? The goal would be to create a space with as many art options as possible to support gamut of directional speakers, sound and projection as well as 2-D and 3-D artwork. It is important to consult with both committee and specialists around community regarding important hardware and utensils to support audio and video in a way that is as inclusive and equitable as possible.

The Committee will add this item to the July 15, 2021 regular meeting agenda to continue the conversation and develop a preliminary list.

## **FUTURE ITEMS**

Public Art Policy

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT 5:08 PM**

#### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need auxiliary aids or services or staff assistance to 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 and also posted online at <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/brdcomm/ac/arts/agendas.asp>.