

**City of Oakland
Public Art Advisory Committee
(PAAC)
Minutes
March 2, 2015**

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

Meeting Chair: J. Moran

1. Meeting called to order at 5:45 p.m.
2. **Open Forum.** No speakers.
3. **Minutes: J. Moran noted that she was in attendance at the January 2015 meeting. Correction was noted. K. Chen moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting. N. Dong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Adopt Revised 2015 PAAC Meeting Calendar. J. Hsu moved to approve the 2015 PAAC meeting calendar. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Action Item: Review and Approve Selection Panel’s Recommendation of Vickie Jo Sowell as the Selected Artist for the MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project.** Senior Public Art Project Manager Kristen Zaremba referred committee members to the staff report and provided a summary of the artist interview panel for the MacArthur Gateway Arches project. All three finalist artists had developed preliminary concepts for the two archways, but based on panel feedback the recommended artist, Vickie Jo Sowell, will be asked to refine and develop alternate designs after additional research and community dialogue. Staff and the artist already attended a community meeting on February 25, near the District 6 location at 73rd and MacArthur, to initiate that process. **Motion: A. Cummings moved to approve the selection panel’s recommendation of Vickie Jo Sowell for the MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project. K. Chen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Informational Item: I-880 Underpass Update.** Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss reported that Project Implementation staffer Ain Bailey is facilitating a process to acquire bids for preliminary improvements to rectify existing conditions for the project. The artist team lead Nick Gomez will be engaged in the process to ensure the work is consistent with the original project design. Committee members expressed support for the proposed scope of work.
7. **Informational Item: BART 17th Street Gateway Public Art Project Update.** K. Zaremba reported that the glass installation executed by the general contractor was completed. Some glass panels were flawed and have to be replaced, and other punchlist items still need to be addressed. Therefore, Public Art staff is planning an art lighting event for March 13, when artist Dan Corson will be onsite to activate the artwork’s dynamic image projectors, rather than postpone for an unknown dedication date. Staff will send an evite to all committee members by the end of the week and encouraged all committee members to attend.

- 8. Informational Item: Measure WW Public Art Projects Update.** S. Huss provided an update on the Measure WW project approval process required by the grantor, East Bay Regional Park District. The original recommendation to direct funds to projects at Morcom Rose Garden and Children’s Fairyland was presented to the Life Enrichment Committee on February 24. Councilmembers rejected the recommendation and requested a new proposal to direct the funds to Fairyland and a project or projects in East or West Oakland. After reviewing the 23 eligible project sites, staff is preparing a new recommendation to split the funds between three sites: Fairyland, Morcom, and DeFremery Park in West Oakland. The application to be submitted to East Bay Regional Parks is due March 31, 2015. The short lead time prohibited staff from returning to PAAC for a vote prior to the recommendation deadlines dictated by City Council. Committee members informally supported the recommendation.
- 9. Informational Item: AC Transit BRT Art Enhancement Program Update.** S. Huss provided an update on the AC Transit BRT Art program process. Staff met with the artists, design team and AC Transit representatives to receive an update on the project. The artist team and AC Transit representatives explained that the majority of their community outreach was by necessity conducted at the front end of the design process, due to the short design timeline. Design refinement is being reviewed in-house by AC Transit and City representatives. J. Hsu noted that the color selections are being finalized now, and final designs will most likely be refined before the design documents deadline in September 2015.
- 10. Informational Item: Stakeholder Meeting on Public Art in Private Development Administrative Guidelines.** S. Huss reported that staff and PAAC member Judy Moran attended a community meeting convened by the Mayor’s office on February 19 to discuss artist and developer community questions and concerns before the guidelines are developed. Huss noted that the Planning Department will be the lead and intake all permit applications, which will be reviewed by Public Art staff. General review procedures and a mechanism to notify artists about project opportunities are still being defined. Committee members expressed enthusiasm for the new requirement and discussed the importance of guidelines and resources for the artist and developer communities, to ensure success with future projects.
- 11. Discussion Item: Identify potential Public Art Advisory Committee nominees.** As PAAC co-chair Judy Moran is terming off the committee as of the March meeting, staff and committee members discussed possible PAAC candidates and committed to bringing nominations forward for a vote at the next meeting.
- 12. Informational Item: Project Updates: Staff updates on pending and completed projects and program activity.**

 - A. Measure DD: 12th Street – Lake Merritt Boulevard Pedestrian Underpass Project – Undercurrent:** K. Zaremba reported that the LED controllers for the light sculptures will be relocated to above-grade locations. Final revised designs still need to be reviewed and supported by Public Works maintenance before final approval is provided by staff, but all hope to complete work this spring.
 - B. “Green Monster” Sculpture at Lake Merritt.** Staff continues to evaluate options for possible preservation of the sculpture, which has been formally identified as a hazard by Public Works. PAAC member Nick Dong agreed to contact California College of the Arts administration regarding the school’s possible interest in preserving the sculpture due to the artist Robert Winston’s previous affiliation with the school as an instructor. PAAC member A. Cummings provided names of local conservators who might be able to provide recommendations.
 - C. Arts Commission and Cultural Arts and Marketing Division status updates.** S. Huss reported on staff changes within the department. A new director of Economic and Workforce Development, Mark Sawicki, has been hired by the City, and the Marketing Manager opening

is currently being advertised to fill the position vacated by Samee Roberts. In the interim, Cultural Arts staff has reported directly to Kelley Kahn in the City Administrator's office.

13. Announcements: None.

14. Agenda Building: Ongoing current and new project updates. PAAC nominees to be considered for upcoming vacancies. MacArthur Gateway Arches and Measure WW project updates.

15. Adjournment: J. Hsu moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25. N. Dong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.