

City of Oakland
Public Art Advisory Committee
(PAAC)
Minutes
April 7, 2014

Members Present: Judy Moran (co-chair), Bryan Cain, CeCe Carpio (non-voting), Allison Cummings, Nick Dong*, Joyce Gordon, Evelyn Orantes (non-voting)
Excused: Kevin Chen, Joyce Hsu
Absent:
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zarembo, Senior Public Art Project Manager
Guests: Virginia Jardim, Chris Treggiari, CCA Athena Project student

*Indicates partial meeting attendance

Meeting Chair: J. Moran

1. Meeting called to order at 5:45 p.m.
2. **Welcome New Members:** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss welcomed the four new Public Art Advisory Committee members: Bryan Cain, CeCe Carpio, Joyce Gordon and Evelyn Orantes. Ms. Carpio and Ms. Orantes cannot vote until they have been sworn in to service by the City Clerk, but will attend and participate in meeting discussions.
3. **Open Forum.** No speakers.
4. **Minutes:** A vote on the March 3, 2014 minutes was postponed until committee member Nick Dong arrived to make a quorum.
5. **Action Item: City Council Anti-Graffiti Murals & Green Walls Program: California College of the Arts (CCA) / Arise High School Students Mural Proposal for 1418 Fruitvale Avenue at International Boulevard:** S. Huss introduced the item, noting that this is the first in a series of mural and green wall proposals to be funded by the City Council-initiated mural program to address blight. The “Athena Project” mural proposal is the result of a CCA initiative begun in 2005 for students enrolled in the Engage Program. The school has partnered with Peralta Hacienda Historical Park since 2010 on projects designed to increase visibility for the historical park. CCA program staff met with Councilmember Noel Gallo (District 5) and was encouraged to develop a project for this highly visible location considered the gateway to the Fruitvale District. The educational program developed with Arise High School is on a semester schedule and the concepts for a series of murals on plywood panels to fit within the niches of the building exterior are in mid-design. Yet approval from the property owner must still be obtained. Committee members and staff commended the CCA team on the meaningful curriculum developed for the high school students and the design direction, and encouraged the team to continue to develop a cohesive style throughout the panels. They expressed some concerns regarding the documented budget, project longevity, the proposed mounting method, and lack of documented approval from the property owner. The project team will continue to pursue the needed approvals and are also considering some alternate temporary locations to display the murals if needed. Team members will return to a future meeting with final designs, comprehensive budget and an agreement with the property owner. **Motion: A. Cummings moved to approve the preliminary designs and working process used for the CCA / Arise High School Mural Proposal for 1418 Fruitvale Avenue,**

pending final determination of property owner approvals and confirmed project budget availability, with a contingency for an alternate site. N. Dong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Motion: N. Dong moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 PAAC meeting. A. Cummings seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Informational Item: Collections Management. Huss provided a verbal staff report on current collections management issues, including background, for new committee members.

A. Meknes by Benbow Bullock: Currently on long-term loan from the Oakland Museum

Foundation and sited on Lakeside Drive adjacent to Snow Park, the sculpture will be removed and returned to the museum as part of the Measure DD: Lakeside Green Streets project improvements in 2015.

B. Dandelion Sculpture by John Jagger: As reported at the March PAAC meeting, this work presents greater challenges as the artist is now deceased and the sculpture, gifted to the city by the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club (LMBC), must be removed as part of the Fairyland entrance improvement project. As the work pre-dates the Public Art Program collections accessioning procedures, it is difficult to determine what agreements were made between the LMBC and the City. Additionally, the sculpture is in need of major conservation, yet Measure DD bond funds are restricted, therefore there is no budget for repair or relocation, only removal (as part of the general construction project). The LMBC is not inclined to cover the expense; therefore staff will be working with the artist's family and gallery representatives on their preference for return of the artwork. PAAC members suggested the work might be repurposed as part of a collaborative project with the community and an organization such as The Crucible.

C. The "Green Monster" Play Structure by deceased CCA faculty member Bob Winston: Now sixty years old, the work is in great disrepair and is considered a hazard. The work, sited on the beach next to Lake Merritt and the property of Oakland Parks & Recreation (therefore not officially an artwork in the collection), is currently fenced off. OPR has requested assistance from Public Art staff in determining whether the work can and should be preserved. Staff and committee members discussed the feasibility of CCA taking an interest in preservation of the work. Staff will follow up with committee member and CCA faculty member Nick Dong on the discussion.

D. Broadway Underpass Project by the Team of Five: Huss reported that City Councilmember Lynette McElhaney and the Jack London District Association are convening a Town Hall meeting on April 30th to discuss the future of the I-880 underpass project on Broadway, which incorporates the architecturally integrated artwork designed by the local artist team known as the Team of Five. Huss described the project (discussed at the March 2014 PAAC meeting) for new committee members and encouraged all members to attend the community meeting, as the artwork will be brought back for discussion at the May PAAC meeting. Committee members and staff discussed the challenges of setting aside and procuring funds for maintenance and conservation of existing artwork.

Motion: A. Cummings moved to extend the meeting until 7:40. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. 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. The Oakland Super Heroes Mural led by West Oakland-based Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC) and artist Senay

Dennis is now complete and was dedicated in the last month. Huss noted that AHC is a model organization in this context and will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the work. The Alan Leon mural proposal to enhance the Temescal Flows project is on hold due to Caltrans' request of a new, comprehensive artwork maintenance agreement with the City. Huss is working with the City Attorney to develop the agreement.

- B. Uptown Art Park:** After a successful first exhibition, the two sculptures by Bruce Johnson will be moved on April 14th due to the artist's commitment to include the works in a new solo show. Staff will be refreshing and reissuing the RFP for existing sculpture, to be installed on a rotating basis, along with more artists' performances, in the upcoming months.
- C. BART 17th Street Gateway:** K. Zaremba reported that artwork is scheduled for installation in May, but the construction project is potentially delayed; therefore an opening evening will be scheduled for this summer but the date has not been confirmed.
- D. Measure DD: Lakeside Green Streets:** K. Zaremba reported that staff and the artist team are working with the project designers to finalize structural details and lighting options before the construction project is put out to bid this summer.

9. Other Business: None.

10. Announcements: None.

11. Agenda Building: (A) Ongoing current and new project updates.

12. Adjournment: J. Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. A. Cummings seconded. Motion passed unanimously.