

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

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**Members Present:** Judy Moran (co-chair), Bryan Cain, CeCe Carpio (non-voting), Kevin Chen (co-chair), Allison Cummings, Nick Dong, Joyce Hsu, Evelyn Orantes

**Excused:**

**Absent:** Joyce Gordon

**Staff Present:** Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager

**Guests:** Ain Bailey, Helen Friede, Nicole Gervacio, Nick Gomez, Beverly Greene, Mitchell Halberstadt, Mildred Howard, Desi WOME (Sam Mulberry), Thomas Kronemeyer, Denise Pate, Johanna Poethig, Peter Richards, Hazel Streete, Elizabeth Welsh, Spencer Wilkinson

\*Indicates partial meeting attendance

**Meeting Chair: J. Moran**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m.
2. **Open Forum.** Nicole Gervacio, Hazel Streete and Elizabeth Welsh introduced their forthcoming proposal for a mural to be located at FM Smith Park, pending approval from Oakland Parks & Recreation and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.
3. **Minutes: N. Dong moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2014 PAAC Meeting. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Alice Street Mural Proposal by Community Rejuvenation Project (Cultural Funding Program Individual Artist Grant Recipient).** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss introduced the project, which is partially funded by grants provided through the Cultural Funding Program. Lead artist Desi WOME described the project to be created by the Community Rejuvenation Project (CRP), a mural for three walls overlooking the parking lot at the northeast corner of Alice and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. The project may include a fourth mural on an adjacent property, pending property owner approval. The murals will honor the Chinese and African American communities associated with the nearby Oakland Hotel and Malonga Casquelord Arts Center. The proposed designs were presented at three community meetings at the two facilities for review and discussion. Mr. WOME noted that CRP is simultaneously creating a film documenting individual interviews and the mural creation. PAAC members reviewed the photographic composites and asked about the final designs and how they would be rendered. Members suggested that the murals would last longer and be more visible if raised above the ground level and if protected with an anti-graffiti topcoat. Additionally, they inquired if permissions had been obtained to depict the living individuals and historical imagery included in the composition, and noted that it was difficult to make an assessment of the final proposal without examples of previous projects. WOME indicated that the historical images were derived from Oakland Public Library images in the public domain and that he had verbal, but not written, permission from individuals depicted. Finally, he noted that the project budget had been reduced from the budget presented to PAAC, as CRP did not receive an anticipated California Arts Council grant, but that the proposed project would still be completed

while additional funds are identified for the fourth wall. He added that he anticipated the mural would last between ten and fifteen years. **Motion: K. Chen moved to approve the Alice Street Mural proposal including three walls at 14<sup>th</sup> and Alice Streets, with a strong recommendation to include an anti-graffiti coating to enhance longevity and durability of the mural, and to obtain formal written approval from individuals who are represented in the mural. E. Orantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Informational Item: AC Transit East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Final Artist Selection, Concept Proposal, Concept Development and Schedule:** S. Huss introduced the item, noting that the artist team was present and with the project design team would present an art program update. Beverly Green, AC Transit representative, provided an overview of the current project status and the timeline for next steps in the design process, noting that the target goal is for project completion in November 2017. The selected artist team of lead artists Johanna Poethig and Mildred Howard and supporting artists Joyce Hsu and Peter Richards presented their preliminary proposal for a system-wide concept entitled "*Cultural Corridor, Urban Flow.*" In response to committee comments, the team members stated they will graphically incorporate various languages reflecting the community in their designs. Staff and PAAC members suggested ways to further engage the community in the design process despite the short lead time, encouraging regular 'check-ins' with community to avoid surprises and suggesting more engagement with youth along the corridor, utilizing local arts and community organizations, and indicated that other City representatives had expressed concern over the amount of outreach to date. Committee members complimented the teams' elegant, strong graphic approach and encouraged the artist team to embrace a bold, colorful design approach as well.

**6. Action Item: Review and take action on proposal to schedule a special PAAC meeting regarding the I-880/Broadway Underpass Public Art Project in July-August 2014.** S. Huss provided an update on current discussions regarding the I-880 Underpass and the Team of Five public art project and introduced Nick Gomez, lead artist for the original artist team. Huss noted that the newly established Jack London Improvement District (JLID) hosted a walk-through attended by staff member Kristen Zaremba and committee co-chair J. Moran, where all attendees noted the improved quality of the lighting and cleanliness in the space due to some recent efforts by the City's Public Works staff and the JLID. Huss reported that JLID representatives have also expressed a desire to work with the artwork in place as an 'existing condition' in their efforts to clean up the underpass. As a result, JLID will convene an additional meeting on July 16th with community and City representatives to provide suggestions on how to address the existing artwork and current conditions. Committee and staff invited Mr. Gomez to provide background on the artists' original project goals and feelings about the current conditions and possible modifications to the site or project. Gomez expressed support for the project, despite the current issues with lighting and pigeons droppings, and the possibility of modifying some elements to address the changing environment. One suggestion supported by the artist, committee and community representatives is to explore replacing the non-functioning art lighting with new, low-cost and possibly colored LED lights, using the existing wiring.

**Motion: K. Chen moved to extend the meeting 15 minutes. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee members expressed their appreciation for the artist's attendance and continued engagement in the discussions. They asserted their own support of the project, its viability and originality, despite the site challenges. Members affirmed that a special meeting or hearing to consider the condition and future status of the artwork should be scheduled for the next meeting, when community representatives, the City Attorney and others could be invited to provide further

input before voting on how to proceed with the project.

**Motion: A. Cummings moved to schedule a special public hearing on August 4, 2014, following the standing Public Art Advisory Committee meeting, to consider future options for the I-880 / Broadway Underpass Public Art Project. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Informational Item: Project Updates: Staff updates on pending and completed projects.**

**A. Uptown Art Park:** Huss reported that a community arts event for children and youth groups would be held at the Uptown Art Park on Friday, July 18.

**B. BART 17<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway:** K. Zaremba shared images of the installed sculpture and reported that work is substantially complete but the fabricators will be returning to attend to punch-list items in a month, and the projectors will be installed shortly. The project should be completed in September.

**C. Measure DD: 12<sup>th</sup> St. Lake Merritt Boulevard Bridge Pedestrian Underpass Project:** Zaremba reported that the 12<sup>th</sup> St. team will start installation of Phase 1, the light sculptures, on July 8 and be completed by the end of the month. Phase 2, the ornamental metalwork, will be installed in August. A dedication event will be scheduled shortly thereafter. More details will be provided at the next PAAC meeting.

**D. Measure DD: Lakeside Green Streets:** Zaremba reported that staff conducted a studio visit with the Wowhaus team, and shared images of the artists' sculpture carved from cork in preparation for bronze casting. The sculpture will be transported to Artworks Foundry in late summer and cast later this year, to be stored by Artworks until the site is ready for installation.

**8. Other Business:** None.

**9. Announcements:** None.

**10. Agenda Building:** I-880 / Broadway Underpass project hearing.

**11. Adjournment: E. Orantes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**