

**City of Oakland
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)
Minutes
October 1, 2012**

Members Present: Judy Moran (co-chair), Andrew Woodd (co-chair), Kevin Chen, Allison Cummings, Joyce Hsu
Excused: Nick Dong, Jennifer Easton
Absent:
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager
Guests: Scott Constable, Ene Osteraas-Constable, Jill McLennan

Meeting Chair: J. Moran

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Open Forum:** Jill McLennan introduced her project, partially funded by a Cultural Funding Program Individual Artist grant, for a mural to be created with youth from Arise High School for placement on Peterson Street in the Fruitvale district. Ms. McLennan will bring her proposal to the PAAC for review at the November meeting, but elected to speak during open forum to solicit initial feedback, as she will begin working with the students during the month of October.
3. **Minutes: A. Woodd moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting. J. Hsu seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Measure DD Lakeside Green Streets Public Art Project – Artists’ Conceptual Design Presentation.** Senior Public Art Project Manager Kristen Zaremba provided a progress update on the Lakeside Green Streets conceptual design process, referred committee members to the staff report, and introduced Wowhaus team artists Ene Osteraas-Constable and Scott Constable. Wowhaus presented their conceptual design proposal for a bronze sculpture to be sited adjacent to Lake Merritt, within the Lakeside Green Streets project area, opposite Snow Park. The artists’ intent is to create an iconic “O” form that enhances the connection between the lake and users while obliquely referencing a bird’s egg. The proposed sculpture, a three-dimensional elliptical form with hollow center, would be cast in a gold bronze highlighted by a mirrored finish on select elements, to reflect and frame the views of Lake Merritt and downtown Oakland for passersby. The artists described their process to develop the proposal -- working on site to engage the community in dialogue to identify their key values for any Lake Merritt improvements, including artistic enhancements, lighting, creating new attractions, and safety, while sustaining wild bird habitats. The artists shared bronze material samples and a to-scale wood sculpture with the PAAC for reference. Finally, the artists proposed an alternative, to fabricate the sculpture in polished stainless steel, in concert with the local fabricator responsible for the famed sculpture located in Chicago, *Cloud Gate*, by British artist Anish Kapoor. The budget for fabricating the sculpture in stainless steel would be significantly greater and would require the artist team and the City to launch a fundraising initiative. The PAAC discussed the merits of the proposed sculptural form, and of working with bronze vs. stainless steel, noting that the stainless would require a significant maintenance budget. The committee generally expressed a preference for the gold bronze finish to complement colors found in nature and in contrast to the surrounding architecture. Some members felt the form could be more compelling, and discouraged making allusions to a simple “O” shape. They asked the artists to further develop their concept for the sculpture base and evening lighting,

noting that its relationship to the surrounding open space would greatly affect the experience of the work. They suggested shifting the ellipse form to a more vertical orientation to discourage climbing while enhancing the visual experience of the work. One additional suggestion is to explore whether the work could be kinetic to increase public interaction. The artists will conduct a mockup test on site during October to establish key criteria for the sculpture orientation, selected location, base design and other details, and will present the concept to other key staff and the Measure DD Coalition prior to returning to the PAAC in December with an update. **Motion: A. Woodd moved to approve the preliminary design concept and artwork location proposed by Ene Ostersaas-Constable and Scott Constable (Wowhaus) for the Measure DD: Lakeside Green Streets Public Art Project. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Discussion: Uptown Art Park – Call for Sculptures Update.** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss reported that the call for sculptures had solicited 60 sculpture submittals from 21 artists. Staff and PAAC representatives reviewed the suitable submittals to select the most exceptional work for a show with the tentative theme “Repurposed” which will build on the Bike Bridge sculpture’s use of recycled bicycle parts, with additional works embracing such materials as reclaimed redwood and repurposed building construction ceramics. The selection panel concurred that multiple works by each artist should be considered. In addition, staff proposed some interesting and exciting artwork that is not suitable for longer-term outdoor installation for inclusion in the opening night event. Staff must solicit several more artworks to make a complete show and will bring the recommendations forward for approval at the November PAAC meeting. A grand opening of the Art Park is now tentatively proposed for the First Friday event on December 7, 2012.
6. **Discussion: Review Additional Nominees for PAAC vacancies; review skills matrix.** Staff reminded PAAC members that a total of four nominations are needed to forward to the Mayor’s office. Currently there are two vacancies and one member terming off, with another member to term off in early 2013. One nominee, April Banks, has already been approved by the PAAC. J. Moran committed to asking artist and curator Carrie Lederer and artist Walter Kitundu if they would be interested and would submit their resumes for consideration. Staff will bring forward the current recommendations for a vote at the November meeting.
7. **Informational: Staff updates on pending and completed projects.**
 - A. **West Oakland Youth Center:** S. Huss reported on the initial design development process. Trust Your Struggle Collective will hold the contract for the project. The artist team has already scheduled youth workshops to take place at McClymonds High School and St. Mary’s, a nearby church. Preliminary design concepts will be presented to the PAAC at the December meeting.
 - B. **MacArthur Streetscape Gateways Project:** K. Zaremba reported that she is still recruiting community panelists, and is working with Public Works Agency staff to coordinate a sequence for the artwork to be executed and installed after the contractor is finished. PAAC member Judy Moran volunteered to sit on the artist selection panel.
8. **Other Business:** S. Huss noted that AC Transit will be implementing a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system incorporating public art for the International Boulevard corridor between Oakland and San Leandro. City staff and the PAAC may be consulted on review of the public art elements proposed in Oakland.
9. **Announcements:** None.
10. **Agenda Building:** (A) Vote on nominees for Committee vacancies. (B) Presentation by artist Jill McLennan for proposed mural project. (C) Uptown Art Park artwork recommendations. (D) Ongoing current and new project updates.
11. **Adjournment: A. Woodd moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**