

**City of Oakland
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division
Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)
Minutes
March 3, 2014**

Members Present: Kevin Chen, Allison Cummings, Nick Dong, Jennifer Easton, Joyce Hsu, Andrew Woodd (co-chair)
Excused: Judy Moran (co-chair)
Absent:
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager
Guests: Todd Blair, Alex Ismerio, John Rogers

Meeting Chair: A. Woodd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:45 p.m.
2. **Open Forum**
3. **Minutes: J. Hsu moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 PAAC meeting. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Review and Take Action on Measure DD: 12th Street Underpass Project Final Designs:** Senior Public Art Project Manager Kristen Zaremba introduced the item, reminding PAAC members that the artist team was asked to present final designs to the Public Art Advisory Committee before proceeding with fabrication, and noted that the on-site mock up, which was delayed due to inclement weather, would take place on March 6, 2014. The artist team of Todd Blair, Alex Ismerio and John Rogers presented their final designs consisting of 20 galvanized steel sculptural light columns (10 on each side of the channel) programmed with color-shifting light patterns to evoke the changing tides, and crowned with curvilinear sculptural steel ornamentation. The artists reviewed their proposals boards and materials, including to-scale samples, and the development process used to arrive at the final designs. The artist team initially obtained an LED lighting proposal from Phillips Color Kinetics, but ultimately chose to work with an alternate, smaller and more specialized company, Holly Lighting, based in the North Bay, noting that the cost benefits, including the LED programming flexibility and warranty provided by Holly, far exceeded Phillips' proposal for the same budget. PAAC members and the artist team discussed various materials and installation methods. All metal materials will be fabricated by the artist team or local sheet metal and galvanizing shops. While the sculptures will be ventilated, committee members further recommended that the artists closely analyze the heat generated by the light fixtures and suggested including small fans at the base of each sculpture to prevent overheating. In addition, they discussed the bolting methodology, to ensure the lights are tamper-proof but able to be accessed for maintenance, and discussed different approaches for applying a protective coating to guard against permanent damage from graffiti. The artist team is exploring use of a new product and will provide more information and consult with City staff before selecting a final system. Regarding the organic sculptural steel, PAAC and the artists discussed the design strategies to deter bird nesting and potential climbing hazards. A follow-up discussion regarding the project will be scheduled after the on-site mockup. **MOTION: K. Chen moved to approve the final designs for the Measure DD: 12th Underpass Project, pending final review and support from PAAC and staff members after the on-site mockup. J. Easton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 5. Discussion Item: Uptown ArtPark Second Exhibition: Performance and Installation Series, Fence Fabric, Budget.** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss provided a staff report on the current status of the Uptown Art Park. It has been almost a year since the initial exhibition was installed and dedicated at the opening event in April 2013. The artwork has been very well-received by the community but some artists must remove their work shortly due to other commitments. As there are no immediate plans to develop the site, staff is exploring how to organize a second series of installations and performances. The budget for the first exhibit was approximately \$27,000 for artists' fees, with some additional funds committed for engineering and the opening event, with support from the Cultural Arts and Marketing budget. Furthermore, the fabric on the fence behind the sculptures will be removed due to ongoing vandalism, but staff has not determined whether to invest funds in a new fence treatment and invited suggestions. PAAC members suggested different ways to activate the space utilizing repurposed shipping containers or other types of portable but secure display units with rotating exhibitions curated by local galleries. Regarding the fence, they suggested inviting Oakland School of the Arts students or other community artists to participate in the design, but with the intention to create more transparency into the interior space. Staff will issue a new call for ongoing submissions for existing work and new projects, and rotate out the current artwork as appropriate.
- 6. Informational Item: Project Updates: Staff updates on pending and completed projects.**
- A. Caltrans Projects:** S. Huss provided updates on artist- and arts organization-initiated projects facilitated by Public Art staff for placement on Caltrans property. Two current projects are the Oakland Super Heroes Mural led by West Oakland-based Attitudinal Healing Connection, and the proposal from Alan Leon for additional mural artwork to enhance the Temescal Flows project. The Oakland Super Heroes project was approved by Caltrans and will be dedicated on March 5. Due to some new permit requirements being instituted by Caltrans, Mr. Leon's project has not yet been approved. City staff will work with Caltrans to expedite the process so the artist may proceed with his project before he loses grant funding.
- B. Collections – Dandelion Sculpture at Children's Fairyland:** S. Huss reported that as noted previously, the sculpture must be removed due to pending construction to redesign the entrance to Fairyland. The artist, John Jagger, passed away, and the two galleries representing the artist need to contact the artist's heirs before they could provide any feedback on possible preservation or relocation of the work. As staff and the committee have observed, the sculpture is in poor shape and oddly mounted, therefore it would require extensive conservation if it is to be relocated. There is no existing budget to cover the expense of removal, repair or reinstallation of the work. Staff and PAAC members discussed the appropriate next steps to take, including confirming actual ownership of the sculpture. Staff will also contact the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, as they were the organization which originally purchased the sculpture and donated it to the City.
- C. Collections – Broadway Underpass:** S. Huss reported that staff has been meeting with Councilmembers' staff and representatives from the Jack London District Association to discuss ways to address existing conditions in the underpass. Unfortunately, due to the dissolution of Redevelopment, the plans and funding budgeted for refurbishment have been lost and the City must work with the community to find an alternate solution to address the existing conditions. Huss noted that the neighborhood representatives would like the artwork to be removed, but understand the artists need to be involved in the process.
- D. BART 17th Street Gateway:** K. Zaremba reported that the construction project is making good progress. There are some new existing condition concerns which have been identified and may require that the art budget pay for applying a waterproofing membrane to the existing concrete and stucco wall as a preventive measure. This would be a new cost to the project of approximately \$15,000.

- E. MacArthur Streetscape Gateway:** K. Zaremba reported that the archway armatures have been installed at 73rd and Durant, and shared photographs. The location at Durant is only a block from the newly opened Foothill Square, which will attract more visitors to Oakland from San Leandro. The selection process to commission an artist from the pre-qualified shortlist to design artistic enhancements for the arches will begin shortly, and will include community participants identified by Council staff and others. A PAAC member will also be invited to sit on the panel.
- 7. Other Business:** Staff and PAAC members acknowledged and thanked the two departing committee members, Jennifer Easton and Andrew Woodd, for their many years of service.
- 8. Announcements:** None.
- 9. Agenda Building:** (A) Ongoing current and new project updates; (B) Introduction of new PAAC members; (C) AC Transit – BRT Project Updates
- 10. Adjournment:** J. Easton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. J. Hsu seconded. Motion passed unanimously.