



Civic Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

**Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA
December 6, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Huiling Song.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: John Baiocchi, Jeanne Farley-Rodgers, Anne Giancola, Stephanie Pellegrino, Jamie Yee, and Chairperson Huiling Song. (Janice Coleman-Knight arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Katie Brunner and Hira Raghaven.

Staff Present: Lia Bushong, Assistant Director of Library and Recreation and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of November 1, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Pellegrino, seconded by Commissioner Farley-Rodgers to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2021 meeting. **The motion was approved with Commissioner Yee abstaining.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

a. Teen Poet Laureate update

Ms. Bushong introduced commissioners to Teen Poet Laureate Nikita Jayaprakash and advised she was going to provide a report on what she has been doing during the past few months in her role as Teen Poet Laureate.

Ms. Jayaprakash informed commissioners about the writing workshops she has been conducting with elementary school students. She noted that the first workshop was a lot of fun and began with a ball of yarn and the first person beginning a story, then passing the yarn to the next person who continued with the story. Ms. Jayaprakash felt this was a good project and got the students beginning to think about what to write.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Jayaprakash that some students already had experience writing while others are beginners in the workshops. She commented on new things she tried and how at the end of a workshop students were asked to submit a piece of poetry or short story they had completed. Ms. Jayaprakash advised that these pieces were preserved and displayed at the public and school libraries.

Sometime in January or February of 2022 Ms. Jayaprakash advised she was hoping to provide a Valentine's Day themed workshop and would be working on a project that will involve having students working together with seniors from the Senior Center.

Chairperson Song and Ms. Bushong thanked Ms. Jayaprakash for her presentation.

Commissioner Baiocchi also thanked Ms. Jayaprakash and stated he was pleased to learn about all the excellent work she has been doing, especially since he has been a member of the Teen Poet Laureate Selection Committee.

Commissioners Coleman-Knight and Farley-Rodgers also congratulated Ms. Jayaprakash.

b. Harrington Gallery Presentation

Ms. Bushong advised that Gallery Assistants Bradley LeDuc and Sydney Tang who oversee the programming and planning for the Harrington Art Gallery would be providing a PowerPoint Presentation on the gallery and at the end of their presentation she would provide details about the budget.

Mr. LeDuc introduced himself and provided information about the Harrington Art Gallery and the hours of operation. He noted that since the reopening the gallery has hosted five art shows, public receptions featuring live music, and live demos and guided tours. Quarterly performance measures were reviewed for Freshworks X (374), Women Artists (340), and Eight Takes (620).

Commissioners were provided details about 2021 art shows and the planned programs for 2022 by both Mr. LeDuc and Ms. Tang:

- 1) Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour held November 13-14, 2021 at which artists had booths, held live demos and were able to interact with members of the community and sell their work.
- 2) The Pleasanton Art League Annual Members Show held November 6-18, 2021 at which 60 pieces were juried and 16 winners awarded.
- 3) California Watercolor Association to be held January 8-March 12, 2022.
- 4) Holocaust Memorial Exhibition to be held in Spring 2022.
- 5) Earth Day / Recycled Art Exhibition to be held in April 2022
- 6) Allied Arts West – Roadtrip to be held Summer 2022.
- 7) Transitions: The Beauty of Life’s Journey to be held Fall 2022 with 15-20 artists, 70-75 paintings and guest curator Ellen Howard.
- 8) Pleasanton Art League to be held Winter 2022 a juried show with awards and exhibited works of PAL members.

Ms. Tang advised that future programming ideas include Poetry Night, High School Art Show, Senior Center Art Show, Invitation of Holocaust Survivor, Exhibition Evening with Jazz Music, Live Demos, Artist Talks, and Cultural Events. She provided details about the plans for each of the programs.

Ms. Bushong reviewed with Commissioners the Visual and Literary Arts budget details for 2019, 2020 and 2021 that covered Temp salaries and non-Personnel Expenses prior to and during the pandemic and a second slide that covered the revenue received from gallery programs and donations received. She advised that during the pandemic when the Gallery and the Firehouse were closed, City staff were pulled to work in other areas, but as things began to reopen in 2021 the Gallery was reopened on a limited basis.

