

Mayor Trish Spencer, City Council Members and City Staff,

I am writing as a member of the Alameda arts community and Alameda developer who has been required to comply with the Public Art Ordinance. I want to express my appreciation for the hard work you all do to make the City of Alameda, one of the best places to live in the Bay Area.

In the 15 years that I have been involved in the Alameda community, I have attended a number of public art ordinance meetings. I am glad to see an amendment finally coming to City Council. However, in reviewing the proposed amendments to the ordinance there is an important element missing.

In one of the last meetings I attended, it was decided that the City would establish guidelines, timeline and a RFP (request for proposal) for artists and art organizations to be able to apply for Public Art Funds. Why is this missing in the proposed amendment?

Also there are indications that the city wants to use almost half of the existing public art funds for Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. This worthy project should have to submit an RFP using the same Public Art Fund guidelines and timeline as any other artist or entity applying for the funds. This would create needed transparency for a fund that has been elusive since its inception.

Viewing Exhibit 4: Public Art Requirement Summary, it would seem that The City of Alameda would be better served in aligning the Public Arts Fund with the other local municipality on the list. Why set the cap at \$500,000 when every other city listed on Exhibit 4 requires a full 1% of developer cost? Alameda has some of the most incredible property left in the Bay Area, Alameda should not sell itself short.

As an art administrator who has applied for grants from foundations including the National Endowment for the Arts, the James Irvine Foundation and the California Arts Council, I know that standard administration fees can be budgeted at no more than 12-15%. The Public Art Fund administration fee should be consistent with this national and state standard.

And a final consideration is for the city to cultivate a Public Arts Commission that is actively engaged in Alameda's art community. The responsibilities of the commission should be clarified with regular meetings established, guidelines/criteria for becoming a commissioner defined and made available to encourage greater community participation.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Janet Koike