

City of Alameda

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION (PAC) SPECIAL MEETING June 30, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Liz Rush called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Jackie Keliiaa, Dwayne Dalman and present as staff to the Commission, and Jack Denham Conroy present as the city's Public Art Fellow.

Remote Participants: one.

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. MINUTES

4-A 2025-5178 Approve Draft Meeting Minutes:

PAC Minutes Mtg. 2025-04-14 Draft – Commissioner Lisa Martin stated she was not at the meeting and the minutes should be corrected to reflect that fact. Ms. Keliiaa said she would update the minutes and mark Commissioner L. Martin as absent.

PAC Minutes Mtg. 2025-04-28 Draft – No edits.

Commissioner Lisa Martin made a motion to accept the April 14 minutes as updated and the April 28 minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner James Martin. The motion was not voted on.

5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

5-A

2025-5179 Recommendation to Approve the Attached Resolution and Conditions Approving the “MAKING WAVES” Public Art Proposal

Staff member Keliiaa introduced Jonah Hendrickson who's the developer for Storehouse Lofts and the artist behind the “Making Waves” sculpture.

Storehouse Lofts is a 274,234 square foot commercial live workspace and historic building 8 at Alameda Point. The Public Art requirement is \$150,000. Staff member Keliiaa showed a picture of the “Making Waves” proposal, a bronze sculpture that captures Marilyn York, a Navy WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in the act of hand propping an engine as a Naval Air mechanic serving in America's WWII stateside efforts. The act represents a powerful and vivid image connecting service, strength, transformation,

initiation and momentum all in one gesture. Marilyn's action of propping up the engine celebrates and honors women's bravery and success in filling roles traditionally filled by men on our national stage and scale. Making Waves is also a powerful metaphor, symbolizing and celebrating the initiation of a powerful wave, prevailing forward women's access and transition into America's workforce, and the realization of greater recognition and equity. Marilyn's name and the United States Navy WAVES will be casted into the concrete artwork.

The bronze sculpture is 5 by 8 wide and the standing of 15 feet tall will be permanently installed on a 10 by 6 by 3-foot-high concrete pedestal near the corner of Saratoga and West Ranger, east of the dog park at the main access to the storehouse locks and 8 1/2 feet away from the street curb. There is a red zone in front of it ensuring its view will be unobstructed from the right of way. There will be a six-foot minimum of unobstructed walking space 360° around the sculpture for it to be viewed from all sides and will be viewable from a great distance.

Artist Jonah Hendrickson said his background is in classical figurative sculpture. He said he was trying to think of something that looked active---and wasn't stiff---and conveyed movement and honored the context for our development, which is on the former naval base. And to honor people who were not the typical honorees that most people think of when they think of military history. I wanted to point a light on people that played an important role, but that probably haven't gotten nearly any recognition at all.

Mr. Hendrickson said in talking with people at the Alameda Naval Air Museum, they came up with Marilyn, who joined WAVES in the early 1940s and stayed on after WWII ended, and was an airplane mechanic at Alameda Point for about 20 years. She also helped found the Alameda Naval Air Museum, so she gave years of service to the Navy. He found an image online of a woman propping a plane, which is very active and dangerous if you don't know what you're doing. And she's taking over the role of a typical trained man that would have done it. So, she's showing bravery, she's showing technical skill and a new trade for women at the time. And it's also a metaphor: she's starting something here that continued to today with women leading the city of Alameda. It also pulls you in and makes people want to know who she is and what is she doing? And it connects them to the past. He added that the bronze sculpture will turn to a green patina over time due to the salty air.

Staff member Keliiaa discussed the site and maintenance plans. The total budget is \$150,000 for the project, which includes concept design and fabrication, engineering, bronze casting, concrete pedestal fabrication, and transportation and installation. He said since he is the developer and has been working on Building 8 for 10 years, he thought it would be fun if he could do the artwork, too, since he's also an artist. So, he said he's covering the cost of everything that's beyond the \$150,000 Public Art requirement.

