

City of Alameda

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (PAC) MEETING December 16, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Liz Rush called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Liz Rush, Peter Platzgummer, Robert Ferguson. Absent: Lisa Martin and James Martin.

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

Remote Participants: None

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Campos De Ivanov, Board Member of West End Arts District and staff member of Radium – She reported a successful event last weekend, Capture the King Tides, which was a collaborative effort of WEAD, Radium, Green Belt Alliance. Despite the bad weather, 25 people showed up for the free iPhone photography workshop and provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight what the city is doing about climate adaptation through an artistic lens. It's part of our Rising Tides Project and was a warmup for a bigger initiative in May, In Plain Sight, that will be happening at Radium.

4. MINUTES

4-A 2024-4636 Review and Approve Draft Minutes of October 21, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was given by Commissioner Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Platzgummer. The motion was adopted 3-0.

4-B 2024-4637 Review and Approve Draft Minutes of September 18, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was given by Chairperson Rush and seconded by Commissioner Ferguson. The motion was adopted 3-0.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2024-4638 Alameda Recreational and Parks Department Aquatic Park Public Art Opportunity Presentation Attachments: AAC Concept Design - Public Art Commission Presentation

Patrick Russi, Parks and Recreation Manager, and Stacy Thomas, Service Specialist, presented the item. Russi said the City is going to be building a new Alameda Aquatic Center (ACC) on the footprint of Jean Sweeney Preserve Park to fulfill the public's demand

for more public swimming facilities than exist now, which arose during the Pandemic. He said the City is very excited that it will be an all-electric, zero greenhouse gas emission demonstration project that multiple City departments, including AMP, will be involved in.

The Aquatic Center will be located on the far west end of the 26-acre Jean Sweeney Park near the corner of Constitution and Atlantic Avenues. Design is being finalized, and an RFP will go out in 2025, hopefully. Jean Sweeney has several public art pieces in it already.

The City has identified some areas for public art at the Aquatic Center. We anticipate between 175,000 to 200,000 people will visit the facility each year. It will provide a great opportunity to showcase public art but especially a gateway piece of art on the corner as people enter and exit the island. Another place for public art will be as people in the plaza area as people approach the AAC from the parking lot. The Wind Wall will be partially a wall and a fence that will rise from 10 to 15 feet in different sections, which will also provide a potential space to add public art. The last site for public art will be the back wall of the AAC that will face Atlantic Ave., where a mural or another piece of art could potentially go.

The AAC will bring children, teens, and adults together, including students from the College of Alameda, since COA doesn't have a pool. It will allow Park and Rec Department to have consistent programming for swimmers and multiply the users. It will have a parking lot, plenty of bike racks, and be on a major bus line and thoroughfare, so it will lend itself to great exposure for public art. AMP will have a permanent demonstration display about how energy heats the pool.

Clarifying Questions

Commissioner Ferguson asked about the construction timeline for AAC. Ms. Thomas said construction will begin in summer 2025 and the ACC will open in Winter of 2028. Mr. Russi said ideally the AAC would have one grand opening with the AMP demonstration and public art in place.

Commissioner Platzgummer asked if there is any money in the project's budget for public art. Mr. Russi said that the City requires it, so given the 10 percent rule and AAC's \$3 million budget, \$300,000 will be required to be spent for the public art.

Chairperson Rush asked Russi if Park and Rec Dept will be choosing the artist(s), or will you include PAC in the process. He said that he couldn't speak for the Park and Rec's director, Justin Long, but the department wants this public art process to be collaborative and the intention is that we work with PAC.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Discussion

Chairperson Rush said that if PAC is going to be involved, in an RFP, for example, the PAC will need to start sooner rather than later. Ms. Keliiaa said it's included in the biennial work

plan since AAC is factored into it as part of site plan selection, which will be part of the next presentation.

Commissioner Platzgummer said \$300,000 for the art we're talking about for the AAC is not a lot of money. Presently, given the budget, it won't be enough for the four art pieces planned in the front, plaza, AMP display, and on the fence of the AAC. He said that perhaps PAC could provide some additional monies for the public art.

Mr. Russi clarified that he was not suggesting four art pieces but that the plaza, wind wall, etc. were suggested potential locations for physical art.

Commissioner Ferguson asked if as part of the RFP that the contractor is asked to include a quote for including art on the wind wall, a construction element, thus saving money for the public art.

Chairperson Rush said that the AAC is a great opportunity to showcase amazing public art if the details of budget and who does what are worked out.

5-B 2024-4639 Recommendation to Review and Select Final Primary Sites for Physical Public Art

Attachments: Exhibit 1 - Initial Future Public Art Site Analysis
Exhibit 2 - Initial Public Art Location Ranking with Community Input
Exhibit 3 - Public Art Survey
Exhibit 4 - Map of Community Suggested Locations for Future Public Art
Exhibit 5 - Final Analysis with Increased Visibility Weighting
Correspondence

Jack Denham Conroy, Civic Sparks Public Art Fellow for City of Alameda, presenting. He will recommend eight sites for future physical public art; the PAC will choose three primary sites to move forward with for a physical art RFQ in 2025.

Background – This process began out of lessons learned from past public RFPs where artists were given the opportunity to choose locations where they wanted to put their public art pieces, which led to many issues of engineering concerns and art on private property and right of ways and other cost and feasibility issues. The new Public Art Master Plan describes a need to develop a process for identifying sites for public art in the future, hence tonight's presentation.

