

City of Alameda

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (PAC) October 20, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Liz Rush called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Liz Rush, Vice Chairperson Peter Platzgummer and Commissioners Lisa Martin, James Martin, and Robert Ferguson.

Jackie Keliiaa and Dwayne Dalman present as staff to the Commission.

Remote Participants: two

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Pilbrow, Executive Director of the West End Arts District, invited everyone to the Deep Dive event on November 8, which the PAC provided funds for in the cultural arts grant. Information about the event is on the WestEndArtsDistrict.org website. The event will sell out, and it's all free, but reserve a ticket now.

4. MINUTES

4-A 2025-5454 Minutes

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a 5-0 vote.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2025-5455 Update from the Recreation and Parks Department on the Alameda Aquatic Center - Justin Long, Director of Recreation and Parks Department. The Aquatic Center will be located at the west end of Jean Sweeney Park where Wilma Chan Way and Atlantic Ave intersect and will be next to the College of Alameda building at 860 Atlantic Ave.

Mr. Long said the Alameda Aquatic Center's (AAC) overall plan has undergone changes due to engineering and budget constraints. The building has been reduced in size to just under 7,000 square feet for both structures with a mechanical room and bathrooms as well as administrative offices and check-in desk. He said they have been able to keep the promises made about the 30-meter competition pool and a secondary pool with a walk-in entry with three lanes. So, the two pools can be kept at different temperatures. There will be an entry plaza at the front just up a walkway from the parking lot and Sweeney Trail.

Building in the northwest corner of site will be 22 feet in height and house all the electrical equipment and the heat pumps. There will be wall space at the front of the electrical building for public art along with other spaces and different installations such as an LED wall and seasonal art wall, depending upon the cost.

Mr. Long said thanks to their work with AMP, there will be solar panels shading the seating areas by the pools, which will power the emergency services backup in the two locker rooms. The entire facility is being designed to withstand a 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

The plans for the AAC have been submitted to the Permit Department, waiting for comments, some of which have come in. Mr. Long said that hopefully the project will go out for bid in December 2025. Construction timeline: January 2026 – December 2027. Opening Day target is winter or spring of 2028.

Clarifying Questions

Commissioner Ferguson asked if art panels could still be a possibility for the AAC's perimeter fence, or not? Mr. Long said that his department had the impression from PAC that fencing wouldn't be considered artwork for the AAC, so it wasn't explored any further. But the primary driver is cost he added. Vice chairman Platzgummer asked what are the costs?

Mr. Long said current construction costs are \$25.5 million with total soft costs bringing the total to \$35.5 million. City Council approved a \$30 million cost, so the project has already surpassed that by \$5.5 million. The public art requirement, based on the estimated cost would be \$250,000. We want art to be part of the project, but it remains to be seen if we can have it ready for Opening Day or somewhere down the line after construction is completed, he said.

Public Comments

Wes Warren – Has there been any bidding or plan for public art yet?

Mr. Long said no but we are open to suggestions. We won't know until we're in the construction phase what the budget will dictate and allow for public art, he said.

Discussion and Feedback

Chairperson Rush said this would be a good opportunity to collaborate with Rec and Parks to help them with an RFP from artists possibly.

Ms. Keliiaa said there are provisions in the City Ordinance for a full or partial exemption from the public art requirement of a new development project for municipal and nonprofit organizations when the City Council deems it in the best interest of the Alameda community to do so. Ms. Keliiaa said, to her knowledge, it's never been done, but this is a large budget and a huge public good, so it's up to Rec and Parks when they cross that bridge.

Commissioner Ferguson felt that the \$250,000 is minimal given the \$35 million project budget. Mr. Long said construction costs for the buildings and pools are high. But, he

said, Rec and Parks is not seeking an exemption from the public art requirement at this point. He said once the bids are in, we'll know the true cost of the facility.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he didn't think anyone on PAC was against art on the fences; the issue was budget. He said he'd prefer art to be incorporated into the building rather than a separate sculpture. The City Council will try and cut it, realistically, so it's also reasonable to have hesitation about the art.

Two other things he said:

1. There are other public art sculptures in Jean Sweeney Park
2. The current \$250,000 public art project planned for Washington Park could be relocated to the Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Ferguson concurred with Vice Chairperson Platzgummer's idea. He said it would be a major upgrade to move the project from a corner of Washington Park to AAC.

Chairperson Rush reminded PAC members that a relocation of the art site will delay by six months to a year the award of a grant to any sculptor to create the art. We've done so much to this point to have the art located at Washington Park, she said, so it's a good idea to go forward with the current location in Washington Park.

