



Harini Krishnan, District 1  
Stephen Seymour, District 1  
Kimberly Gordon, District 2  
Elizabeth Stone, District 2  
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3  
Laura McHugh, District 3  
Jeanne Heise, District 4  
Edward Sweeney, District 4  
Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i, Dist. 5  
Samaruddin Stewart, District 5

County Manager's Office  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 599-1005  
[www.smcgov.org/smcac](http://www.smcgov.org/smcac)



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, September 15, 2021 — 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Location: Zoom meeting

**MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call** – Roll Call and meeting began at 2:08pm.  
In Attendance: Commissioners, Seymour, Gordon, Stone, Hernandez Arriaga, Liaiga-Anoa'i, Sweeney, Stewart, and Heise  
Absent: Commissioners Krishnan and McHugh  
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Juda Tolmasoff
2. **Agenda Amendments**  
To discuss whether the Arts Commission would like to be a sponsor for the upcoming Racial Justice Summit, it was suggested that we add a discussion to the agenda. Kimberly Gordon moved to alter the agenda by adding the discussion and Jeanne Heise seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All approved
3. **Oral Communications**  
None
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of August 18, 2021, meeting  
Motion made by Commissioner Sweeney; seconded by Commissioner Heise. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously except for Commissioner Stewart who abstained from voting since he was not at the last meeting.
5. **Reports**
  - A. Commissioner Reports:
    - **Commissioner Seymour:** SVOpen Studios will return to an in-person format for the next two weekends. Sharing a studio at Tanforan with Ruth Waters. Working with Erin Ashford of the Redwood City Parks & Art Foundation to learn more about their Equity Mural and the process.
    - **Commissioner Gordon:** No update.
    - **Commissioner Stone:** Would like to meet with Filoli to explore ways that they could make the facility more accessible to the public.
    - **Commissioner Heise:** Attended meetings for the Winslow Street and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Middlefield underpass mural projects. Participated in the Cultural Equity trainings to develop the Arts Commission statement.

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- **Commissioner Sweeny:** Attended the monthly meeting for the Causeway project.
- **Commissioner Stewart:** Good idea to have Commissioners opt in rather than opt out as this might help with logistics and ensuring a quorum.

B. Staff Reports

- **Robin Rodricks:** Attended meetings for the NFO Healthy Community Mural project, Causeway Bridge Project launch and the Covid Responders Memorial at the County Hospital. Working with ISD to create a website for the OAC. Reviewing applications for potential County Curator position. Attended DEI sessions to help facilitate the Arts Commission Cultural Equity Statement. Met with County Manager regarding possible new revenue streams.
- **Mara Grimes:** Focused on the grants program. The workshop for potential applicants will be on 9/21; the grant opportunities for both the general support and Arts & Civil Right will be open from 9/29-10/15; a panel will convene in late October to rank the applications; developing new rubrics to align with the new pedagogy; will have recommendations for the Commissioners at the November meeting.
- **Juda Tolmasoff:** San Mateo County vaccination rate is 92%, ongoing testing is essential. The economy appears to be recovering. Emergency residential assistance deadline is 9/30/21. The County Wellness Week was held from 9/10-9/19. The Immigrant Engagement Summit will be held on 9/16/21 and the Chief Equity Officer, Shireen will be making a presentation. A one-year extension through January 2023 is being voted on to extend the Brown Act.

6. **Action Item**

A. Review and Discussion of Recommended Program Budget

Director has been advised by the CFO that the amount the Commission has for programs is \$99,750. Although Director had calculated the amount to be closer to \$155,000, this amount will stand for now and will meet with him in a few weeks to discuss. The \$99,750 is the amount available after the hard costs (salaries) paid. Director and Admin-Manager reviewed the workplan to develop the budget as laid out in the documents included in the agenda. Director noted that although once the budget is approved, it can still be changed later by a vote if needed. Past grant awards are: 2018 \$83,775; 2019 \$95,000; 2020 \$68,600.

Commissioner Heise had questions about what was meant by “committed amounts.” Director explained that those are programs we have voted on in the past (Equity Training) or that are required by funding we received (AIC and POL) The CAC funding includes \$5,000 for the competition. In the past we have not spent all the funds on this event and the balance goes towards grants. This year the event will be virtual, and the costs are for stipends for coaches and judges. The budget includes an advocacy training for nonprofits and a professional development training for artists. The funds would support the presenter. Commissioner Heise questioned if the \$500 stated in the budget was enough and the Director said she would make it work. There are also funds set aside for the countywide arts festival although the Commission is at the very early stages of knowing what this event will look like. Most workshops will probably be virtual reducing the costs.

Commissioner Stone asked about the possibility of a website to promote county arts/culture events and activities, get arts info and promote our grantees. Director stated that we are working with ISD to create a website for the OAC that will include some of these things. In the past we used the Artsopolis calendar system, but it was expensive and not widely used. Arts Orange County has a calendar that staff update but very time consuming for staff.

Commissioner Seymour asked if there was an initiative in our strategic plan to provide resources for artists. Director advised that there was and that it was in year 3 but open to further discussion.

Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga stated that BIPOC people sometimes have difficulty navigating

websites and we need to make it easier for people to find the information, especially people that have not traditionally been reached. She suggested that we could work with Canada College Tech department to get interns to help and that she has a connection with the VP. Director said that the person responsible for this initiative could make those choices and all were welcome to participate. Commissioner Heise made a motion that we approve the budget as presented. Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'I seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously

## **7. Discussion Items**

- A. Racial Justice Summit Partnership with Thrive, Alliance of Nonprofits, SVCenter for Nonprofits, and Sacred Hearts to be held Oct 4-6, 2021. We have been asked to be a sponsor for the arts panel, Arts as Agents for Change. The cost of the sponsorship is \$500 to underwrite the cost of executing the virtual conference. Panelists, including Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga, will present for free. We would gain more visibility and recognition for our work in equity. Commissioners Stewart, Seymour, and Liaiga-Anoa'I were all in favor noting this conference is aligned with our mission and we would be partners with other organizations focus on racial and social justice. Sponsorship would include the opportunity for one of the commissioners to ask a question live at the summit. Director asked that questions be submitted to her and that she, the Chair and Vice Chair would choose the best question. Commissioner Gordon moved that we approve \$500 for the sponsorship of the Racial Justice Summit. Commissioner Sweeny seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously except for Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga who abstained from voting since she is a panelist.

- 8. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:00-4:00pm**