



Civic Arts Commission Minutes

City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
March 2, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairperson Casey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sandra Jellison, Varsha Nene, Huiling Song, Stephanie Wedge-Bonda, Judy Wheeler, and Vice Chairperson John Casey.

Commissioners Absent: Jeanne Farley-Rodgers and Chairperson Stephanie Pellegrino.

Staff Present: Tamara Whitney, Recreation Manager; Michael Patrick, Management Analyst; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2020

A motion made by Commissioner Jellison, seconded by Commissioner Nene, to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2020 meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

None.

3. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda

None.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review and Recommend Community Grant Funds in the Civic Arts Category for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Ms. Whitney provided details about the Community Grant Funds in the Civic Arts Category for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and advising that a total of fifteen applications have been received from ten different agencies. Based on the staff review of the applications fourteen applications from nine agencies are qualified to be considered for funding. She advised that the applications received total \$89,735.84 and there is \$54,903.23 available to be allocated made up of \$40,000 2020/2021 grant funds and \$14,903.23 carry-over funding.

Additionally, Ms. Whitney advised that staff is recommending the commission receive presentations for eight of the applications and should consider the staff recommended "Olympic average" when making their funding recommendations. She noted that agency presentations would be limited to 3-minutes and commission questions after the presentations limited to 2-minutes.

Vice Chairperson Casey thanked agency representatives for attending the meeting to present to the commission and opened the meeting for the presentations at 6:09 p.m.

Cantabella Children's Chorus – Supriya Srinivasan – advised that Cantabella is seeking funds to help them start a new Composer-in-Residence program. The funds would allow Cantabella to invite a young choral composer to write four new pieces for the choir and the compositions would be shared with public and private Pleasanton schools. She indicated that participating choirs would be invited to participate in 2021 Spring concert to which the composer would also be invited.

Commissioner Nene discussed with Ms. Srinivasan what Cantabella had been able to accomplish during the past year since they did not receive any funding from the City of Pleasanton.

Commissioner Song and Ms. Srinivasan commented on high school choirs being able to join in with the Composer-in-Residence program.

Commissioner Wheeler was advised that the largest number of students participating in the Cantabella Children's Chorus are from Pleasanton.

Ms. Srinivasan confirmed for Ms. Whitney that Cantabella would work to make the program work with the Olympic average funding that is being recommended.

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPCAC) / IGNITE – Steve Glavan – stated that funds were being requested to help the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center provide a booth at the Ignite event to promote STEM Education and help them provide newer things within visual arts. LVPAC sees this as an opportunity to open new doors.

Commissioner Song questioned whether LVPAC had been involved in the previous Ignite events.

Commissioner Jellison discussed with Mr. Glavan use of a visual equator.

Ms. Whitney questioned whether LVPAC would be able to provide the program with the funding allocation being recommended.

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center / Cultural School Assemblies – Steve Glavan – provided information about the Cultural School Assemblies program that would provide performing arts assemblies featuring cultural education. Assemblies will take place at specified Pleasanton schools and it is hoped that eleven assemblies will provide African music and dance, Native American music and dance, and symphony music.

Ms. Whitney questioned whether LVPAC would be able to provide the assemblies with the funding being recommended.

Commissioner Nene was advised by Mr. Glavan that LVPAC hopes to be able to provide the assemblies to students K through 12th.

Commissioner Wheeler questioned whether schools would receive all three assembly programs. Mr. Glavan commented LVPAC hoping to provide the different assembly exposutes and would be working with schools and instructors on curriculum. Commissioner Jellison commented on coordinating with schools and other programs being offered.

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council / Marketing & Publicity – Les Duman – commented on the request for funding to help PCAC focus on marketing and publicity that would include upgrading their website and web presence with the assistance of a professional webmaster.

Ms. Whitney confirmed that PCAC would be able to complete the project with the funds being recommended.

Commissioner Jellison discussed with Mr. Duman funds that had been allocated to PCAC the previous year for marketing and publicity. He advised that previous funds were used to fund the Treasures of Japan event and the requested funds would help pay for hiring a professional webmaster.

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council / Native Art – Jan Coleman-Knight – provided details about the Native Art: Past and Present Voices program that will provide additional art activities and resources to help expand an understanding of the Ohlone cultural arts within the curriculum for grade 3 students in Pleasanton schools. Commissioners were advised that the plan is to develop nine resource boxes, one for each of the nine elementary schools, that will help students engage in creating and exploring aspects of Ohlone people. Ms. Coleman-Knight provided commissioners with information about native art and a map of traditional Yokuts territory.

Commissioner Jellison was provided details about the resource boxes and the materials they will contain by Ms. Coleman-Knight.

Commissioner Song commented on the artwork and Commission Nene confirmed with Ms. Coleman-Knight that the plan was to provide the resource boxes for 3rd grade students.

Ms. Whitney discussed with Ms. Coleman-Knight the recommended funding amount. Ms. Coleman-Knight advised that the funding requested would be used to provide teacher training, and if less funds were received than the amount requested, they would not be able to train all of the teachers. Mr. Patrick provided details about funding not being allocated to provide salaries.

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley / Art Therapy Seniors – commissioners were advised that funding is being sought for an Art Therapy program for seniors that would allow seniors to create items while also being a satisfying experience. They were advised that many seniors manage daily pain from chronic conditions or suffer from memory loss due to dementia and art therapy helps with sharpening the mind while also promoting dexterity.