Ms. Keliiaa said that this location for the new art in Washington Park has been decided. She said this change would delay her releasing the RFQ in November 2025 as planned and she reminded the commissioners that they had an opportunity to choose AAC as a location earlier in this process, but the majority didn't choose it. She said this feels like one step forward and two steps back. She said I need firm direction from PAC if we are going to change the location now.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he wasn't aware of a formal consideration of AAC in this process. Chairperson Liz Rush recalled it but said the discussion was vague.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked, What kind of art can we bring that makes the most impact? Where do we have more public interaction with art pieces and where do we have more impact. It will be at AAC.

A discussion ensued between Chairperson Rush and Vice Chairperson Platzgummer about the art location and delays if the decision is put off. Commissioner James Martin said if the Washington Park project was moved to the AAC, he felt it would send a message to the City Council that the PAC doesn't need much money for art at the AAC since we have it covered.

Chairperson Rush said we need to decide now. Ms. Keliiaa reminded everyone that the RFQ will go out on November 17 for the Washington Park Project with an eight-week window for artists to apply. We can pause the process, Ms. Keliiaa said. She has spoken with a few artists about the project and would like the messaging for its

timeline to be as clear as possible along with her workflow with an evaluation process moving to 2026. Project's timeline will have to be in tandem with the construction process so they can be completed as close together as possible.

Ms. Keliiaa added that if there are major hesitations about the Washington Park project's site, we should pull it, or we keep going and revisit it when there's time in 2027 to do that.

Mr. Long said Rec and Parks isn't using PAC as a stop gap for art funding for the AAC. He said if you decide you want to have public art at the facility, we will search to find the funds first to do that. But if you want the process to continue, knowing you have \$250,000 in your budget, it can move forward, with the hope that I will find it in mine. And that it re-instates the funding to cover PAC's commitment.

After further discussion, Chairperson Rush said will you be here in two years? What do you want to accomplish in the time you are commissioners? Your time may be short.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer replied he wants to make Alameda a nicer place and by approving art in places where people can interact with it. I do not want to change the situation right now. I'd be perfectly happy if Washington Park happens and AAC, too.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he'd much prefer to have Rec and Parks find money in their budget for the art. Chairperson Rush said we have money in our Art Fund for art at the Aquatic Center. Ms. Keliiaa said the Fund's current balance is \$1.2 million. The 2026 cultural art grants will award about \$60,000 as we did last year plus the \$250,000 for the art plus \$10,000 for the models for the Washington Park project proposals, which will leave about \$900,000 in the Art Fund.

Chairperson Rush and Ms. Keliiaa said there are new construction projects on Bay Farm coming too, so that would mean more revenue for the Arts Fund.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer made a motion to delay the RFQ process for the public art at Washington Park to January 2026, until PAC has information about whether Rec and Parks has money in its budget for art at the AAC. Commissioner Lisa Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-2 with commissioners Platzgummer, Lisa Martin, and Ferguson voting in favor and Chairperson Rush and James Martin voting against it. The matter was tabled until January 2026.

**2025-5460 Recommendation to Approve the Attached Resolution and Conditions
Approving the "Waveform" Public Art Proposal (10061810)
Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites**

- 133,611 square-foot, five-story 229-room hotel
- Intersection of Ron Cowan Parkway and Harbor Bay Parkway on Bay Farm Island
- \$220,000 public art requirement from one percent of the \$22 million project.

Waveform will be installed on the side of the building. It is three stories high, (36' x 28'). It was designed to make a strong impression on the people entering Alameda, especially those coming from the Oakland Airport. The piece will be iconic like the Park Street Bridge and people will know they're back in Alameda when they see the giant wave.

The art is a three-dimensional rendering of an aluminum face on top of the concept of waves in nature. The primary obvious expression of this is the second layer that spirals out from the center point using the aqua sequins that create the golden ratio found everywhere in both the physical and biological forms such as sunflowers, shells, ocean waves, etc. Waves are present everywhere in the expression of the installation and multiple intersecting planes. The shadows cast following the sun will create a unique pattern behind each layer of the artwork giving it a different feeling based upon the seasons and time of day.

Materials:

- Primary Material: 36 horizontal strips of sealed aluminum, 28' long
- Secondary Structure: Brushed aluminum spiral overlay, mounted 3" off the surface
- Mounting: Steel support structure bolted to building frame, per engineer's specifications
- Finish: Waterproof clear-coat over raw and brushed aluminum surfaces.

Metal

The primary material will be fabricated sealed aluminum. The base will have 36 rows 28' long with a standard mill raw finish. The secondary raised layer (spiral layer) will "float" 3" off the surface and have a brushed aluminum finish.