Staff member Keliiaa showed photos of several of Mr. Hendrickson's works including a bronze statue of former San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and a bronze bust of former San Francisco Mayor Adolf Sutro. Evaluation criteria: Staff have reviewed the resume and the examples that Mr. Hendrickson has provided, and previous work as well, and they demonstrate the experience and qualifications required to complete the proposed artwork. And the second question about sufficient public visibility, the proposed artwork would be located near the corner of West Ranger Ave. and Saratoga at Alameda Point. And this location would

provide ample visibility for passing pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. And as a feature in Alameda Point, Making Waves reflects its surrounding environment and history. It tells the story of women in aviation and their contributions to our nation's wartime efforts and our city's Naval Air history. And the other evaluation criteria are proposed onsite artwork is durable (lifetime of 50 or more years) and cost-effective. The ownership of this artwork would remain with the developer Alameda Point Redevelopers, and they would perform regular maintenance which would be cost effective using ordinary methods. Bronze has been used in other public art throughout the city and there are no maintenance durability problems identified to date. The proposed artwork would satisfy 100% of Alameda Point Redeveloper's Public Art Requirement for the Storehouse Lofts development.

Clarifying Questions

None.

Public Comment

Alameda resident Rachel Campos de Ivanov said she appreciates the thought that Mr. Hendrickson put into the project but would love to see more fun and whimsy in it. The location would be very close to the former Navy WAVES housing that was just taken down. And there is a wonderful display specifically of Marilyn York at the Naval Air Museum and the WAVES. And so, I see this is a project that can have multiple connections at Alameda Point as we grow our cultural resources out there. I think that could be a wonderful project. Maybe that's something that could be incorporated there to learn more about WAVES and Marilyn herself by going over to the museum.

Chairperson Rush asked Mr. Hendrickson if he planned on putting something on the monument that directs people to the Alameda Naval Air Museum. He said he'd be happy to, even a QR code, he suggested. It's getting people there is goal. You can learn a lot from spending an afternoon over there, he said.

Discussion and Feedback

Vice Chairperson Peter Platzgummer said he appreciates the project. He likes its visibility and that there's a lot of bang for the buck here. I feel that it really fits and adds to the area.

Vice Chairperson Peter Platzgummer made a motion to approve the project as presented and commissioner James Martin seconded it. The motion passed 4-0.

5-B 2025-5181 Recommendation to Select Physical Public Art Site Within Washington Park and Review Proposed RFQ Timeline

Jack Denham Conroy presenting. He reported that PAC had a special walkthrough meeting on March 25, 2025, at Washington Park. We looked at four locations within the park that the Alameda Recreation and Park Department staff had suggested suitable locations and we looked at all of them, discussed the pros and cons of each with PAC commissioners, staff and Alameda Recreation and Park Department staff. We narrowed it down to two (2) sites: one by the playground and then a location up near the Central Avenue and Eighth Street intersection. Denham Conroy said we are ready to deliberate on

the two sites and then talk about a timeline.

Clarifying Questions

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked for clarification about sites 2 and 1. Staff member Keliiaa said the estimated site preparation costs were all based on a 20 ft. x 20 ft. concrete pad, three feet deep to support the art and a few inches deep for the walking path. The concrete pad could be smaller, but don't anticipate it will be much larger than 20 ft. x 20 ft.

Commissioner Lisa Martin asked if the city or the artist will bear the site preparation costs? Staff member Keliiaa said the PAC grant will cover the site preparation costs. Costs will be slightly more for the site closest to the street because of its location in relation to irrigation and electricity.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Discussion and Feedback

Chairperson Rush said while it's expedient to choose a location, wouldn't that limit the artist? Do we have to choose one location? It would be awesome if we didn't have to. Staff member Keliiaa said Alameda Recreation and Park Department prefer the playground site since it complements the nearby playground.

Commissioner Lisa Martin said if we are looking near the playground site that will give us proposals that are different than if we choose #2. If we leave them open, as Chairperson Rush suggests, then we have more variety. And I think it's still specific enough that you're not running into that issue that you have had prior of a free for all of 'any site in the city.'

