

**Draft**  
**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson Liz Rush called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Vice Chairperson Liz Rush, Commissioners Mark Farrell and Kirstin Van Cleef.

Absent: Chairperson Adam Gillitt (excused), Commissioner Sherman Lewis (unexcused).

Lois Butler (PAC Secretary), Amanda Gehrke and Yael Schy present as staff to the Commission.

**3. MINUTES**

**3-A. 2020-8060 Review and Approve Draft Minutes of March 10, 2020**

Commissioner Farrell requested correction to minutes to include clarification that Commissioner Farrell offered to research alternative mural locations. A motion to approve corrected minutes made by Commissioner Van Cleef and seconded by Commissioner Farrell. Ayes: Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioners Van Cleef and Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 3-0.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A. 2020-8061 Recommendation to Review and Approve the List of Public Art Small Grants Pilot Program Award Recipients**

- Staff Member Schy provided an overview of the Public Art Small Grant Pilot Program, application review criteria, and the selected recommendations that came from the April 29, 2020 subcommittee meeting. She explained that the subcommittee was composed of two members of the PAC (Vice Chairperson Rush and Commissioner Van Cleef) and Staff Member Gehrke.
- Schy welcomed comments and answered any questions.
- Public Speaker Patti Cary described the value of the Haunt Your House contest, its historical influence on Alameda being renowned for its Halloween Events, and requested that PAC and the City support this artistic event, particularly as it encourages those who may be budding artists.
- Commissioners discussed recommendations. Council Member Farrell raised concerns about the Alameda Haunt Your House program and

whether it constitutes a public art event that should be funded by the City. Commissioner Farrell requested clarification on the types of prizes given for the event and if any of the prizes were cash. Staff Member Shye read an excerpt from the application explaining that the funds will be used “exclusively for promotional, website and social media design, supplies and award purposes.” Commissioner Farrell maintained his concern that cash might be given to the awardees, which he considered to be a misuse of public art funds. Commissioner Farrell also raised logistical concern about the Words that Made the Difference: Brown vs. Board of Education proposed event.

- A motion to approve all recommendations for the public arts small grants pilot program award recipients was made by Commissioner Van Cleef and seconded by Vice Chairperson Rush. Commissioner Farrell made an amended motion to approve all recommendations excluding the Alameda Haunt Your House application. Commissioner Van Cleef moved to accept the amended motion. Vice Chairperson Rush seconded the amended motion. Ayes: Commissioners Farrell and Van Cleef, Vice Chairperson Rush. Nays: none. The amended motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Van Cleef made a motion to pass the small grant recommendation for the Alameda Haunt Your House application. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Rush. Ayes: Commissioner Van Cleef and Vice Chairperson Rush. Nays: Commissioner Farrell. The motion passed 2-1. Staff Member Butler offered to clarify at the next regular meeting if a PAC motion needs 3 ayes to pass.

**5-B. 2020-8062 Recommendation to: 1) Relocate the Dan Fontes Mural to the McKinley Park Recreation Center and 2) Approve Adding \$1,500 to the Grant Amount (for a total of \$14,000), to Cover the Costs of a New Design**

- Staff Member Gehrke presented a short report reviewing the Dan Fontes Mural award, the ongoing efforts to find an alternate location and need for mural redesign due to relocation. At the time of the staff report, Gehrke stated that McKinley Park recreation center continued to be a recommended location for the artist and city staff.
- Gehrke welcomed comments from Commissioners and answered their questions.
- Speaker Tina Blaine (email read into record) provided two potential alternate locations: one on Blanding and one on Park St, both buildings owned by Arthur Mercado.
- Speaker Tina Blaine shared that artist Dan Fontes and property owner Arthur Mercado have now spoken.
- Speaker Fontes shared that he and Mercado did walk-throughs of both sites. Fontes clarified that both locations may require restoration work, but are good mural locations. He also expressed his continued support of the McKinley Park location.

- Commissioners, Fontes, and Gehrke discussed visibility, accessibility, and funding needed for Blanding and Park St locations. Staff Member Butler offered to research traffic flow for both locations.
- Vice Chairperson Rush made a motion to explore Blanding and Park St locations as a mural site while maintaining McKinley Park as an alternate mural site, and to discuss increasing the grant amount due to project delays. Seconded by Commissioner Farrell. Ayes: Vice Chairperson Rush, Commissioners Van Cleef and Farrell. Nays: none. The motion carried 3-0.

**5-C. 2020-8063 Eligibility Status of Upcoming Projects for the Public Art Requirement**

- Staff Member Gehrke provided an update of upcoming projects for the Public Art Requirement.
- There were no clarifying questions, speakers, or discussion.

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

- Staff Member Butler clarified that PAC can research and provide recommendations regarding AB5 to the City Council. Commissioners discussed tabling this until a later date.
- Staff Members Butler and Gehrke confirmed that staff will provide updates on the Public Art Ordinance at the next regular PAC meeting, and confirmed the three areas of additional research that are needed: allowing Public Art Consultant fees to be paid out of the fund, dedicating a portion of the fund to public art maintenance, and adjusting the contribution percentages for residential and commercial contributors.

**7. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

- Commissioners expressed a desire to discuss the creation of a statement and possible actionable items regarding support of artists of color and/or the Black Lives Matter movement. Discussion will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Staff Member Butler clarified that the next meeting will be a special meeting in early July.
- Commissioner Farrell raised concerns regarding using the Zoom platform.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- Staff Member Schy raised the possibility of preserving the artwork on plywood covering storefronts put in place during protests. Staff Member Gehrke clarified that artwork is being gathered by local business owners for display near Calafia.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairperson Rush adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Butler  
Economic Development Manager  
Secretary  
Public Art Commission