

**City of Oakland  
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division  
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting  
Minutes  
June 7, 2010**

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**Members Present:** Jennifer Easton, Deborah Lozier (co-chair), Julie Troesper, Andrew Woodd (co-chair)

**Excused:** Jacqueline Boggan (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison), Chris De Benedetti (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison), Joyce Hsu, Carole Jeung, Judy Moran

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

**Guests:** Ene Osteraas-Constable (Wowhaus), Damon Powell (Cultural Affairs Commission)

**Meeting Chair: Andrew Woodd**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. without a quorum.
2. **Open Forum:** No speakers.
3. **Minutes: Approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 Regular Meeting. Item postponed due to lack of quorum.**
4. **Voting/Informational: Measure DD Watershed Markers – Approval of Final Designs.** Ene Osteraas-Constable of the Wowhaus artist team presented the team's final designs in the form of five composite clay and stone forms proposed to be cast as bronze stepping-stones – a more durable material than the aluminum medium originally proposed – with a customized but replicable patina which will enhance the detail work and legibility of each 'stone.' Each cast element will also include sufficient cast anchor bolts to prevent theft. ADA Coordinator Christine Calabrese has reviewed and approved the designs. Oakland Watershed representatives have enthusiastically approved the designs as attractive and scientifically accurate. With direction from Watershed staff, the artist team will identify four to five locations (depending on final permitting and installation cost estimates) from a list of 20 potential sites. Additional details regarding the concrete specifications must be reviewed with appropriate City staff to ensure future maintenance and replicated installations are aesthetically consistent. The artists are requesting final design approval before they can proceed with Artworks Foundry to produce the silicone molds for the bronze castings, which will take approximately six weeks. Subsequent bronze casting will take an additional two or three months before installation could take place in late fall 2010. The artists are soliciting input on what text (creek names, project title or website, project sponsors) to stamp into the concrete surrounding the stepping stones and noted that Public Works staff had expressed concerns about customized concrete work incorporating sparkle grit. PAAC members and staff provided feedback on the designs and proposed materials and asserted that the final installation plans should be driven, within reason, by artwork considerations rather than dictated by sidewalk maintenance concerns. J. Easton suggested specifying a standard custom finish for the concrete (brush or salt) if sparkle grit was considered

problematic for future maintenance, and advocated for locations near schools. PAAC members discussed how to convey general support for the project without being able to vote and suggested documenting their positions. Motion: J. Trospen moved to approve the final designs by consensus. A. Woodd seconded. Motion was unanimous. **Final Design approval postponed due to lack of quorum.**

**5. Discussion: Gifts and Artist/Community Initiated Projects Policy Discussion.** Public Art staff noted that an upswing in community and artist-initiated projects and proposed gifts may necessitate expanding the 2005 Gifts Policy to provide more specific process guidelines for gifts or other types of public art installations to be placed on City property. Due to the change in funding for public art staff administration, PAAC members considered whether an administrative review fee should be implemented for projects that require staff time to facilitate. Additionally, PAAC members discussed the significance a proposed location may play in the review of a proposed gift, noting the firefighters memorial is an example of a work proposed for a very high-profile location, now necessitating an additional or separate policy for works proposed to be placed on Frank Ogawa Plaza. Such a policy would need to weigh the impact of approving one proposal against possible future proposals, in context with the historic architecture and other uses of the plaza for events, as well as a consideration to limit plaza installations to temporary works for maximum flexibility in the public space. Staff requested a volunteer representative for a panel to be convened for such a discussion. PAAC members suggested Judy Moran, as a representative from the San Francisco Arts Commission, which oversees an actively used Civic Center Plaza, would be an appropriate representative, in addition to Landmarks Board, Planning Board and Facilities management representatives. Staff agreed to follow up on initiating a discussion.

**6. Staff Updates:**

- a. Fire Station 18:** The project is almost complete. PAAC member and selection panel chair J. Easton has agreed to speak on behalf of the program at a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 11 a.m. Staff will prepare a project handout for the ribbon cutting and a community open house scheduled for Saturday, June 19.
- b. Fremont Pool:** The artist will initiate a series of community workshops on weekends starting in late June, after the pool reopens, to be promoted via the Aquatics Department's mailing list.
- c. ORA Central District/Uptown: BART 17<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway Project.** The recommendation to award the contract to Dan Corson was unanimously approved by the Life Enrichment Committee. S. Huss noted that Councilmember Brooks was particularly vocal in support of the specific needs of this project and the need to work with the best suited artist for the project. The recommendation will be reviewed by the full City Council on May 4, 2010.
- d. East Oakland Community Library.** The project is still in progress, with completion estimated for August or September 2010. The "Our Oakland" photo contest is underway and the deadline extended into July to encourage greater youth participation through local community organizations after the school year ends.

**7. Other Business:** None.

**8. Announcements:** J. Easton noted that the San Jose International Airport will be hosting an open house, allowing the public to tour sections of the new terminal June 25 and 26. D. Lozier

invited all to the dedication of her Open Proposals project at McClymonds High School on Friday, June 11.

**9. Agenda Building:** Staff will bring back the Watershed Markers project for review and approval, and Dan Corson's preliminary concepts for the Uptown BART project will be presented.

**10. Adjournment:** J. Easton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. A. Woodd seconded. Motion passed unanimously.