Commissioner James Martin and staff member Keliiaa agreed that PAC should pick one site. Commissioner J. Martin said he prefers site #2 over site #3 while Chairperson Rush said she preferred site #3 since it's more spacious. Staff member Keliiaa said it's probably 50 by 50.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said he's not happy with the site selection process because the PAC isn't just installing art, but we are doing placemaking, too, in a spot (site #3) that's very active already with families. He said he preferred site #2 since site #3 already has so many decorative elements and "we'd be stacking things on top of each other" while site #2 has nothing. Commissioner L. Martin said she agreed with Commissioner Platzgummer about the overall site selection. She suggested that the installation could be functional artwork that can be used as a stage. It doesn't have to be a sculpture sitting on a three-by-three-foot pad. It could be anything at this point. She didn't want to limit it to site 2 or 3. Chairperson Rush reminded everyone that if they rejected Washington Park, it would push the physical art grant process back. She said our goal is to put sculpture out there and do it in a timely manner.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer discussed sites 3 and 4.

Staff member Keliiaa said the playground location has a potential to provide something that children of other abilities could potentially utilize that's different from the kids who are able to use the existing playground. There are many possibilities. We looked at other types of art. There's sound-based art and sensory art. Commissioner Platzgummer said if you did

that, you'd need to hire an ADA consultant for \$100,000 but staff member Keliiaa said she talked to the city's risk management team, and they told her the city's policy covers everything up to \$2,000,000. So, they weren't concerned about having to get a special consultant. She added that the city has a new ADA Coordinator whose role it is to implement ADA policy.

After an informal query of commissioners about their preferred sites, Chairperson Rush decided to table the selection of a site until the July meeting.

Public Comment

Jonah Hendrickson (Alameda Point Redevelopers) said he didn't think site #2 would be a good place for a sculpture that would attract drivers' attention but rather choose a site that's not visible from the street but would encourage people to enjoy the park on foot and has plenty of daylight, no shade, and isn't obscured by trees. For the RFP, I think an artist would prefer to have options for where to place the art. And I think you guys would get a better selection of overall possible artwork if it's a little bit more open in terms of what things could be where.

Commissioner Platzgummer made a motion to offer two site locations (2 and 3) for the RFQ, which was seconded by commissioner Lisa Martin. The motion passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner J. Martin opposed.

Estimated RFQ Timeline 2025-2026

Denham Conroy said the goal would be that the open call for RFQ review panel participants would be in August. In October, the panel participants would be selected and the marketing of upcoming RFQ. In November, launch the RFQ, market and share RFQ. Applications will be open for eight weeks.

In January 2026, RFQ deadline. In February, RFQs will be reviewed, the Review Panel will confirm a shortlist, with eight weeks to develop mock-ups. In April, receive the completed mock-ups from artists. In May, conduct outreach in the Parks, garner community feedback on mock-up designs, and, in July, the review panel selects Public Art Grant Awardee. In August, do design development and fabrication in September to November. In January 2027, installation begins, and installation is complete in March, with a ribbon cutting and unveiling in April.

Commissioner Platzgummer raised a concern that the cost of the sculpture at the new Aquatic Center that will be built in 2026 will be paid with Public Art Grant monies, which would mean, if the City Council decides not to waive the one percent requirement, which would mean that we would have two sculptures at the same time with roughly the same budget and essentially that would be two-thirds of our budget spent within a year.

Staff member Keliiaa said the City's Public Art Ordinance requires private and municipal developments \$250,000 or more to pay a 1% fee which goes towards public art in the city. The developer can either commit to doing on-site art or pay into the Public Art Fund. To my knowledge, we have not given a waiver for any municipal development, meaning they've all paid the one percent fee. So, my expectation is that they will have to pay the one percent fee. Once the development permits are submitted, and the costs are \$250,000 or more, I get a call from the Planning Department notifying me that the Public Art Ordinance has been triggered. They haven't started building the Aquatic Center, so we haven't had that

conversation yet. History shows that municipal developments have all satisfied their Public Art requirement, but it is a very large project and it's a priority development for the community; we will cross that bridge when we get there.

A discussion ensued about the RFQ, which is only about the qualifications of the artist and their experience. But if the panel doesn't like any of the proposals, the PAC can stop the process.

Commissioner Lisa Martin asked about the composition of the Review Panel. Staff member Keliiaa said she hopes to have a member of the Recreation and Park Commission, a resident from the neighbor, and a member or two from PAC. A total of five people will be approved by the PAC. Once confirmed, they'll be a part of the evaluation processes for the RFQ and the RFP processes.

