

**City of Oakland
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting
Minutes
October 6, 2008**

Members Present: Jennifer Easton, Carole Jeung, Ernest Jolly* (co-chair), Deborah Lozier, Cherie Newell (co-chair), Claire I. Warhaftig

Excused: Andrew Woodd, Karen Zukor

Absent: Jacqueline Boggan (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison), Rick Moss, Devin Satterfield (CAC liaison)

Staff Present: Steven Huss, Public Art Coordinator; Kristen Zaremba, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Public Present: Kate Short, Robin Gibson

* denotes partial attendance

Meeting Chair: Cherie Newell

1. Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. **Open Forum:** No speakers.

3. **Minutes:**

A. **C. Jeung moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2008 PAAC regular meeting. J. Easton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. **J. Easton moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2008 PAAC regular meeting. C. Warhaftig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

C. **C. Warhaftig moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2008 PAAC regular meeting, with one correction, to change 'M.O.U.' to Memorandum of Understanding. C. Jeung seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Measure DD: Oakland Watershed Public Art Markers RFQ. Action Item: Review and Approve Request for Qualifications.** Staff has developed a new public art opportunity with Measure DD funds dedicated to the Oakland Watershed/Creeks. The Request for Qualifications proposes that an artist develop a prototype, then one series of markers, with the ability to produce additional markers if future funds are identified. The budget of \$92,000 in Measure DD Series A funds would cover the prototype and first series of markers. The artist would work with City staff to determine the marker locations. This project is designed to raise awareness of the existence of Oakland's creeks, particularly in locations where they are underground. The artist's challenge will be to address the entire watershed/creeks system in a single design. Future marker series based on the prototype will have to be funded by PWA Environmental Services. Following discussion, PAAC asked staff to modify the RFQ to set a number range for the first series of markers, to indicate that a licensing agreement will be required in order that the City may fabricate future series, and to eliminate the finalist proposal stage from the process so that

the best artist for the commission, rather than a proposal, is being selected.

Motion: C. Warhaftig moved to authorize staff to modify the Request for Qualifications for the Measure DD: Oakland Watershed Markers Public Art Project and issue the RFQifications as discussed. J. Easton seconded.

- 4. Open Circle Foundation Grant: *Action Item*. Approve and Accept \$100,000 Grant in Support of Open Proposals 2009-10.** The Open Circle Foundation grants, run through East Bay Community Foundation, have an environmental focus. S. Huss noted that he envisioned modifying the Open Proposals concept/template to work with this grant: opportunities would be open to community and artists-initiated projects, to take place in each district, and focus on the environment. This was the original intent of Open Proposals, and targets underserved districts. PAAC expressed concern at the staff time required to manage up to 20 projects; Huss responded that management time has been considered in the budget, and as the vision is to have the cohesiveness of a single initiative, a curator may be brought on board to guide the projects as well.

Motion: C. Warhaftig moved to approve and accept the Open Circle Foundation Grant in the amount of \$100,000 in support of Open Proposals 2009-10. J. Easton seconded. Motion passed; Four in Favor, One Abstention.

- 5. Open Proposals 2004-05.**

- A. McClymonds High School Project. *Action Item*. Review and Approve New Proposal by artist Deborah Lozier.** D. Lozier reported on her project progress and described the inspirational experiences and challenges of working with the high school and San Quentin Prison populations, and presented a revised proposal for completion of the project (see artist's report and proposal). PAAC members expressed their support for the project and asked Lozier to reaffirm the budget for the project, to ensure there is sufficient funding to complete the new proposal. Lozier indicated that she has successfully obtained a supplemental minority outreach grant for \$4,000 to supplement the project budget and that she intended to volunteer her time for the project.

Motion: C. Warhaftig moved to approve artist D. Lozier's revised Open Proposals Project. E. Jolly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Update on Sausal Creek Project by artist Gwyan Rhabyt. *Informational Item*.** S. Huss reported on Mr. Rhabyt's uncompleted project, noting that in retrospect it may have been overly ambitious. At the time of a studio visit approximately two years ago, the artist had fabricated several of the stele sculptures but was still developing sound components. He has been paid approximately \$6,000 of the \$10,600 commission amount. The artworks have not been installed. Huss has offered the artist the opportunity to present a modified proposal but has not had a response. If the artist continues to be unresponsive, PAAC suggested a letter from the City Attorney. They also suggested that Friends of Sausal Creek, an organization Mr. Rhabyt contacted regarding this project, might be of some assistance.

- 6. Project Updates:**

- a. **Program Administration:** The Public Art Annual Projects Plan will be reviewed in November and December and submitted to City Council in January 2009. The Five-Year Master Plan proposal was supported by the Cultural Affairs Commission at a meeting without a quorum. Staff will move forward to identify funds for the Plan.
- b. **PAAC Nominations:** Staff will take over responsibility to identify new prospective nominees, and bring to PAAC for discussion. The Nominating Committee and staff have vetted a prospective list. Staff will return in November with updates on interest and availability.
- c. **Luminous Oakland:**
 - i. **Uptown Plans:** Public Art staff continues to meet with Community & Economic Development Agency (CEDA) staff to plan the ‘opening’ of the Uptown district and Telegraph Streetscape zone, tentatively scheduled for April 2009.
- d. **Mandela Gateway Sculptures:** The installation and dedication are being scheduled to take place as a community-based event with elected officials in November 2008.
- e. **Raimondi Park:** The sculpture fabrication is about to commence with a tentative March 2009 installation date.
- f. **Fire Station 18:** The entire construction project is slightly delayed, and will pick up again December when artist Laurel True returns from New Orleans.
- g. **81st Avenue- East Oakland Library:** The project is moving forward, with scheduled completion for the end of 2009. The artist and staff are moving forward on the first community storytelling event for October 25th.
- h. **Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt:** The monuments are fabricated and the artist is preparing an updated final fabrication and installation schedule, estimated to be completed early 2009.
- i. **East Oakland Sports Center:** The artists have been redirected to work on the sunscreens rather than the glass. The revised designs will come to PAAC. The artists will probably add an interior component to echo the exterior work.
- j. **New Projects:** New Projects include Peralta Hacienda, Fremont Pool, and many streetscape projects, which will all be high-profile if not high budget.
- k. **Oakland Arts Day Event:** The Cultural Arts & Marketing Division presented “An Evening of the Arts” on California Arts Day, October 3rd. The Cultural Funding Program honored its current-year grantees during a reception with performances at the Oakland Art Gallery; Suki O’Kane and the Illuminated Corridor group presented a three-part performance and projection installation in Kahn’s Alley; and the Great Wall featured a “Food and Drink” media program at Grand and Broadway. There was positive coverage in all media.

7. Announcements:

J. Easton announced a new project in San Jose created by New York artist Jim Conti. It has a cell phone component and is funded by private development. C. Newell announced the new exhibition “L.A. Paint” now at the Oakland Museum.

- 8. Adjournment.** D. Lozier moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. J. Easton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.