Commissioner Nene questioned how this program was different from programs already being provided by the City of Pleasanton at the Firehouse Art Center. She was advised that the program would focus on seniors that are isolated and do not have the means to get out on their own and this would be a way for them to be reconnected.

Commissioner Song felt it would be a helpful program for isolated seniors.

Livermore Valley Opera Outreach / LVO Student Outreach Program – Jim Schmitt – thanked the commission for their past support of Livermore Valley Opera and advised that the Student Outreach Program is a multi-city project. Mr. Schmitt noted that Livermore Valley Opera will continue to produce age-appropriate opera programs for grade school and middle school assemblies. They will also continue to provide free tickets to students and teachers to attend Student Performance opera dress rehearsals at the Bankhead Theater.

Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society / An Afternoon & Evening With – Jim DeMersman – thanked the commission for their past support programs at the museum and advised that programs have grown so much they are constantly sold-out. Mr. DeMersman advised that the Museum on Main has been nominated for a National Award.

Pleasanton Chamber Orchestra / Clinics for middle & high school students – Les Duman – thanked the commission for past support and advised that funding would be helpful in the Pleasanton Chamber Orchestra providing clinics for middle and high school instrumental music students by master musicians of the orchestra.

Ms. Whitney confirmed with Mr. Duman that Pleasanton Chamber Orchestra would be able to provide their program with the funding amount being recommended.

Vice Chairperson Casey closed the meeting for presentations at 6:47 p.m. and requested a break be taken. The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Whitney noted a requirement of receiving funding is that a representative attend this funding allocation meeting and since no representative had attended from Narika that

recommended funding amount for that agency should be considered by the commission when making their recommendations.

Vice Chairman Casey commented on the allocation of the funds and indicated he would like to hear comments from commissioners.

Commissioner Jellison commented on only one agency seeming to have an issue with the funding allocation when asked by Ms. Whitney about the recommended funding allocations and Commissioner Wheeler noted that one had indicated funding would be used for teacher training.

Commissioner Nene pointed out that the Olympic average amounts being recommended show that most agencies would be receiving more than 65% of the amount they had requested.

Commissioner Wedge-Bonde stated she would like to be able to include more funds for the Senior Support program and felt the funding amount for compelling. Commissioner Jellison indicated that she liked the idea of the Senior Support program but wondered if it was something that should have been submitted to the Human Services Commission. She suggested it be funded at a low amount for this first year and see how it grows throughout the year.

Vice Chairperson Casey felt that the recommended Olympic average amount was something all commissioners could agree to for the funding allocations, and that the decision to be made was how to allocate the Narika recommended funding amount.

Commissioner Nene commented on additional funds for Pleasanton Chamber Orchestra and funds needed for teacher training by Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

Commissioner's Jellison and Wedge-Bonde expressed disappointment at the lack of a representative from Narika and Mr. Patrick noted that this was a mandatory meeting that agency representatives need to attend.

Ms. Crose shared information about Narika and being unsure whether Narika representatives had decided to move in a different direction since the agency had also submitted an application for consideration to the Housing Commission. Commissioners Jellison and Wedge-Bonde wanted to be sure there was not an unusual problem that had prevented a representative from Narika attending the meeting. Ms. Crose advised that staff will reach out to Narika personnel to determine if there were problems, and if there was a problem staff will encourage them to have someone attend the City Council meeting to stress the importance of their case.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nene, seconded by Commissioner Wedge-Bonde, recommending Community Grant Funds in the Civic Arts Category for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 be allocated as follows:

\$ 4,680 - Amador/Livermore Valley HS (Museum on Main) – Afternoon/Evening With:
5,087 - Cantabella Children's Chorus – Composer in Residence

4,856	-	Livermore Valley Opera – LVO Student Outreach
3,161	-	Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center – East Bay Jazz High School All-Stars
1,000	-	Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center – IGNITE
3,582	-	Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center – PUSD Cultural School Assemblies
0	-	Narika – Passport to World Arts Workshop Series
1,837	-	Pacific Chamber Orchestra – Clinics for middle and high school music students
6,106	-	Pacific Chamber Orchestra – Discover Music Elementary In-school
5,964	-	Pacific Chamber Orchestra – Matinee Concert
5,181	-	Pleasanton Community Concert Band – Program Enhancement & Outreach
3,352	-	Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council – Marketing/Publicity/Membership Support
5,981	-	Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council – Native Art: Past and Present Voices
4,099	-	Senior Support Program – Civic Arts Category – Art Therapy
\$54,903	-	TOTAL

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Public Art Selection Sub-committee – no report.
- b. Special Event Sub-committee – no report.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

- A. Commission Wedge-Bonde thanked staff members for all the hard work they put in to preparing everything for the Community Grants.

COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

5. Civic Arts Project Status Report.

The report was reviewed.

Ms. Whitney art advised that:

1. Staff has been reaching out to the “Eventide” artist to complete the piece.
2. Introduction of a new Curator for the gallery will take place March 7 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

May 4, 2020

Commissioners Wedge-Bonde and Jellison stated they may not be available for the May meeting.

UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS

- Percentage for Public Art - Ms. Whitney advised that additional art information may be available for the May meeting but further discussions are needed by staff.
- Committee Assignments
- Name Change and Marketing Plan for Ignite