Public Comment

Jonah Hendrickson asked for clarification about RFQ timeline and whole process.

Commissioner Lisa Martin made a motion to accept the timeline as presented and Chairperson Rush seconded it. The motion was not voted on.

5-C 2025-5182 Recommendation to Approve a Budget for Upcoming Physical Art Call

Jack Denham Conroy presenting. He stated the current Public Art Fund budget is \$1,250,307. He discussed and showed on screen the budget breakdown the way the Finance Department has set it up. He showed some Public Art Budget project comparisons with other cities such as Berkeley and San Leandro.

Site Preparation Estimates – These are high since we don't know about electricity connection, if it's something we need or want. The concrete pad could be much smaller, and the depth of the footing was an example provided by the Alameda Recreation and Park Department, based upon the cost and dimensions of a scoreboard they recently installed in Estuary Park. They aren't certainties and are high estimates. And then miscellaneous things. So, irrigation adjustments where the path might change in the park or be adjusted for ADA requirements or a viewing loop around or how you interact with that. So those things are subject to change, but things we're considering. And then here's the other location that is a little larger because you know, we're talking about spanning a pathway where there's electricity and its location in the park.

Recommendation: Staff recommend that the PAC approves a budget of up to \$350,000 for the forthcoming physical public art call.

Clarifying Questions

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked if it's possible there's a mistake with inflation, or are there additional costs because with the inflation of about 2.5% per year, you're ending up at \$290,000, not \$480,000? Public Art Fellow Denham Conroy said it was from 2016 and may contain an error. Staff member Keliiaa said it was calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI Inflation Calculator. Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said brass and bronze sculptures are expensive.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Discussion and Feedback

Chairperson Rush asked, when we all think about this budget, does this seem reasonable to achieve a substantial piece of sculpture in Washington Park?

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said it feels like a reasonable budget for a medium size sculpture. He said he honestly does not want to spend that much money in Washington Park, but he wouldn't mind if it's a smaller sculpture in Washington Park and we have more leftover for two years to come, especially if we're not sure how much money is coming in. He would go down to \$350,000, if not \$250,000, including installation costs, still the artwork could run \$200,000.

Commissioner Lisa Martin said she looks at the money and thinks how much arts programming we could fund with that amount; so, I'd support reducing the number. Chairperson Rush said we must be conservative with our dollars now. We don't know what the future will bring as far as building construction here in Alameda. We want to continue to fund the arts for years to come. It's good to be prudent and conservative with what we are giving you.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer asked whether we have a minimum artist fee in our budget? Staff member Keliiaa said to her knowledge we don't. He responded that he'd like to have a minimum artist fee, so an artist makes money with a project, even if it means that the sculpture is smaller as a result. He said he's seen a 10% artist fee in proposals, but he doesn't want to make specific suggestions. He wants to be prudent. Commissioner James Martin said an important part of what we're doing is supporting artists, not just art placemaking. Commissioner Lisa Martin said it would be good to know what other cities and grant agencies do around artists' fees. Staff member Keliiaa said she could do some research on it.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer said \$350,000 is too much money to spend now under current economic circumstances and he wants to be sure artists get paid a fee and don't stretch themselves and don't get money for their work.

A discussion ensued about how much to lower the project cost for a smaller piece of artwork. Chairperson Rush asked if we're slashing the budget by \$100k? Is that enough to create something? The commissioners decided to have an artist fee included in the project's proposed budget.

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer made a motion for the PAC to approve a budget of up to \$250,000 for the project, which was seconded by Chairperson Rush. The motion passed 4-0.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Commissioner Non-agenda communications

Vice Chairperson Platzgummer reported that last weekend Rhythmix gave a wonderful concert featuring Gamelan Sekar Jaya, a Balinese arts group at the new Svendsen Maritime Park. He thanked everyone involved in organizing it.

Commissioner Lisa Martin asked if all the organizations that received reduced amounts for the arts grants accepted them? Staff member Keliiaa confirmed they all did, and the city is in contracts with all of them. And all the organizations that didn't receive a grant were also notified.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Rush adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.