

**City of Oakland
Public Art Advisory Committee
(PAAC)
Minutes
January 12, 2015**

Members Present: Kevin Chen (co-chair), Bryan Cain, Nick Dong, Joyce Gordon
Excused: Judy Moran (co-chair), Allison Cummings*, Evelyn Orantes
Absent: CeCe Carpio (non-voting), Joyce Hsu
Staff Present: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager; Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager
Guests: Debra Koppman
*Indicates partial attendance

Meeting Chair: J. Moran

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Open Forum.** No speakers.
3. **Minutes: N. Dong moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting. J. Gordon seconded. E. Orantes abstained. Motion passed.**
4. **Action Item: 2015 PAAC Meeting Calendar. E. Orantes moved to approve the 2015 PAAC meeting calendar. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Action Item: Review Proposal from Cultural Funding Program Individual Artist Grantee and District 4 Anti-Graffiti Mural Program Recipient Debra Koppman for *Dimond River: Mosaic for a Retaining Wall Adjacent to 2251 MacArthur Avenue.*** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss introduced the item and referred members to the staff report included with the agenda. Artist Debra Koppman described her project concept to create a 96-foot long mosaic mural with community participation for a privately owned wall in the 2200 block of MacArthur Avenue in the Dimond district. Koppman noted that the budget was modest, but as with her past projects, she would be asking for tile donations from Heath Ceramics and utilizing community volunteers in the project installation. She further reassured committee members that the wall, facing a parking lot, was safe for volunteer participants. PAAC members commented on the use of color and three-dimensional quality of the designs, and suggested using a sealant to protect the grout from potential graffiti. **Motion: E. Orantes moved to approve the *Dimond River* mosaic mural proposal by Debra Koppman for 2251 MacArthur Avenue. J. Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Informational Item: Pending City Council-funded Graffiti Abatement Murals and Green Walls Grants.** S. Huss reported that a number of mural proposals for District 4 were approved by City Council and would be coming to PAAC in the near future for review.
7. **Action Item: MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project. Review and Approve Recommended Artist Finalists Eric Powell, Jill Turman and Vicki Jo Sowell.** Senior Public Art Project Manager Kristen Zaremba provided a summary of the panel meeting which occurred on December 2, 2014. The community-based panel reviewed 14 prescreened artists from the public art pre-qualified pool to arrive at the recommended short list. The finalists will be asked to attend an orientation and to provide preliminary concepts for the community panel to review during interviews in early 2015. Zaremba reaffirmed that the selected artists will work with City staff and licensed consultants to ensure that any proposed artwork will meet the City's lighting and

structural requirements as well as the program and the communities' aesthetic expectations. The final artist recommendation will also be brought back to the PAAC for approval. **Motion: E. Orantes moved to accept the selection panel's recommendation of Eric Powell, Vickie Jo Sowell and Jill Turman as the finalists for the MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Informational Item: Measure WW Public Art Projects Plan.** S. Huss provided an update on the Measure WW public art projects plan. After discussion with Public Works staff, and due to changes in allocations and the focus of operations at some sites, including the previously recommended Caldecott Trail, City Stables and Feather River Camp, Public Art staff is now recommending the funds be focused at two sites offering city-wide services: Children's Fairyland and Morcom Rose Garden. City staff recommendations must be approved by City Council before going to the East Bay Regional Parks for final approval. Fairyland staff initiated their own design process including additional funds. The commissioning process for the Morcom Rose Garden would come back to PAAC for review. PAAC members agreed with the recommendation to pool funds and central locations with city-wide appeal, and asked for a future update on the plans for the Fairyland entryway. **Motion: A. Cummings moved to approve the recommendation to expend Measure WW Public Art Funds on Projects at Morcom Rose Garden and Children's Fairyland. J. Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
9. **Informational Item: Adoption of Public Art in Private Development Policy.** S. Huss reported that the policy was adopted by City Council in December 2014 and would go into effect in early February 2015, 60 days after passage. The Mayor's office will be convening a meeting to engage interested parties from the arts and development communities prior to the development of program guidelines. PAAC members asked if there was any clarification on how the PAAC would be involved in the process, noting that they believed the development community would want guidance and support from the City, based on individual PAAC members' past experience in privately funded projects. They expressed appreciation that the Mayor's office and the development community want to avoid additional bureaucratic requirements and delays, but asserted that developers will still ask for direction on how to implement projects. Members discussed what resources might be useful, ranging from technical instructions to an artist roster, and further explored the challenge of creating innovative and exciting work for the public realm.
10. **Informational Item: Project Updates: Staff updates on pending and completed projects and program activity.**
 - A. **West Oakland Youth Center:** The project is almost complete. Staff is facilitating communications between Public Works staff and the artist team to address some areas where tile did not cover the entire surface area prepared for the artwork, due to discrepancies between field measurements and the fabricated tiles.
 - B. **New projects:** Staff reported on an application submitted by the City of Oakland to the Bloomberg Public Art Initiative. The project, initiated by an independent curatorial entity, Fung Collaboratives, proposes to commission a series of temporary art installations along the Bay Trail in Oakland, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, as a catalyst to a regional initiative to create art around the entire San Francisco Bay.
 - C. **BART 17th Street Gateway:** Kristen Zaremba reported that the specialty glass installation should be occurring in a month or two, at which point the art lights will be adjusted and activated, in conjunction with an opening event.
 - D. **Measure DD: 12th Street – Lake Merritt Boulevard Pedestrian Underpass Project – Undercurrent:** Zaremba reported that the LED controllers for the light sculptures had failed after being submerged in water for an extended time, due to the heavy rain storms and high tides in December. The artist team is currently researching a proposal to address the problem.

Staff will review the proposal with Public Works maintenance staff before any modifications are made to the project.

11. Announcements: None.

12. Agenda Building: Ongoing current and new project updates. PAAC nominees to be considered for upcoming vacancies. MacArthur Gateway Arches final artist recommendations.

13. Adjournment: **K. Chen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20. E. Orantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**