



MINUTES for Monday, June 8, 2020, 5:32 PM – 7:19 PM
scheduled Zoom meeting

Commissioners Present: Silvia Ledezma, District I; Beverly Kumar, District II; PJ Shelton, District III; Elizabeth Wood, District IV; Y’Anad Burrell, At-Large I; Joan D’Onofrio, At-Large III; Lanita Mims, At-Large IV

Commissioners Absent: Teresa Snook O’Riva, District V; LaMar Anderson, At-Large II; Pearl Parmelee Cabrera, Alternate

Staff Present: Roger Renn, AC5 Managing Director; Julia Taylor, Senior Management Analyst, Administrator’s Office

Guests/Visitors Present: Dr. Bianco, VIA Artist and Carolyn Considine, High School Student

Call to Order:

Chairperson Burrell called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Guest were introduced and everyone participated in a quick ice breaker.

Public Comment:

No comments were made, nor emails received

Approval of the March 9, 2020 Minutes

Minutes for the March Commission meeting were approved.

- ✓ MOTION MADE: Commissioner Wood moved that the March 9, 2020 Commission meeting minutes be approved.
MOTION SECONDED: Commissioner D’Onofrio
ABSTAINED: Commissioner Shelton, Commissioner Kumar and Commissioner Mims
ABSENT: Commissioner Snook O’Riva, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Cabrera
IN FAVOR: Commissioner Ledezma, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Y’Anad Burrell, Commissioner D’Onofrio
- ✓ MOTION PASSED

Election of Officers

Commission Wood thanked the election committee for preparing a slate of officers. No nomination came from the floor. The slate was accepted by the Commissioners by a vote.

- MOTION MADE: Commissioner Wood moved that Commissioner Ledezma be elected as Chairperson and Commissioner D’Onofrio be elected as Vice-chairperson for the term of one year starting July 2020 through June 2021.
MOTION SECONDED: Commissioner Shelton
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Commissioner Snook O’Riva, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Cabrera
IN FAVOR: Commissioner Ledezma, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Y’Anad Burrell, Commissioner D’Onofrio and Commissioner Kumar
- ✓ MOTION PASSED

Managing Director Report 1st Quarter (January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020)

Mr. Renn, AC5 Managing Director, reported that major accomplishments include conducting AC5 Commission meeting all three months, hosting the Poetry Out Loud County Competition, presenting three Art Passages and our first Arts Café' for 2020, attending many webinars, and following up on grant applications. Work was done for the VIA grant, but ABOUTFACE workshops were canceled.

CAC Grant Applications: AC5 had both the VIA and SLP grant applications under review by the California Arts Council review panels. Both applications received high points and were funded at the 90% level. Contracts to accept grants are being worked out now. AC5 is now completing the last three months of the previous 15-month SLP grant and plans to schedule ABOUTFACE workshops in October for this year's grant and again in February for the 2020-21 grant cycle.

- State-Local Partnership 19-6612 – 2 years grant activity period: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022
- Veterans in the Arts-19-7322 – 1-year grant activity period: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Poetry Out Loud: The County Competition was held February 8th at the Village Theatre in Danville. Attendance was up and Supervisor Candace Andersen, Chairperson, spoke.

Art Passages: Three Art Passages were held. The first was at the Richmond Art Center and showcased over 150 Veterans portraits. These portraits were then exhibited at Diablo Valley College for two months. The Art of the African Diaspora returned to the County Administration building for a February exhibit of work by African-American artist.

Exhibits are being planned for the new Administration building and possibly, other locations in 2021. AC5 is in communication with the CCOE, Veterans Center and County Health.

Art Cafés: Our first Art Cafés for 2020 was held in an art gallery in Lafayette and organized by a high school volunteer. Students showed their art work and spoke about the process.

California Arts Council Webinar: Innovations + Intersections: I listened to a presentation on applying for a new CAC grant. AC5 considered working with the Art of Health and Healing to receive this grant. AC5 declined to apply.

CCC Arts Convening: I attended along with Commissioners several County Office of Education meeting for art in the schools and Creativity to the Core training. AC5 continues to observe but has not yet committed to participating in Create CA.

AC5 Commission Meetings: All three meeting for the first quarter were conducted by Chairperson, Commissioner Burrell and well attended. The March meeting happened just before the stay-at-home order.

