

## City of Alameda

### MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (PAC) January 21, 2026

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Liz Rush called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Liz Rush, Vice Chairperson Peter Platzgummer and Commissioners James Martin and Adrienne Sancho. Absent: Lisa Martin.

Jackie Keliiaa, Dwayne Dalman and Abby Thorne-Lyman present as staff to the Commission.

Remote Participant: 1

#### 3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Connell, Alameda artist, who is starting an arts coalition on the island and seeking founding members, introduced herself. She said she's talked with various artists and organizations, including Radium Runway, WEAD, Rhythmics, etc. The goal of the coalition is communication and cooperation, sharing resources, networking, and partnering to amplify all the artistic work already happening in Alameda. "I'm just introducing myself and seeing what the art commission does and what it's all about," she said.

**Chairperson Rush made a motion to move item 6A, commissioner acknowledgement, to the top of the regular agenda, which Vice Chairperson Platzgummer seconded. The motion passed 4-0.**

Staff member Keliiaa thanked former Commissioner Robert Ferguson for his four years of service on the commission and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. He thanked everyone and said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve on PAC. Please continue the good work that you're doing to bring art into Alameda, he said. After he concluded his remarks, he received a round of applause.

#### 4. MINUTES

- 4-A 2026-5697 The October 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as presented.** Vice Chairperson Platzgummer made a motion to accept them, which was seconded by Commissioner Adrienne Sancho. It passed 4-0.

## 5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- 5-A 2026-5700 Recommendation to Adopt PAC Meeting Calendar for 2026 that Seeks to Avoid Possible Conflicts that Inhibit Maximum Public Participation** - Vice Chairperson Peter Platzgummer asked about special meetings needed in February or March. Staff member Keliiaa said that a special meeting can be set up to address the annual arts grants, as needed, with a 12-day in advance notice requirement. She added that the PAC 2026 calendar was set up to allow for the review of all cultural art grant applications (applications will open on January 29 and will close on March 19.). She said PAC will meet on April 27 to deliberate about the grants. In 2026, there will be four regular PAC meetings, but more can be added as needed.

Chairperson Rush made a motion to accept the 2026 calendar as presented. Commissioner James Martin seconded it.

**5-B 2026-5699 Presentation of “Making Waves” Public Art Maquette**

Jonah Hendrickson, artist, and Deborah Samia are collaborators on the project. They have worked together for some years on other Alameda art projects. He brought and displayed a clay maquette on a table while also sharing a video presentation of the art of a woman priming the propeller of an airplane.

Jonah said the original idea for the art came from a series of photographs depicting Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) but specifically this woman is Violet Falkum, who was featured in many of the photos. They were taken at the Navy Training Center in Jacksonville, Florida during World War II as the WAVES were learning how to operate and maintain aircraft. He said they decided to pay tribute to another WAVE, Marilyn York, of Alameda, and the original photograph of Violet Falkum, in the bronze sculpture.

Abby Thorne-Lyman, Director of Base Reuse and Economic Development, said that the Alameda Point/Navy WAVES building is in the footprint of the RESHAP supportive housing project and will be demolished for that project. It is the only building that was dedicated to women in the Navy, but it wasn't maintained. It's a wood structure that was built hastily during WWII. To compensate for the loss of the building, there will be a Marilyn York Way to honor her a block from the Storehouse Lofts.

### Clarifying Questions

Chairperson Rush asked if there would be a plaque adjacent to the figure?

Jonah replied they are thinking of using a Marilyn York quote and placing it next to the figure on its base rather than making a separate bronze plaque so they wouldn't compete. The base is 24 inches tall while the entire piece will be eight feet off the

ground on its six-foot pedestal, so nearly climb-proof for kids.

Commissioner Adrienne Sancho asked about copyright issues in using the photograph as the sculpture's model. Jonah said he would be shocked if the Navy claimed rights to it some 80 years later. He said it was taken by a Navy photographer, and the photographs are in the public domain.

### **Comments**

Staff member Keliiaa said that the piece would also need to have a city seal installed on it--which can be various sizes based upon the size of the sculpture---to mark it as part of the city's public art collection. And a plaque for the two artists and the date of dedication.

