

**City of Oakland
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting
Minutes
November 7 2011**

Members Present: Judy Moran (co-chair), Jennifer Easton, Joyce Hsu, Deborah Lozier, Damon Powell* (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison), Andrew Woodd (co-chair)
Excused: Kevin Chen, Nick Dong, Carole Jeung
Absent:
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager
Guests: Aileen Bailey, Esther Tam

*** indicates attendance for a portion of the meeting**

Meeting Chair: A. Woodd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m.
2. **Open Forum:**
3. **Minutes: J. Easton moved to approve minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting. J. Moran seconded.**
4. **Informational: Current Public Art Maintenance Concerns.** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss provided a summary of current public art maintenance concerns, referred committee members to a staff report (see attached), and presented current images of the work. Various projects require attention due to maintenance concerns or changing conditions.
 - a. ***I-880 Broadway Underpass artwork by Team of Five; current CEDA Redevelopment Advance Project.*** S. Huss summarized the staff report addressing the project's current condition, the Community & Economic Development Agency's (CEDA) Advance team proposed improvements, and the restrictions on use of current redevelopment funds for maintenance. PAAC members restated their support for the project, noting that it looks more attractive since being cleaned. They suggested removing the non-functioning street level lights and replacing them with new pedestrian-level reflective or low-cost LED lighting (which Caltrans has used at other locations). PAAC asserted that the challenge is how to creatively address the current condition of the project rather than removing it, particularly in response to the pre-existing conditions including pigeons and dark, wide sidewalks, which inhibit pedestrian comfort despite the artwork. Possible funding sources include the Oakland Shines energy program or transportation grants for bicycle traffic improvements. PAAC encouraged staff to include representatives from the transportation division, and the artist team, in discussions regarding proposed changes. Huss noted that he is already in touch with the artist team and will report back on progress.
 - b. ***Meknes sculpture at 20th St., by Benbow Bullock.*** The sculpture will need to be relocated in conjunction with the Snow Park/Harrison/20th Street Measure DD project.

Public Art staff will work with other City departments and Lake Merritt Business Improvement District representatives to identify alternative locations in the adjacent (Measure DD) project area. PAAC members felt that staff should not use public art dollars for the relocation, asserting that the construction project budget should cover relocation costs, just as it would be required to cover the cost of relocating utilities. Staff will also contact the Oakland Museum of California to gauge its potential involvement in reinstallation of the work in a publicly accessible area.

- c. ***Dandelion sculpture at Children's Fairyland, by John Jagger.*** As with the *Meknes* sculpture, this work resides within the Measure DD project area, although the related improvements necessitating the relocation of the sculpture are funded through Measure WW (East Bay Region Parks improvements). Therefore Measure DD or Measure WW funds could be used to relocate the work, possibly to the adjacent Gardens at Lake Merritt, as Fairyland staff does not believe there is a suitable location within Fairyland. The sculpture is also in need of conservation and repairs. Staff committed to contacting the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club regarding possible assistance and funding for conservation and relocation. Subsequently, PAAC explored adopting a formal policy that any sculpture proposed for relocation by parties outside the Public Art Program should be facilitated by Public Art staff but paid for by other funding sources.
- d. ***Grand Performance mural, Caltrans I-580 and Grand Avenue underpass, by Daniel Galvez.*** The mural, which was partially funded by the City of Oakland and is located on Caltrans property, is beloved by the community and is rarely tagged, but requires conservation due to age. Staff would probably need to facilitate identifying alternative sources of funding and oversight of the project's restoration if there is political will to preserve the artwork.
- e. ***Street Tattoo mural, Caltrans underpass at San Pablo Avenue and Castro Street, by Daniel Galvez and various artists.*** This project, while also admired by community and committee members, suffers from more extreme damage due to existing site conditions. PAAC members and staff noted that the work is exposed to water and other severe conditions that may not warrant restoration unless Caltrans is able to address the existing conditions.
- f. ***Mitzvah: The Jewish Cultural Experience mural, private wall at 14th and Franklin Sts., by Keith Sklar.*** The work, which is located on a landmark building and faces a parking lot, was vandalized, precipitating a request from the private property owner for advice from City staff. While the bottom portion is now covered with graffiti, the project in its entirety needs restoration. S. Huss has communicated with the artist and City Landmarks staff regarding possible restoration, but funding is not secured.
- g. ***City Canvas Project on traffic signal boxes.*** The work was commissioned as part of the 2010 Open Proposals Program. Four of the five boxes have been tagged with graffiti. Staff must verify and attempt graffiti removal before any further determination is made and will report back to the committee.
- h. ***Hear Our Voices by Rene Yung.*** The work, which was commissioned by the Public Art Program in 1998, requires conservation to remove graffiti and repair chipped concrete and mosaic tile. While there is no funding currently designated for the work, as with many of the projects discussed, the artwork's inclusion in the city collection dictates that a conservation assessment should be made to facilitate identifying funds.