ABOUTFACE: The committee for VIA met Wednesday, February 19 to plan for the ABOUTFACE workshops. Contracts for the teaching artist were written, a location was reserved and flyers were distributed. However, due to COVID-19, workshops scheduled for March and April were cancelled with the hope of re-scheduling in October.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Kumar: Reported that she attended a meeting regarding Distance Learning.

Commissioner Ledezma: Reported that she has stepped back from scheduling Art Passage exhibits because of the uncertainty of the opening date for the new Administration building and COVID-19. She was part of a Zoom meeting with the Oakland Museum as that museum staff gave a report on COVID -19 and Museum, Art Centers services. This Museum works in conjunction with the Alameda Health Department. Museum services to the public are in the lower tier of priorities to serve community engagement. Commissioner Ledezma requested ABOUT FACE workshops be presented in West County and recommend having a local painting Instructor.

Commissioner Mims: Reported that arts and crafts have been added to the curriculum at the correctional facility in Vacaville. She also reported that San Quentin had received a national award for their arts programming.

Commissioner Wood: Reported that she is doing everything possible to bring Contra Costa Musical Theater back in business. She also reported that she has been practicing dance through Zoom lessons.

Commissioner Shelton: Reported that she is trying to be aware of how COVID-19 is affecting communities around the world. Commissioner Sheldon also encourages black women to take leadership roles in order to have a voice.

Commissioner D’Onofrio: Reported that she has been working to get the ABOUTFACE workshops ready to be offered in the Fall. Changes will have to be made because of COVID-19, possibly holding on-line workshops. She will meet with the instructors this month to explore ideas.

Commissioner Burrell: reported she had spoken with Commissioner Anderson and that he was recovering. She also reported that she will be attending the American For the Arts on-line conference June 23-24-25, 2020.

Cultural Planning Committee Report

Commissioner Burrell explained that the report (in slide form) could not be reviewed by Commissions at the meeting because of a perceived Brown Act snag. The report is scheduled for review by the Health and Human Services June 22, 2020.

Arts Cafés

Commissioner Burrell introduced and thanked Carolyn Considine for her work to create a virtual Arts Café of high school student art work. Carolyn shared the “Cloud” based exhibit and explained all the unique features. Many volunteer hours went into this virtual exhibit of student art.

A discussion followed questioning where the exhibit should be called an Arts Café versus an Art Passages. It was pointed out that Art Passages showcase artwork, where Cafés feature artist talks. It is possible to present the student art and “voice” in both formats.

CARES Funding

The California Arts Council asked AC5 to Op-in on CARES funding to support communities most-impacted by COVID-19 within Contra Costa County. Commissioners were asked to provide input after reading 9 documents included in the meeting packet:

- CAC Press Release
- BOS Board Order
- Californians for the Arts Statement
- DRAFT AC5 Corona Virus Aid Grant Announcement
- DRAFT AC5 Corona Virus Aid Guidelines
- Literature Review of Selected Equity Articles
- CAC Decision Support Tool
- AC5 CORONAVIRUS AID re-grant Opt-in
- FAQ's: SAA CARES Relief Fund Opportunity

Commissioner Burrell lead the discussion asking Commissioners if they agreed that AC5 should request this funding. She emphasized that Commissioners would have to be familiar with the CAC Decision Support tool, willing to devote several hours reviewing grants and possibly attend a Commission meeting in August to meet the required deadlines.

All Commissioners agreed that Arts communities were negatively impacted by COVID-19 and that relief funding would be appreciated. Commissioners agreed to become familiar with the CAC Decision Support tool, devote several hours reviewing grants and to attend a Commission meeting in August if necessary.

Commissioner Burrell directed the Managing Director to follow up with the California Arts Council, receive the guideline around June 15, apply for the funding and draft a SAA CARES Relief Fund re-granting program to include AC5 Corona Virus Relief Aid Grant guidelines, grant application and Corona Virus Relief Aid Grant announcements.

Request for Agenda items for July meeting

- ✓ SAA CARES Relief Fund Opportunity
- ✓ Brown Act exceptions
- ✓ Managing Director 2nd quarter Report
- ✓ Update on the VIA grant
- ✓ Arts Recognition Awards
- ✓ Cultural Planning
- ✓ Arts Cafés
- ✓ Art Passages

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Burrell adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.