Metal Finish

Waterproof clear-coat over raw and brushed aluminum surfaces.

Wes Warren of ARTPUSH in Alameda created the concept and design of the artwork and is working with the architects, mechanical engineers and metal fabrication specialists for the piece's installation.

Site Plan and Landscape Plan

Ms. Keliiaa's review includes examining the landscaping plans, which she undertook for the site, and found no adverse effects with it.

Maintenance Plan

The design of the project is modular and allows for easy cleaning. Biannual cleaning is recommended for aluminum surfaces using low-pressure water spray and mild soap. The base material is sealed waterproof aluminum sheeting, which is very durable and has shown to be resilient to weather for up to 100 years. Aluminum has natural resistance to moisture, making it ideal for outdoor use, even in areas with heavy rain of humidity. The waterproof clear coat sealant keeps the metal looking excellent for years and can easily be reapplied, if needed.

The total budget for the project: \$362,000. This amount exceeds the \$220,000 public art allocation for this development, so it fulfills the public art requirement 100 percent for the hotel development at 1123 Harbor Bay Parkway.

Evaluation Criteria

- The artist has demonstrated qualifications to complete the proposed on-site artwork with the highest professional standards.
- There are sufficient public visibility and accessibility to the on-site artwork, and the proposed on-site artwork is compatible with and harmonious with the development project and surrounding environment.

The proposed artwork will be mounted on the northeast exterior wall of the hotel. The artwork is three stories high (36' x 28') so it is very visible.

Evaluation Criteria

- The proposed on-site artwork is durable and cost-effective to maintain using ordinary methods of maintenance.
- The budget for the proposed on-site artwork and any in-lieu fees proposed by the applicant is equivalent to or exceeds the required program allocation.
- The artwork has an expected life of 50+ years and the ownership of it will remain with the developer.

Next Steps

- Questions?
- Approve the Attached Resolution and Conditions Approving the "Waveform" Public Art Proposal

Clarifying Questions

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked if the strips of aluminum are separate or welded together? Mr. Warren referred to the diagram and said the second layer is welded to the first layer. Visually, he said it should be seamless. More technical discussion of the contrasting of the aluminum layers ensued between Vice Chairperson Platzgummer, Commissioner Ferguson and Mr. Warren.

Commissioner Lisa Martin asked about the safety of the artwork and anyone's ability to climb on it. Mr. Warren replied that a six-to-eight-foot piece of plexiglass will be bolted to the bottom of the piece to prevent anyone from climbing on it.

Public Comments

None.

Discussion and Feedback

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he liked the concept and design of the piece; however, he thought that its total cost was much higher than what he considered normal for the fabrication, installation, and support structure of this type of artwork. Commissioner Ferguson disagreed with Vice Chairperson Platzgummer's cost evaluation of the work.

Ms. Keliiaa said as part of the Public Art Ordinance she must review the receipts after

the artwork is complete to ensure it meets the public art requirement.

Due to the proximity of the hotel and Waveform's installation, Ms. Keliiaa contacted the aviation staff of the Oakland Airport's North Field who uphold FAA standards with regards to obstructions of takeoff and landing of planes. The airport staff said that if the planned lighting of it was removed, they would be fine with Waveform's installation.

Commissioner James Martin made a motion to approve the Waveform public art proposal as presented and Vice Chairperson Platzgummer seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Keliiaa reported that commissioner Ferguson's term ended on June 30, 2025, but he will remain a PAC commissioner until he is either reappointed or a new commissioner is appointed by the mayor.

The City collaborated with RADIUM, WEAD, and the Chamber of Commerce in an application for a grant to designate Alameda Point as a California cultural district but the City didn't get the grant. California Arts Cultural District was the granting agency. Ms. Keliiaa thanked Rachel Campos de Ivanov for all her work on the application and said the application provided a good opportunity to gather all the materials needed for future grant applications.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Non-agenda communications

Chairperson Liz Rush said the Haunt Your House Alameda is coming up next week with numerous events around the city, beginning with the Krampus Carnival with performers at the Eagles Hall on October 25 and on Sunday, October 26 is the Little Goblins Parade in Franklin Park, etc. All events are free.

Commissioner Ferguson said he was very proud of the turnout for the "No Kings" march on October 18, 2025, in Alameda.

Staff member Dwayne Dahlman announced City Manager Jennifer Ott is leaving her job for the Hayward City Manager's position, effective December 8, 2025. She has been Alameda's City Manager for three years. He also announced the retirement of Eric Fonstein, Business Development Manager, in August 2025 after 24 years of service.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Rush adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm.