

**City of Oakland
Public Art Advisory Committee
(PAAC)
Minutes
September 11, 2017**

Members Present: Allison Cummings (co-chair), Bryan Cain (co-chair), Jennifer Kessler, Evelyn Orantes
Excused: Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee, Joyce Gordon, Yulia Pinkusevich, Patricia Cariño Valdez
Absent:
Staff Present: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator
Guests: Natalia Mount (Pro Arts), Vanessa Whang

Meeting Chair: Allison Cummings

1. Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. **Open Forum.**
3. **Minutes: B. Cain moved to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting. J. Kessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Mobile Arts Platform and Victoria Heilweil’s Public Program Proposal for Frank Ogawa Plaza- Pro Arts Gallery.** K. Zaremba introduced Pro Arts Gallery Executive Director Natalia Mount, and noted the Public Art Program is working with Pro Arts to facilitate enhanced artist activation of Frank Ogawa Plaza. The current proposal will entail artist engagement of passerby in the plaza, resulting in an exhibition at Pro Arts in October. The artist team invites PAAC to suggest potential interviewees for the project. E. Orantes noted her past experience with the artists and the value of the proposed community engagement process. PAAC members asked about visibility and plaza signage for the project. Mount noted that the artist team would be responsible for signage. Committee members complimented the work and asked for news about the programming as it is rolled out. **Motion: E. Orantes moved to approve the Mobile Arts Platform (MAP) / Victoria Heilweil and Pro Arts Project Proposal for Frank Ogawa Plaza. J. Kessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Action Item: MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project – Final Artist Recommendation.** K. Zaremba reported on the recent artist selection interviews and referred PAAC members to the staff report. B. Cain, who attended the interviews, noted that the Council representatives were not initially in agreement and worked together to reach consensus on the recommended artist, and that the selected artist demonstrated the greatest sensitivity to the distinctions between the two neighborhood districts’ concerns. He also noted close attention should be paid to the feasibility of any proposed design relative to the archway wind loads, and that installation of any artwork should be bolted. If approved, the recommended artist, Eric Powell, will work to develop new conceptual designs with District 6 and 7 input before returning to the PAAC for design review. **Motion: B. Cain moved to authorize a design honorarium of \$1,000 to each of three (3) finalists, Eric Powell, Steven Gillman, and**

Matthew Passmore, for the MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project. E. Orantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Motion: B. Cain moved to authorize the panel recommendation of Eric Powell as the selected artist for the MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art Project, for a total project amount not to exceed \$185,000 for design, fabrication and all installation costs.

6. **Informational Item: Oakland Cultural Plan Update and Discussion- Vanessa Whang.** Cultural Plan consultant Vanessa Whang provided an update on for the City's Cultural Plan. Whang described the intent and process, referring to the preliminary findings summary and the unique qualities of Oakland's cultural landscape, and invited PAAC members to attend a community convening or conversation. PAAC members were asked to identify the cultural values of and priorities for the City and the Public Art Program. Committee members discussed the value of public art as art with a job to do, not just art for art's sake; art that beautifies through public engagement, and creates pride of place, and is a part of everyday experience. Committee members also discussed the importance of caring for the public art collection, and the need to enhance the City's resources to maintain work for future generations, while recognizing that these needs are always balanced with the other cultural needs in the community. They noted that public art contributes to community vibrancy, comes in many different forms, and may spark conversation and dialogue. The item concluded with a discussion regarding artist residency models, to engage artists in civic planning and cross-department collaborations, and how to fund that work. Regarding the role of the PAAC, and its relationship to a Cultural Affairs Commission, the PAAC members self-identified their committee role as subject experts relative to the broader responsibilities of a Commission. They asserted that an arts commission is a body that advocates for the programs and staff while being a sounding board for the community, and discussed how those responsibilities can be balanced with Oakland's creativity community desire for a more robust role in the Commission's activities.

Motion: E. Orantes moved to extend the meeting 10 minutes. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Informational Item: Staff Updates on Pending Projects and Program Activity.** Tabled.
8. **Announcements:**
9. **Agenda Building:** Oakland Cultural Plan, MacArthur Gateway Arches
10. **Adjournment: J. Kessler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40. E. Orantes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**