PAAC members continued discussion regarding program goals, in light of financial

limitations for maintenance of projects placed on City property but not within the City's art collection. They agreed the City should take the lead on evaluating the City's cultural assets but funding to support administrative time needs to be identified. While celebrating and honoring these artworks, for projects without City funding, committee members discussed advocating for proper documentation or large-scale reproduction of the original works, for posterity, rather than attempting restoration, unless other parties could commit funding.

5. Informational / Discussion Item: Measure DD Public Art.

- a. **Review of completed and pending projects.** Senior Public Art Project Manager K. Zaremba presented a slide overview of the Measure DD Public Art program projects completed to date and currently underway, noting that the changing funding conditions for Measure DD will probably precipitate modifying recommendations for current and future projects. PAAC members acknowledged all the strong projects completed to date and committed to reevaluating Measure DD public art program priorities as soon as funding details are confirmed.
- b. **Snow Park/ Harrison / 20th Street.** K. Zaremba presented background and a review of potential sites for artwork at Snow Park, noting that additional recommendation details would be forthcoming once a budget is confirmed.

Motion: J. Moran moved to extend the meeting by ten minutes. D. Lozier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion: Nominations to fill two vacancies on Public Art Advisory Committee.

Allison Cummings' resume has been forwarded to the Mayor's office. Celeste Howell, previously nominated for the committee, is no longer available. Therefore, PAAC will need to nominate additional artist representatives to forward to the Mayor to fill current vacancies.

All outstanding business was tabled until the next regular meeting.

7. Discussion: Follow up on September 2011 Retreat, Schedule Part II regular meeting.

8. Informational: Staff updates on pending and completed projects.

9. Meeting Schedule: Meeting dates will be presented for adoption at the next PAAC meeting.

10. Other Business: None.

11. Announcements: None.

12. Agenda Building: Unfinished business.

13. Adjournment: J. Moran moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. D. Lozier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 7, 2011

Item IV. Informational/Discussion: Current public art maintenance concerns

- A. I-880 Broadway Underpass public art / CEDA Redevelopment Advance project
Artists: The Team of Five
Media: Steel guardrails, red paint on structural columns, uplighting
Year completed: 2005
Funded by: Oakland Redevelopment Agency
Commissioned by: Oakland Public Art Program (construction management by Public Works Agency)
Location: I-880 at Broadway between 5th and 6th streets
Concerns: Dark and dirty. Pigeon droppings (a pre-existing problem though guardrail elements provide expanded roosting space). Needs regular cleaning of sidewalk, guardrails, tops of columns. Needs relighting: Uplights not functioning, one light fixture at top of columns is working. CEDA Redevelopment Advance team seeks to improve this site within next 10 months; suggestion to repaint bridge fasciae with directional/welcome signage and designs, and to repaint red columns in corresponding green color.
- B. “Meknes” sculpture at 20th Street
Artist: Benbow Bullock
Medium: Painted steel triptych
Year installed: 1985
Ownership: Permanent collection of Oakland Museum of California, on long-term temporary loan to the City of Oakland
Location: 20th Street at Lakeside Drive
Concerns: Not a major maintenance problem; has received light graffiti that was painted out in the past. However, Measure DD-funded Snow Park/Harrison Street/20th Street improvements will require relocation of the sculpture. Relocation is an eligible expense for Measure DD public art funds but could also be funded from the capital improvement budget; if funded from either source the sculpture should remain in the vicinity of Lake Merritt. Suitable locations should be identified in cooperation with OMCA.
- C. Dandelion sculpture at Children’s Fairyland
Artist: John Jagger
Medium: Stainless steel, bronze, prism-cut glass
Year completed: 1971
Ownership/funding: City of Oakland; gift of Lake Merritt Breakfast Club
Location: Grand Avenue & Bellevue Avenue
Concerns: In generally good condition. Many cut-glass pieces and bronze ‘stems’ are missing due to theft or environmental damage. Measure WW-funded improvements to sidewalk and entrance to Children’s Fairyland will require relocation of the sculpture. Relocation may be an eligible expense for Measure DD or Measure WW funds. Staff has explored possible relocation inside Fairyland grounds proper, without any conclusion. Staff will contact Lake Merritt Breakfast Club to assess