This is the first time the City and the PAC have undertaken such a process.

From research that took place from April to August of 2024, 39 original sites suggested by staff from the Public Art Master Plan were ranked based using criteria from the Plan. The top 12 sites were put into a community input survey taken by just over 300 people and that ranking was put back into the ranking spreadsheet as a score from 1 to 10. Those results were brought back to PAC in June and revising the weighting of some visibility criteria and

adding a few locations that community members had suggested in the community survey that didn't get into the original spreadsheet. Additionally, City staff added the Alameda Aquatic Center as potential location in the site analysis. So, we are here to choose the final selection of three priority sites tonight.

After summarizing the past few months of work, Denham Conroy presented eight locations staff is asking the PAC to choose three primary locations that can be vetted further, and one will be selected for the RFQ for physical public art. The list consists of the top five locations from the final criteria spreadsheet, two locations, Park Street and Neptune Park, which were in the top 12 of that ranking, and received considerable input from PAC and the community, and staff-suggested Alameda Aquatic Center.

Clarifying Questions

Commissioner Platzgummer asked why PAC was only choosing three locations. Mr. Denham Conroy said it was so staff could work through any site problems without having to return to PAC with issues. Ultimately, though, staff would choose one site from the three for the 2025 physical art RFQ.

Commissioners Ferguson and Platzgummer asked for clarification on the budget for public art with the Aquatic Center. Ms. Keliiaa said that any development such as AAC that costs \$250,000 or more, automatically triggers the public art ordinance requirement that one percent of the total cost be spent on public art. Chairperson Rush said staff would clarify the total budget and where it would come from for the public art.

Commissioner Platzgummer asked what makes the Ferry Terminal safer than Washington Park? Mr. Denham Conroy said it's based on traffic safety ratings for each site from the City's Vision Zero report.

Public Comment

None

Discussion and Feedback

Commissioner Ferguson said that any contractor for a project that reaches the \$250,000 threshold triggers the one percent public art requirement, which means either they can choose to install its own art or contribute the dollar amount to the Public Art Fund. But Chairperson Rush said that the City is the contractor, so the money should be double. Ms. Keliiaa said the final dollar amount is relative to the total construction cost, which appears to be a \$300,000 allocation, but it could be more. It remains to be seen. It would be wonderful if we could fulfill the entire allocation from the Public Art Fund, but we will want to discuss it further. ARPD could potentially prepare the site for the AAC art, so that the full \$300,000 could be spent on the art itself, not site preparation costs that can run tens of thousands of dollars. There could be cost savings through interdepartmental sharing of resources.

Chairperson Rush said let's pick three sites.

In commissioner Lisa Martin's absence, Ms. Keliiaa shared commissioner Martin's suggestions for the three sites from the final list of eight site locations:

1. Main Street Ferry Terminal

2. Neptune Park
3. Alameda Aquatic Center

Commissioner Platzgummer asked who owns the Main Street Ferry Terminal? If Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) owns the site, then it doesn't fit with our new site selection process and intention to streamline it. Ms. Keliiaa said she didn't know who owns the terminal. She said she'd investigate it and get back to PAC about it.

Commissioner Platzgummer said Main Street would be high on his list as an art site, but he doesn't want to put a sculpture in the parking lot. The AAC is also high on his list, but its development is four years away. Commissioner Ferguson advocated for a roundabout location, but none currently exist in the City. After some discussion, since the AAC is still in the planning stages, the PAC decided to leave the site off the list for 2025.

Chairperson Rush conducted a discussion and voice vote for three locations:

1. Main Street Ferry Terminal
2. Washington Park
3. Neptune Park

Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to accept the three sites for development for public art in 2025 and Commissioner Platzgummer seconded it. By unanimous consent, the three commissioners selected the three sites. Note: Ms. Keliiaa said commissioner Lisa Martin's choices do not constitute a vote since she's absent.

5-C 2024-4641 Recommendation to Accept the Revised Public Art Biennial Work Plan
Attachments: Exhibit 1 - Alameda Public Art Master Plan

Ms. Keliiaa said that there wasn't a presentation for this item. It's just two additions that were made that Commissioner Platzgummer requested to the Biennial Work Plan at the last PAC meeting in October:

1. Add a post-mortem process to the RFQ process. (A discussion among the PAC members and an email to applicants to get their feedback on the application process.)
2. Adding bylaws that we don't have. Borrowed bylaws from other City commissions and modify them to reflect the PAC.

Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to accept the modified Work Plan, which was seconded by Chairperson Rush. The motion was adopted 3-0.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Update on Public Art Fund Balance – Ms. Keliiaa reported that the Public Art Fund's current balance is \$1,310,307.13. The most recent contribution was \$320,314 for the Pennzoil site. It's an in-lieu fee that was contributed to the Public Art Fund.

Storehouse Loft on Alameda Point intends to deliver onsite art valued at \$150,000. Alameda Point Redevelopers is the developer of it. They will submit a complete onsite art application, and the developer and City staff will present the proposed art to the PAC at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 19, 2025.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Non-agenda communications

Commissioner Platzgummer reminded everyone that he would like to suggest to developers to come to the PAC earlier than they are required to discuss their site art.

Oral Communications

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Rush adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.