

Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee for Contra Costa County



Record of Action

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

1:00 PM-3:00PM (PST)

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar Street, Martinez CA, Room 110A
Or

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/89087979270>

Or Telephone:

1-888-278-0254 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 219464

Steering Committee Members Present:

District 1: Najari Smith *via Zoom*

District 2: Janet Berckefeldt

District 3: Germaine McCoy *via Zoom until arrived in person*

District 4: Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen

District 5: Ben Miyaji

Non-Profit Foundation: Nilofar Gardezi

Non-Profit Foundation: Margot Melcon

Staff and Consultants Present:

Senior Deputy County Administrator, County Administrator's Office: Lara DeLaney

Richard Stein: President & CEO, Arts Orange County

Roger Renn, *Local Arts Specialist*

Tracy Hudak, Facilitator on the ArtsOC team

Victor Payan, Arts Orange County

Other Attendees:

Lawrence Kohl *via Zoom*

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Staff to the committee welcomed all and took roll call. Committee Member McCoy was enroute to the meeting. Consultant Rick Stein introduced another member of his team, Victor Payan, who would be providing Spanish speaking services at the upcoming Community Visioning Sessions

2. Receive and Approve the Record of Action for the February 8, 2023 meeting.

A minor correction to the Record of Action was provided by Committee Member Kikkawa-Nielsen relative to the event she had promoted. As corrected, approval was moved by Committee Member Miyaji and seconded by Committee Member Gardezi. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Committee Member Berckefeldt abstained).

3. Project Status Reports

Project consultant, Rick Stein, provided a summary of the Community Visioning Session held the

previous evening in Walnut Creek, noting there were 45-55 attendees, and that Tracy Hudak would be providing an update when she arrived. After she arrived, Ms. Hudak went over her notes of the Visioning Session, asked attendees to confirm their accuracy. Feedback was provided that included the need for a stronger statement at the start of the Sessions about the planning process being undertaken and how the Visioning Sessions fit into the overall Plan. People would want to know “how the sausage is being made,” and how “these Sessions build that infrastructure.” Committee Member Melcon remarked that this was a “unique opportunity to develop an organization from the ground up.” Committee Member Berckefeldt commented that attendees should be encouraged to stick to the topic and answer the questions posed by the facilitator. Committee Member McCoy inquired about the role of the Committee members at the Visioning Sessions and how people would be directed to follow-up.

Regarding the Key Stakeholder Interviews, Mr. Stein reported that there were 70 scheduled at that point in time. After the meeting material was published, District 3 provided some additional candidates. The Visioning Sessions would be a venue for connecting with other key stakeholders and could provide additional interviewees. It was noted that Chambers of Commerce could also be approached as well.

Regarding the Organization Inventory, Mr. Stein thanked Committee Members Gardezi and Melcon for their efforts in organizing the virtual “Contra Costa Creative Arts & Culture Gathering,” which occurred the previous Friday (March 10) and brought together numerous artists, organizations, and individuals interested in advancing arts & culture development in Contra Costa County. Mr. Stein noted that a list of organizations had been generated relative to that effort, and a comparison with the list developed for this project would be undertaken to develop the most comprehensive and accurate list possible.

Regarding the Public Art Inventory, Mr. Stein reported that the City of Richmond was compiling an inventory for their city, so the Inventory was nearly complete. Input was welcomed.

Regarding the Online Survey, Mr. Stein noted that Mr. Payan had translated the survey into Spanish. A public announcement about the availability of the survey was expected next week, and the survey would be open for at least a month. Committee members were encouraged to distribute the cards with the Survey information; the Survey was open.

Regarding the Arts & Culture Timeline, Mr. Stein noted that this component had not been an initial element in the scope of work for the project, but a Timeline was intended to be a record of the evolution of arts & culture in Contra Costa. Committee members were encouraged to provide information about the establishment of cultural groups in the community. Committee Member Smith requested the addition of RichCity Gallery. He also shared an upcoming anime event on August 6, although no flyer was available as yet.

4. Announcements

Committee Member Melcon reported on a community arts grant opportunity from the Zellerbach Foundation. Committee Member Kikkawa-Nielsen reported on an Art Cottage exhibit “The Three Amigos,” in Concord.

5. Public Comment

Lawrence Kohl reported on three events sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council: Art Embraces Words on March 18, Mocktails & Cocktails on March 26, and the 20th Annual High School Visual Arts Competition reception on March 16 at 7:00. He also noted the Pacific Chamber Orchestra had an upcoming concert on March 25 and 26.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.