Commissioners were provided information about donations made to the gallery that was named after Gary and Nancy Harrington who have been significant donors to the gallery together with community organizations such as Rotary International. Additional details were provided by Ms. Bushong about the 30% commission from art sales in the gallery and the fee charged to artists who participate and display in exhibitions.

Chairperson Song thanked staff for the detailed presentation that she found highly informative. She commented on the many beautiful paintings available for viewing in the gallery and sales that have taken place.

Commissioner Baiocchi agreed and indicated he was impressed with what staff was able to do given the circumstances of the pandemic.

Commissioner Coleman-Knight commented on the economic hit that many theaters, performing arts, and museums have suffered and felt it was encouraging to see that donations were still received during this challenging time. She questioned how things were going to be managed for a high school student art program. Mr. LeDuc advised that marketing will be done online through the gallery Facebook page and plans are to hold the event on the gallery patio. He discussed the need to make the community more aware that the gallery is open, and Commission Coleman-Knight discussed the need for more visible signage.

Commissioner Yee questions how staff was planning to get information out to students to encourage them to submit art. Mr. LeDuc indicated this would be done digitally as well as by contacting school art teachers, print materials will also be provided to local businesses who have already expressed interest in displaying details in their business windows.

Commissioner Yee questioned if staff was familiar with the California State PTA Reflections Program and provided information on what they can do to help promote this program. She suggested staff contact the President of the PTA Council. Ms. Bushong advised she was familiar with the Reflections program and that working on the student art program was still in its infancy.

Commissioner Coleman-Knight provided information about the displaying of student art during the pandemic by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and how they were juried and awarded. She suggested Mr. LeDuc contact Dave Wright with PCAC to discuss the PCAC annual event.

Commissioner Pellegrino felt it was beneficial to call out the best ways to provide detailed information about programs.

Commissioner Yee questioned if members of the commission would be receiving regular updates on programs and events at the Firehouse Arts Center. Ms. Bushong advised that commissioners can receive this information by signing up for emails on the city's FirehouseArts.org website

Chairperson Song and Ms. Bushong thanked Mr. LeDuc and Ms. Yang for their informational presentation.

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

None.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION

4. Review of Civic Arts Project Status Report

Ms. Bushong reviewed the report with commissioners noting:

- a) The "Evantide" mountain lion piece has arrived safely and is in secure storage until the installation site and informational plaque are completed. Once installed this will bring the city's public art collection total to 62 pieces.
- b) The Paint Box project has been paused.
- c) Applications for community grants have been sent out and will be considered by the commission at the March 2022 meeting.
- d) The Teen Poet Laureate position will continue through June 2022 after which a newly Teen Poet Laureate will be installed.
- e) Invitations for the January 8, 2022 California Watercolor Association will be sent out.
- f) The Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting will take place on December 4, 2021.
- g) A Golden Follies Performance is scheduled for December 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

- h) The Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre contract was completed for one spring season beginning on April 30, 2022.
- i) One of the nine goals of the Cultural Plan has been completed and eleven of the thirty-six Strategies have been completed and fifteen Strategies are in-progress.

Commissioner Pellegrino was advised by Ms. Bushong that the city has currently moved away from gathering and unveiling events , but after the pandemic, this may be considered in consultation with the new Civic Arts Manager. Commissioner Coleman-Knight felt this could be a good publicity event, especially since this mountain lion will not move.

Commissioner Yee asked about the Creatures of Impulse program since Mark Duncanson was not longer working for the City of Pleasanton. Ms. Bushong noted the commission had received a presentation on youth theater programs at the previous meeting, which is available online

5. Review and Approve Civic Arts Commission Meeting Schedule for 2022

Ms. Bushong reviewed with commissioners the Civic Arts Commission Meeting Schedule for 2022 noting the May meeting will be a joint meeting with the Library Commission, and June and September there will be no meetings because of Federal Holidays. She also pointed out that the March meeting will begin earlier than usual because commissioners will be considering Civic Arts grant applications.

Commissioner Baiocchi questioned if staff had any idea when commission meetings would return to in-person. Ms. Bushong advised that this would be determined after City Council is back to having in-person meetings for everyone and not just members of the Council. Commissioner Yee commented on strict guidelines that are still in place and suggested commissioners sign up to receive the Alameda County newsletter which is highly informative about pandemic guidelines.