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 7, 2011

- interest in moving the sculpture and possibly funding the relocation and some restoration work.
- D. “Grand Performance” mural
Artists: Daniel Galvez and Keith Sklar
Medium: Acrylic paint
Year completed: 1984
Ownership/funding: City of Oakland; supported by California Arts Council, City of Oakland Office of Economic Development, East Bay Community Foundation, Zellerbach Family Fund, ProArts
Location: I-580 Underpass on Grand Avenue at MacArthur Blvd.
Concerns: Paint loss (particularly at MacArthur side), seepage stains/water damage, graffiti, bird droppings. Former Cultural Affairs Commissioner and the Councilmember have contacted Public Art staff regarding poor appearance of this mural in high visibility location. The former Commissioner noted that the image is a ‘time capsule’ of Bay Area musicians prominent in the 1980’s. Staff has made initial contact with the artists regarding an estimate to repaint.
- E. “Street Tattoo” mural, Caltrans underpass at San Pablo Ave. and Castro St.
Artists: Daniel Galvez, various artists
Medium: Acrylic paint
Year completed: 1982
Ownership/funding: City of Oakland; supported by California Arts Council, City of Oakland Office of Economic Development (?), Chinatown/Central Community Development Council, Zellerbach Family Fund, Foremost-McKesson Foundation, L.J. & Mary C. Skaggs Foundation
Location: I-980 Underpass between West Grand and Castro St.
Concerns: Graffiti, paint loss, water damage, overgrowth of ground cover. Caltrans asked staff to review this mural for possible restoration or replacement.
- F. “Mitzvah: The Jewish Cultural Experience” mural
Artist: Keith Sklar
Medium: Acrylic paint
Year completed: 1986
Ownership/funding: Private; supported by Jewish Community Relations Council, California Arts Council, Oakland Office of Community Development, Zellerbach Family Fund, Levi Strauss Foundation, Judah Magnes Museum [per artist]
Location: Everis Building, 14th & Franklin streets
Concerns: Staff was initially contacted by the property owner. Mural was badly impacted in June 2011 by graffiti tagging at base of wall – letters approx. 4 to 6 feet high by roughly 60 feet wide. However, entire mural is faded, wall has extensive unrepaired damage, buckling, chipping and material loss (said to date from Loma Prieta earthquake). Building is an historic landmark, though the landmark designation cited the rear wall on which the mural is painted as an alteration (per Office of Historic Preservation). Also spoke with the artist regarding significance of

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 7, 2011

the work, concerns re. partial repainting vs. complete restoration, and potential costs. There is community interest in seeing the mural repainted.

- G. City Canvas Project on traffic signal boxes
Artists: David Stern-Gottfried with Westlake Middle School students
Medium: Paint on ‘parachute cloth’ adhered to metal box
Year completed: 2010
Funded with: Open Circle Foundation grant funds
Commissioned by: Oakland Public Art Program
Locations: (1) Broadway & 27th Street, (2) Harrison at 27th Street (middle school), (3) Harrison at 27th St./Bay Place, (4) Grand Ave. at Bay Place, (5) Grand Ave. at Park View Terrace
Concerns: Four of five boxes have been tagged: #1 on three sides; #2 on three sides and appears to have been painted out on street side; #3 (in front of 7-11 store) etched though not tagged – evidence of sticker that has been removed; #4 on three sides; #5 on all four sides.
- H. “Hear Our Voices”
Artist: Rene Yung
Medium: Colored concrete and mosaic tile – three-dimensional ‘banner’ sculptures
Year completed: 1998
Location: Broadway/Webster at 27th Street, Broadway Auto Row
Concerns: Graffiti on one sculpture, edges of others chipped away.