

**City of Oakland
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting
Minutes
April 12, 2010**

Members Present: Jennifer Easton, Carole Jeung, Deborah Lozier (co-chair), Judy Moran, Andrew Woodd (co-chair)
Excused: Jacqueline Boggan (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison)
Absent: Julie Trosper
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Assistant Public Art Coordinator
Guests: Sarah Filley, Yvette Molina, Edward Guerrero, Mickey Quinn

Meeting Chair: Deborah Lozier

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Open Forum:**
3. **Minutes: A. Woodd moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 Regular Meeting. J. Moran seconded. Motion passed unanimously. J. Moran moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2010 Regular Meeting. C. Jeung seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**
4. **Informational: Artist-Initiated Temporary Project Presentation: *Wonderarium* Project for Lake Merritt.** The artist team of Yvette Molina and Sarah Filley presented their proposal for a temporary art installation to be anchored in Lake Merritt near the Lake Chalet: a large scale floating terrarium sculpture composed of native and drought tolerant plant materials encased in an acrylic sphere designed to surprise and provoke conversation about the natural environment. Funding is not yet secured for the project, which is proposed for installation in 2011 or 2012 after completion of the 12th Street Bridge improvements. The project is also scheduled for Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee review in May. The artists are seeking preliminary feedback and support from the PAAC prior to that presentation. PAAC members complimented the artists on their concept, and requested more information regarding proposed maintenance; the location and benefit of cameras proposed to be installed within the terrarium to stream data to a dedicated website; the methodology for fabrication of this large scale acrylic form; the location, scale and function of the solar panels; and the final plant selections, noting that these details should be explored fully to ensure the success of a fun, exciting and well-researched project. The artists noted that they are also working with Oakland Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff on these issues.
5. **Informational: Oakland Fire Department (OFD) – Local 55 Gift Proposal – Fallen Firefighters Memorial.** Edward Guerrero and Mickey Quinn presented a gift proposal of an eight-foot-high figurative bronze sculpture set upon a four-foot-high pedestal, created by OFD Lieutenant Mickey Quinn. The sculpture is proposed to be set between the two oak trees on the northeast side of City Hall’s Frank H. Ogawa Plaza in memory of OFD firefighters who have

lost their lives in service to Oakland. The gift would include a dedicated maintenance fund as required for all gifts, but general funding for the project must still be raised. In response to PAAC questions, Mr. Quinn noted that he is a self-taught artist and apprenticed with master sculptor Eugene Daub, but has not previously completed a bronze sculpture of this scale. The figure is meant to represent firefighters of every ethnicity, in a stance that conveys the physical toll of their work rather than a heroic stature. PAAC members commended the presentation and the to-scale model presented to the committee but noted the translation to a larger scale would be challenging and would likely cost more than estimated. Committee members concluded that as the PAAC does not have the authority to make independent recommendations for placement of permanent artwork on the plaza (the most public space in the city), a City policy would need to be developed to address this proposal and anticipate future proposals for the plaza.

- 6. Informational: Measure DD Entrance Gates for the Gardens at Lake Merritt. Phase One Finalist Selections.** The selection panel for the Entrance Gates project convened on March 19 and has recommended five finalists for this new Measure DD project. PAAC reviewed the finalists' images. PAAC member and selection panel chair Joyce Hsu noted that the panel recommended the short list of Oakland-based and Bay Area artists with a broad range of styles and skill sets. PAAC members noted that the straightforward nature of the commission might best be addressed with a proposal-based selection process, should the panel have difficulty making a final recommendation.
- 7. Informational: Make Nominations and Review Resumes of Two Proposed Nominees, Nick Dong and Celeste Howell, to Fill Upcoming PAAC Vacancies.** PAAC members reviewed the qualifications of two artists nominated by PAAC co-chair D. Lozier. Both nominees are very interested in serving on the committee. PAAC members agreed the nominees would each bring different skills to the committee and should be reviewed in context with the skills matrix for the whole committee to ensure they are the best candidates. PAAC subsequently made suggestions for additional nominees that would add advocacy skills and community connections to the committee and agreed to bring additional suggestions to the next committee meeting.
- 8. Informational: New Projects Working Group Update.** PAAC members J. Easton, D. Lozier and A. Woodd met with staffer S. Huss to review prospective project sites and opportunities in the Uptown. J. Easton noted that the Oakland Redevelopment Agency (ORA) has some predefined goals for where they would like public art funds to be expended, including an open space on San Pablo Avenue near 21st Street, Franklin Square near Broadway and Grand, select privately-owned properties on Broadway, the parking lot located at Telegraph and 20th Streets, the open lot on Telegraph across from the Sears Building. Other sites considered included the Sears Building windows, Latham Square (for temporary rather than permanent installations, similar to the Hayes Valley Green in San Francisco) and Kahn's Alley. A. Woodd shared images of the various sites. Committee members noted that San Pablo Avenue is challenging as it feels removed from the rest of the project area and that Telegraph Avenue felt conducive to pedestrian and bicycle-based art installations. PAAC discussed how to weigh ORA's desire to create entry/gateways with other possibly better ways to activate the area with public art.
- 9. Other Business:** None.
- 10. Announcements:** The artist recommendation for the 17th Street BART project goes to the Life Enrichment Committee on April 27 and to City Council on May 4. A. Woodd will attend the

Measure DD 12th Street groundbreaking on May 6.

- 11. Agenda Building:** Items for the May PAAC meeting include prospective PAAC nominees, further exploration of policies for proposed art installations in Frank H. Ogawa Plaza and pooling of funds from smaller projects, design review of Open Proposals recipient David Stern-Gottfried's project, Measure WW project plan updates and review of the New Projects sub-committee's recommendations.
- 12. Adjournment:** J. Moran moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. C. Jeung seconded. Motion passed unanimously.