### **Public Comments**

**None**

### **Discussion and Feedback**

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he wouldn't be concerned with the sculpture being climbed on at all, nor the photograph's use being a copyright issue. He said the sculpture's visibility will be good. He asked how are you going to light this at night? Jonah replied there's no plan to light it at night now. He said there's decent light coming off the building. Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said there doesn't need to be a specific lighting plan, but it would be nice to keep it in mind.

Jonah outlined the timeline: the next step will be to begin the enlargement. He'll have the enlarged foam to work from in six or seven weeks, then a month or two to work on the clay version, and another five months or so to have the bronze version from the foundry. And in the meantime, they'll work on the pedestal. He said they'll be able to unveil it in the summer or fall of 2026.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **6-A – Commissioner Acknowledgement (Robert Ferguson)**

#### **New commissioner Adrienne Sancho**

Staff member Keliiaa introduced new PAC commissioner Adrienne Sancho, who replaced former commissioner Robert Ferguson on January 6, 2026. Commissioner Sancho lives in the West End. She said her background is in the performing arts. She's been an actress and a production person behind the scenes. She's primarily a musician (cymbals). In college, she was a member of U.C. Berkeley's Marching Band. She works in policy, talking about free speech and tech. She's excited to talk about art and accessibility as a PAC commissioner.

Staff member Keliiaa gave some updates. Cultural Arts Grant applications open on January 29 (it's already up on PAC's website). The application will be open for seven weeks. The deadline is March 19. To help applicants prepare, there will be a grant

writing webinar on February 4, 5 pm. It will be recorded and posted to the city's YouTube page. So, anyone who can't attend that day may watch it afterwards. Kimberly Acebo Arteché, Executive Director of Brava Women for the Arts, will lead the webinar. It's a general webinar that will help arts organizations learn how to write grants and expand their funding opportunities. It's not just for the Alameda Cultural Art grant application.

There will also be a webinar orientation specifically for Alameda's PAC grant process. It will be on February 11, at 5 pm. It will also be recorded and posted on YouTube afterwards for anyone who can't attend it. During the webinar, staff member Keliiaa will walk applicants through the PAC grant application process.

There's also the Special Event Permit Grant Program that is run by staff member Keliiaa's colleague, Amanda Gehrke. It offers funding up to \$20,000 to support things like street closures, fire, police, different types of permits that involve city staff that have to get involved to execute the event. The application is open until February 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gehrke is hosting a webinar for applicants soon, but Ms. Keliiaa didn't have the exact date but can send it to anyone who is interested.

## **7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Commissioner Non-agenda communications**

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked for any update regarding the art that's gone on the transformer box on Clement St. Staff member Keliiaa said she sent an email about it but hadn't received a reply. The box was likely replaced, so that's probably why the art is missing said staff member Keliiaa. She said, per the Public Art Ordinance, they're required to maintain it for the life of the artwork. She will follow up again.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer reminded everyone that you can vote for the *Alameda Post's* Alameda Stars contest that recognizes outstanding local businesses, organizations (including arts organizations), and services.

Commissioner James Martin asked for clarification about the transformer box art. Does Alameda Power fund to have the artist replace the transformer box art? Staff member Keliiaa said the developer is responsible for it. They are responsible for administering and maintaining the art. They're not maintaining it, so they need to redo the art. It's part of their onsite art requirement, she said.

Chairperson Rush announced that 2026 will be her final year on the PAC. She was appointed to PAC on March 20, 2018. "During that time, we've accomplished a great deal, expanding art funding, refining the grant awarding process and strengthening our support for artists and projects. In 2023, we created the Public Arts Master Plan. We are in year-three of the plan. It is important that we continue building on that momentum with intention and focus. We should work together. Each of us is here because we bring

something unique and valuable to the table. Speak up, ask questions, and share your perspective. Your voice matters. We should also remain mindful of the time and the energy of our staff and partner departments. They dedicate a lot of support to us but are not our full-time staff. Respect their capacity. Help ensure strong, productive relationships. We only have four regular meetings this year. So, it's especially important to come prepared, use our time together intentionally so we can move forward working efficiently and meaningfully. Lastly, when I tell people I serve on the Public Arts Commission, I always say it's the best Commission because we give money to the arts. Supporting creativity and artists strengthens our community, and that's something that truly makes people happy. So, let's stay focused. Let's work hard at each one of these meetings. Let's not stall on anything. Let's move this stuff forward. And I'm so happy to be working with all of you."

**Oral Communications**

None

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Rush adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm.