



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County 1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553
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**DRAFT Monday July 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES
6:00PM-8:00PM (US and Canada) ZOOM Invitation**

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma

Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood

Commissioners:

District 2: Beverly Kumar

District 3: Grant Taylor

District 5: OPEN

At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio PENDING

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

***Alternate:** Naina Shastri PENDING

**Alternates assist with the achievement of quorum. The alternate may sit and vote for any absent member or a vacant seat.*

Commissioners Present: Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims.

Commissioners Absent: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

Youth Advisor Present: Carolyn Considine

Public Present: Cheryll Grover (Preservation Committee of Contra Costa County) and Contra Costa County Planning Department Daniel Barrios.

Staff Present:

Contra Costa County Arts & Culture Commission Managing Director: Jenny Balisle

Senior Management Analyst, County Administrative Office: Monica Carlisle

Monday July 12, 2021 MEETING AGENDA 6:00-8:00PM (US and Canada) ZOOM Invitation

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/TIMEKEEPER: (3 minutes)

Meeting called to order and roll call by Chair Miyaji. Commissioner volunteers to be Timekeeper.

SUMMARY: Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji calls meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: (2 minutes)

Individuals who would like to address the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County on relevant matters not listed on the agenda may do so under Public Comment. Public comments cannot result in discussion/action at this meeting.

SUMMARY: Cheryll Grover (Preservation Committee of Contra Costa County) makes an introduction to the Arts Commission and shares the *1903 Jail Project*. Ms. Glover shares considerations and options for demolition. Her recommendation is collaborative process to save historical structures. This includes a portion of the 1944 section to be preserved. Contra Costa County wants to build a Civics Center Park. Part of the project includes a restaurant, space for a social justice workshop, and revolving art displays. Ms. Glover would like the Arts Commission to create a Letter of Intent to present to the Board of Supervisors.

3. ACTION ITEM: APPROVE June 7, 2021 MINUTES: (3 minutes)

Chair Miyaji leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

Action: Approve June 7, 2021 Minutes

Public Comment: None

Documents: June 7, 2021 Minutes

MOTION MADE: Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood makes a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7th meeting.

MOTION SECONDED: District 2: Beverly Kumar

AYES: Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, and Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma.

NOES:

ABSENT: At-Large-4: Lanita Mims and At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell.

ABSTAIN:

SUMMARY: Motion passes.

DISCUSSION:

4. YBCA ARTIST POWER CONVENINGS GRANT PRESENTATION (19 minutes)

Discussion led by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Director of Public Life Sarah Cathers.

Public Comment:

Documents: YBCA APC

SUMMARY: IMPORTANT UPDATE: TBA: YBCA shared an update that launch date will be August 2nd.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle indicates Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Director of Public Life Sarah Cathers has cancelled the July presentation due to a Marketing Department request. As a result, she read Ms. Cather's letter to the Arts Commission. Community meetings have pushed back the launch date till August 2nd. Two inspiring videos were shown during the meeting to share the vision.

YBCA Summary:

The Hewlett Foundation granted YBCA \$400,000 for Bay Area County artists and art organizations. Last fall, the Managing Director Jenny Balisle had a meeting with Lily Kharrazi (Director of Special Initiatives of the Hewlett Foundation) in which she shared our LACOG (Local Arts & Cultural Organizations Grant) grantees and applicants. The Arts Commission of Contra Costa County will be working with YBCA to identify applicants and outreach for the "Artist Power Convenings" grants. This will be a perfect opportunity to also identify cultural stakeholders for our *Arts and Culture Prospectus* fall workshops!

Artist Power Convenings grants summary: "In the last year of isolation, artists have persisted in finding new ways to gather amidst the ongoing struggles of living in a pandemic and the financial precarity many artists face everyday. But this exhaustive resiliency shouldn't be a requirement for creating connection. Connections built by coming together strengthen networks and build power-power through action, dialogue, critique, and joy. By addressing the economic roadblocks that stifle the impact of artistic convenings, we can nurture gatherings as the spaces where real change is catalyzed.

YBCA is investing in these moments of growth for our local region. Beginning in mid-July, artists and artist-led organizations in 10 Bay Area counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma) can apply for support through Artist Power Convenings, an investment program at YBCA for those backyard conversations, online presentations, workshop series, and wherever artists create connections with their community. These convenings can be opportunities for resource-sharing, professional development, mutual aid, social justice, and so much more.

We leave the definition of a convening open, trusting that artists know what their communities need and how investment can fuel their work. In the same trust, we are investing in proposals based on a peer-review selection process for awards ranging from \$1000-5000. Each artist will help choose which convenings are funded for their unique Bay Area county. Equity is built into each step of the program and priority will be given to Black and African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Latinx; Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, disabled, and LGBTQIA+ artists.

As an organization building the capacity of artists working in service of their communities YBCA can also offer indoor and outdoor meeting spaces on our campus in San Francisco or access to a Zoom Pro account with audio transcription and subtitling for up to 500 attendees, plus a tutorial on usage. At the end of the year,

YBCA will host a convening for the awarded artists to connect and share feedback on the program's process. Artist Power Convenings are one of YBCA's investment initiatives that builds the capacity of artists to foster their impact on the health and well-being of their communities. Sharings from the convenings including photo and video documentation will be available at the Artist Power Center on YBCA.org."

5. ACTION ITEM: ENVISION CC 2040 (19 minutes)

Discussion led by Contra Costa County Planning Department with Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Recommendation is to form an ad-hoc subcommittee to review and complete draft language.

Public Comment: None

Documents: Envision CC 2040 and Envision CC 2040 A&C Edits

DISCUSSION: On June 23rd, Managing Director Jenny Balisle met with Contra Costa County Principal Planner Will Nelson and Richmond Museum of History and Culture Director Melinda McCrary Director. Mr. Nelson is working on updating Contra Costa County's General Plan (from 1991) in a new updated version called *Envision Contra Costa 2040*.

Links:

<http://envisioncontracosta2040.org/overview/#gpu>

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4732/General-Plan>

Currently, the *Envision Contra Costa 2040* document mentions the arts once: "Establish funding mechanisms to create and maintain public art in Impacted Communities. Work with residents to ensure public art is appropriate for their community." Managing Director Jenny Balisle stressed the importance of the Arts and Culture to be part of the updated General Plan. This follows best practices of Bay Area counties. For example, here's *Alameda General Plan 2040*: <https://www.alameda2040.org/>

On June 28th, Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared with the Sustainability Committee the importance of Arts and Culture in the updated document. Supervisor Gioia and Glover agreed. As a result, the Arts Commission will be working on incorporating the arts into *Envision Contra Costa 2040*. The tentative timeline for a draft will be late July or August.

Contra Costa County Planning Department Daniel Barrios provided an *Envision Contra Costa 2040* presentation. Mr. Barrios shared how there's an initiative to update important documents and an Environmental Impact Report. The goal is to ensure that future development and policy changes do not negatively affect the community. The General Plan requires elements regarding: land use, transportation, safety, noise, open space, conservation, housing, and environmental justice. Optional elements include: growth management and public facilities/services. In addition, a "Land Use Map" designates specific development intensity throughout the county. The four main themes throughout the new plan include: Economic Development, Environmental Justice, Sustainability, and Community Health. Also, the Zoning Code highlights individual properties while the General Plan relates to the entire County. The Climate Action Plan forecasts emissions and establishes a plan that looks to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. The goal is to have strategic implementation programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) discloses the potential impacts of a project on the physical environment.

Mr. Barrios stressed that towards the end of July the County will hold a series of meetings to review drafts of the General Plan goals, policies, actions, etc.

District 2: Beverly Kumar inquires which company is facilitating writing and Mr. Barrios indicates PlaceWorks (located in Berkeley): <http://placeworks.com/>

District 2: Beverly Kumar stresses the importance of outreach to other commissions. Including how areas where people live and play factor into the *Envision CC 2040*.

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma stressed the importance of the *Envision CC 2040* to identify the impacts of refineries in Contra Costa County. In addition, open spaces could be used for public art displays.

Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji highlights how the Arts Commission factors into economic development such as arts festivals, plays, community outreach. Artists are second responders according to the state of California.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims enters at 6:33pm.

District 2: Beverly Kumar, Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims, and Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji volunteer to be part of the Envision CC 2040 ad-hoc subcommittee!

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicates that agenda item is not an action.

6. ACTION ITEM: ARTS & CULTURE PROSPECTUS SUBCOMMITTEE: (9 minutes)

Managing Director Jenny Balisle with Chair Miyaji leads discussion with Vice Chair Ledezma on 5/18 BOS presentation, *ACPCCC RFQ* applicants, and timeline. Recommendation is to fill the subcommittee vacancy.

Public Comment: None

Documents: ACPCCC RFQ and ACPCCC Applicants

SUMMARY:

At the July 28th MXCAB meeting, Managing Director Jenny Balisle will be presenting a compelling case to support Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County secure funding. Presentation requirements continue to change including panelists time limits and questions/discussion format with MXCAB and the public. MXCAB has provided a tentative presentation format with panelist guidance. The presentation template: introduction, data, trends, racial equity, gaps, prevention, intersectional, transformational ideas, and success. MXCAB Vice Chair Brenda Williams is an advocate for the arts.

The Bay Area has 9 counties and Managing Director Jenny Balisle reached out to each one inquiring about secure funding, employee numbers, and budgets. Overall, Contra Costa County has the third highest population with the lowest budget, no secure funds and 1 independent contractor. Every other county has at least 2 employees and secure annual funds. In order to provide equity cultural services, the arts must receive secure investment. The average California State-Local-Partnership budget for commissions/councils is \$519,449 with 2.94 Full-time employees, 2.93 part-time employees, and 6.92 contractors.

On July 15th, Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle will interview three impressive candidates: Keen Independent Research LLC, Create Today LLC, and Art Builds Community (Barbara Goldstein & Associates).

The Arts and Culture Prospectus Subcommittee is looking for another Commissioner! Participation will include creating and supporting the framework for a District Public Art Program and identifying cultural stakeholders. This is legacy building for Contra Costa County!

At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio volunteers to fill the subcommittee vacancy.

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicates that agenda item is not an action.

7. MEASURE X: (15 minutes)

Managing Director Jenny Balisle with Chair Miyaji and Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle.

Public Comment: None

Documents: MXCAB Presentation Schedule Flyer and Bay Area Charts

SUMMARY:

At the July 28th MXCAB meeting, Managing Director Jenny Balisle will be presenting a compelling case to support Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County secure funding. Presentation requirements continue to change including panelists time limits and question/discussion format with MXCAB and the public. As a result, Managing Director Jenny Balisle is working on a new presentation. MXCAB has provided a tentative presentation format with panelist guidance. The presentation template: introduction, data, trends, racial equity, gaps, prevention, intersectional, transformational ideas, and success. MXCAB Vice Chair Brenda Williams is an advocate for the arts.

FACTS: The Bay Area has 9 counties and Managing Director Jenny Balisle reached out to each one inquiring about secure funding, employee numbers, and budgets. Overall, Contra Costa County has the third highest population with the lowest budget, no secure funds and 1 independent contractor. Every other county has at least 2 employees and secure annual funds. In order to provide equity cultural services, the arts must receive secure investment. The average California State-Local-Partnership budget for commissions/councils is \$519,449 with 2.94 Full-time employees, 2.93 part-time employees, and 6.92 contractors.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle asked each Commissioner to be present to speak in public comment at the Measure X meeting. In addition, to encourage the art supporters to speak in public comment also.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood stressed the importance of getting the public to speak at the event. In addition, the public can submit letters.

8. ACTION ITEM: BY-LAWS AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: (10 minutes)

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle with Chair Miyaji, Vice Chair Ledezma, and Senior Commissioner Wood. Recommendation is to approve 6/25/21 Proposed By-Laws.

Public Comment: None

Documents: 6/25/21 Proposed By-Laws

MOTION MADE: Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood makes a motion to accept the By-Laws as they are presented.

MOTION SECONDED: Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma

AYES: Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, At-Large-4: Lanita Mims, and At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio

NOES:

ABSENT: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

ABSTAIN:

SUMMARY: Motion passes.

DISCUSSION: For the last few months, Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle worked together with Commissioner feedback on the latest version (6/25/21 Proposed By-Laws). The goal is to have a document that accurately reflects the goals and needs of the Arts Commission. As the Arts Commission becomes more active with additional responsibilities, a strong By-Laws will be vital in supporting the arts in Contra Costa County. Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommends to approve 6/25/21 Proposed By-Laws then next step is to send it to the County Administrator's Office then to the County Counsel for review.

9. ACTION ITEM: CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE: (8 minutes)

Chair Miyaji leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Recommendation to create an ad-hoc subcommittee.

Public Comment:

Documents: Alameda County Public Art Ordinance and Santa Clara County Public Art Policy

DISCUSSION: Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji and Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommend creating an ad-hoc subcommittee to research and create a Contra Costa County Public Art Ordinance. The goal is to grow this ad-hoc subcommittee into Contra Costa County's first functioning Public Art Committee. This would follow best practices of Bay Area Counties. From the Alameda County Public Art Ordinance: "An amount equal to two percent of each county capital project budget (construction or renovation) shall be allocated for the acquisition, design, creation, installation and maintenance of public art and for related administrative costs." From Santa Clara County Public Art Policy: "It shall be the policy of the Board to incorporate public art in the design and development of any new County capital construction project, and to include art in public areas in or surrounding project facilities. At minimum, one percent (1%) of the budget for each new capital construction project shall be allocated for works of art that are accessible by the public. Where funding restrictions partially preclude the allocation to art work, the allocation for art shall be made from the portion of the funds unrestricted for this purpose, if any, and shall constitute at least one percent (1%) of the unrestricted portion."

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicates to be mindful of public art and how it represents a community. For example, the public outcry against statues around the country. A percent of building funds that are budgeted for public art could be a funding stream!

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma is familiar with public art with her work with the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission.

District 2: Beverly Kumar highlights the need to be mindful of the committees we serve on and in the name of equity. For example, the positions should be catered to the individuals and skill sets.

Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood Public recommends having experienced individuals from the community help with writing.

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, and Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood volunteer to be on the subcommittee!

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicates that agenda item is not an action.

10. ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCACY: (8 minutes)

Commissioner Kumar, Chair Miyaji, and Commissioner Grant provide updates with Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

Public Comment:

Documents:

SUMMARY: The Arts Education Advocacy meeting has been moved to Monday July 19th. Managing Director Jenny Balisle indicated the importance of having a strong County foundation to implement Arts Education advocacy at the State level. This will include an Arts Commission staff of three employees to properly support important initiatives such arts education throughout Contra Costa County.

District 2: Beverly Kumar has built a strong relationship with Assmelymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's team. In addition, she identified grants such as the *John Muir Foundation Community Grant*: <https://www.johnmuirhealth.com/secure/community-support-request.html> At the next Arts Education Advocacy meeting, the ad-hoc subcommittee will discuss concept strategy for application. For example, if the application will be for one Youth Advisor or more.

District 2: Beverly Kumar and Managing Director Jenny Balisle met with Hanna Ma (STEAM Coordinator for Contra Costa County Office of Education) and discussed Art Education advocacy strategies.

Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood stresses that instructors with professions in art are needed. In addition, to write to the state to assist individuals with a plan to back up the advocacy effort.

District 2: Beverly Kumar shared how tangible ways of voicing support for the arts through contacts, emails, and website.

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma shares how a trip to the state capital and talking to a Representative can be very effective.

District 2: Beverly Kumar read this message from the Office of California State Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (AD-16). Contact: Matthew Wright:

“Current State of California Arts Education

By and large, California schools' arts education funding is wholly inadequate. The largest portion of arts education funding is derived from general, per-pupil public school district funds. Primarily, this funding is disseminated in the form of art teacher salaries. In addition, as the arts are listed as a “core subject”, federal funds from the Every Student Succeeds Act and a wide variety of other federal programs are also available to many schools.

From 2006 to 2015, California's Education Budget supplemented arts education funding through a categorical block grant known as the 'Arts and Music Block Grant'. This program, which usually amounted to a range of \$100-\$120 million per year, provided funds to eligible educational institutions to hire additional staff, increase/introduce staff development in the arts, and purchase art supplies. However, this program was recently eliminated from the California State Budget, leaving California schools without a major source of arts education funding.

Without the Arts and Music Block Grant, the only source of dedicated arts education funding for California schools from the budget of California is through the California Arts Council. In addition to furthering arts, culture, and creative expression to all age groups statewide, the Arts Council's Creative Youth Development Grant Programs support creative youth development through arts education, exposure, and workforce development programs. These include programs to bring artists into schools, expose students to arts education, and integrate arts into school curriculums.

In combination, however, these funding sources are wholly inadequate to meet the needs of California public students. Only 12% of California schools are in compliance with the California Education code's requirements on visual art, music, dance, theater, and media art class availability, largely due to a lack of adequate funding and prioritization of standardized math and reading test preparation thanks to legislation such as the No Child Left Behind Act. Consequently, California. On the whole, these circumstances contribute to a California arts education system that is grossly failing California's students.

Arts Education Funding Advocacy

A diverse group of organizations advocate for more arts education funding. These include many national organizations such as the National Education Association. In addition, the California Teachers' Association, the California Parent Teacher Association, and many other statewide teachers' and parents groups are strong advocates of increased funding for arts education.

On top of support from existing organizations, statewide advocacy groups created for the specific purpose of addressing California's lack of arts education funding have also made similar efforts. The most notable of these groups include the California Alliance for Arts Education and Create CA, the largest statewide coalition dedicated to the arts in schools.

In addition to advocacy from national and statewide organizations, legislative leaders within the California State Assembly have also pushed for greater funding for arts education within the state. Perhaps the largest leader in the fight for arts education funding in the California legislature has been Santa Monica Democrat Ben Allen, whose SB 933 attempted to provide a replacement to the Arts and Music Block Grant in a grant program that incentivized schools to prioritize the arts. SB 933 passed both houses, but was vetoed by Governor Newsom and failed as a result.

Other legislative leaders who have authored, co-authored, or strongly advocated for increased arts education funding include Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (D-Sherman Oaks), and assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco)."

11. YOUTH ADVISOR: (7 minutes)

Commissioner Kumar and Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine provide updates.

Public Comment:

Documents:

SUMMARY: District 2: Beverly Kumar and Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine share updates. Managing Director Jenny Balisle indicated that Measure X funds could provide a stabilizing impact to the Youth Advisor program. District 2: Beverly Kumar and Managing Director Jenny Balisle met with Hanna Ma (STEAM Coordinator for Contra Costa County Office of Education).

Managing Director Jenny Balisle thanked Carolyn Considine for being the first amazing Youth Advisor during the beginning of building a strong foundation!

Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji thanked Carolyn Considine for her contributions to the Commission in the present and setting an example for future youth commissioners.

District 2: Beverly Kumar highlights how youth lead the way!

From Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine: "The goal of Justice Murals is to empower students so they can promote meaningful social justice conversations in high school communities through visual art. While many schools provide content to address social justice, there are few vehicles for students to share their own authentic dialogue about what this topic means to them.

Quick facts -

Murals will be a canvas approximately 8' by 8' and feature student pieces. Students submit drawings on 8" x 12" paper. Pieces should relate to social justice concepts.

Students will NOT need to be artistic to engage in this project - instead, we want people to speak from their hearts.

Murals will be hung in an area of school prominence. After a month, the murals will move from school to school and proudly display their unique visions for uniting our broader community.

Our First Use Case: As you know we successfully launched our first Justice Mural banner at Campolindo before the end of school. The program was written up in our school newspaper and the Vice Principal sent out an email to the entire school with a summary of the program. The Lamorinda magazine picked up our story about this work which is a great way to raise awareness.

Rollout Status: I am working behind the scenes to get things ready for what I hope to be a significantly broader rollout in August. Here are some of the things I'm working on right now.

First, there is already significant interest from Bentley High, SVR, and Monte Vista High Schools. I would love to add other schools in the county and please let me know if you have contacts in high schools who would be interested.

Secondly, I am partnering with Chris Tam from a non-profit called All Good Living. He has connections with various local school boards and is already spreading the word and Alameda is potentially following Contra Costa County's lead. I am also tapping my Meaningful Teens non-profit network to see about students who would be interested in leading this effort at their respective schools. I was put in touch with Lady Gaga's organization called Born This Way and there is a possibility that Justice Murals may be featured through their organization. Finally, I am also on the Lafayette Art Committee and they all received an email about this program as well."

12. ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS: (6 minutes)

Commissioner Wood shares update on next steps and timeline.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood

Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared Digital Arts judges with Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood. In addition, she started a Google Sheets document with information.

Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood contacted several judges who were obvious professionals in their artistic disciplines. She expressed how potential Youth judges were concerned about nominations and time commitment.

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma wonders if there are potential awardees from East and West parts of the County.

13. SEPTEMBER RETREAT: (8 minutes)

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle with Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle and Chair Miyaji on Sept. 25th 9am-noon format ideas, options, and subcommittee (identification & selection process).

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle thanks the majority of Commissioners for participating in the Retreat Doodle poll. Sept. 25th 9am-noon will be the Retreat! This will be a public meeting with an agenda posted 96 hours in advance. Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle will be meeting on August 3rd to discuss retreat format and topics. Managing Director Jenny Balisle created a *Retreat Topics* Google doc tracking Commissioner requests.

14. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commission Activity Report (ACAR) form to report activities such as community events, outreach, and advocacy. Forms due 7 days before scheduled commission meetings. Forms will be put into a report for inclusion in the commission agenda. Since this is a commissioner activity, a commissioner will be asked to collate activity reports.

Public Comment:

Documents: Kumar and D'Onofrio Commissioner Reports

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle received reports from District 2: Beverly Kumar, and At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio! They have been included in the July Agenda Packet.

At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio shared current graphic design and rotary club work. In addition, she's working on an art contest on every continent around the world.

District 2: Beverly Kumar was a Keynote speaker and helped coordinate youth art exhibits with SRVUSD.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (3 minutes)

Commissioners share District art announcements, opportunities, or events.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood shared how the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette will have a fundraiser soon, the Dean Leshner Center opening at Walnut Creek, and first board meeting for Contra Costa Music.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle highlighted the new 'Oowke Park in Richmond and that the Asian Art Museum will be doing an art visit.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims invited Commissioners at the next Gourmet Gallop – September 9, 2021 from 6 – 8:30pm: “Sip, Sample, and Stroll your way through Walnut Creek’s Gourmet Restaurants. With many locations in downtown Walnut Creek, there is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit Diablo Ballet, our PEEK Outreach programs and Diablo Ballet School. Tickets are \$39 per person through August 26. On August 27, the price goes up to \$45. Purchase your tickets today as this event does sell out! Confirmed locations include: 1515 Restaurant and Lounge, 5 Tacos and Beers, Bierhaus, Capullo Cocina Mexicana, Gather, Lettuce, Lottie’s Creamery, Love + Chocolate, Massimo Ristorante, Oke Poke, Opa!, San Francisco Creamery Co., Skipolini’s Pizza, Silk Road, Slice House Walnut Creek, Steinway Piano Gallery, featuring McGrail Vineyards, Tellus Coffee, Torsap Thai Kitchen, Vitality Bowls, Walnut Creek Yacht Club, Wine Hardware, featuring Wood Family Vineyards.”

16. ADJOURN:

At 8:08pm Committee Chair: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji calls time when the meeting is adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Monday September 13, 2021