6. Select Committee Assignment for 2022

Ms. Bushong advised that each year the commission discusses opportunities for commissioners to participate on subcommittees and asks that they select commission representatives. Committees are: 1) Teen Poet Laureate Subcommittee, 2) Public Art Selection Subcommittee (P.A.S.S.), 3) Public Art Website Subcommittee, and 4) Mobile Wallpaper and Virtual Background Subcommittee.

Commissioners discussed the subcommittee assignments and selected the following:

- 1) Teen Poet Laureate Subcommittee – Commissioners Brunner and Baiocchi with Commissioner Pellegrino as an Alternate.
- 2) Public Art Selection Subcommittee – Commissioners Yee and Farley Rodgers with Commissioner Coleman-Knight as an Alternate.
- 3) Public Art Website Subcommittee – Commissioner Coleman-Knight and Chairperson Song with Commissioner Pellegrino as an Alternate.

- 4) Mobile Wallpaper and Virtual Background Subcommittee – Chairperson Song and Commissioner Giancola.

Commissioner Coleman-Knight discussed notification of meetings for Alternates with Ms. Bushong.

7. Select Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2022

Ms. Bushong advised that annually the Civic Arts Commission selects a Chair and Vice Chair to facilitate meetings for the next year. She asked commissioners to select a Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Yee, seconded by Commissioner Coleman-Knight to nominate and elect Commissioner Song to serve as Chair of the Civic Arts Commission for a second term for the year 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Baiocchi, Coleman-Knight, Farley-Rodgers, Pellegrino, Raghaven, Yee, and Chairperson Song.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Brunner, Giancola and Raghaven.
ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made by Chairperson Song, seconded by Commissioner Pellegrino to nominate, and elect Commissioner Coleman-Knight to serve as the Vice Chair of the Civic Arts Commission for 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Baiocchi, Coleman-Knight, Farley-Rodgers, Pellegrino, Raghaven, Yee, and Chairperson Song.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Brunner, Giancola and Raghaven.
ABSTAIN: None

MATTERS INITIATED BY COMMISSION

None.

COMMISSION REPORTS

8. Review Civic Arts Project Status Report a. Public Art Website Subcommittee

Commissioner Coleman-Knight advised that the subcommittee staff liaison was in the process of contacting the IT department to be able to access codes and move forward in time for the next subcommittee meeting on December 10, 2021. She advised that subcommittee members have

looked at other city websites to determine how they are representing public art and how to revamp the Pleasanton public art website. The subcommittee members have decided not to do a piecemeal project but wait until all data has been collected and research completed.

Commissioner Coleman-Knight noted that Ms. Crose had sent subcommittee members a spreadsheet with information about the city's sixty-two pieces of public art and members are going to compare this with other information to confirm authenticity and details.

b. Mobile Wallpaper and Virtual Background Art subcommittee

Chairperson Song provided details about the subcommittee's meeting with Ms. Crose and information she provided about Stanford's hosting of two or three online virtual backgrounds. The subcommittee reached out to the Stanford organizer who was able to provide and share criteria with them on what they did. Further discussions will take place at the subcommittee's next meeting to determine the kind of platform to be used and a recommendation on who will own the artistic rights.

9. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission members.

Chairperson Song provided a report on the Jazz show she had attended.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- **Amador Theater**
- **Assessment of Virtual Programs**
- **Review of FY 2019/2020 Civic Arts Grants – Mid-Term Performance Reports**

Ms. Bushong advised that staff has been working with the Operation Services Department to provide a public tour of the Green Room Renovation area of the Amador Theater. She noted that this tour will be open to the public as well as members of the commission and staff will be on hand to answer any questions raised. Ms. Bushong encouraged commissioners to promote this tour to family and friends and reminded them that the tour will be focused on the downstairs renovation and improvements, and not the entire theater at this time.

Commissioner Yee asked about conference and other events that commission members can attend to learn more about other city's are doing pertaining to civic arts and questioned if there was any information available about events Civic Arts Commission members could attend. Ms. Bushong indicated she would investigate this and try to determine what other communities are doing and what events might be available.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting : January 3, 2022