



Harini Krishnan, District 1
Stephen Seymour, District 1
Kimberly Gordon, District 2
Elizabeth Stone, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist.
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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



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 — 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. via ZOOM

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** – Roll Call and introduction of guests. *Chair*
In attendance: Commissioners Krishnan, Seymour, Stone, Hernandez Arriaga, McHugh, Heise, Sweeney, Liaiga-Anoa'i, Stewart
Staff: Connie Juarez-Diroll, Robin Rodricks, Boris Koodrin, Juda Tolmasoff
Guest: Mara Grimes
2. **Agenda Amendments** *Chair*
November minutes were approved at the March 17, 2021 meeting.
3. **Oral Communications** *Chair*
To allow the public to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time. Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes. A speaker's slip is required.

None
4. **Poetry Reading** by San Mateo County Poet Laureate, Aileen Cassinetto *Director*
To be rescheduled
5. **Consideration of Minutes** of November 2020 meeting *Chair*
Pulled from agenda as action was already taken at March 2021 meeting.
6. **Reports** *Chair*
 - A. Commissioner Reports: each Commissioner may provide a report and/or announcements, up to 2 minutes, of arts/culture and Commission activities since last Commission meeting
 - **Commissioner Krishnan:** with Robin Rodricks, she developed the Advocacy Toolkit for the Arts, posted it on the website and distributed it to Arts Commissioners and arts community; with Robin Rodricks, she had virtual advocacy meetings to request state funding for the arts with San Mateo County's state legislators and their staffs

- **Commissioner Seymour:** he helped Boris Koodrin with staging the Fine Arts Galleria at the San Mateo County Fair; he has been working with Ruth Waters to establish artists' studios as an expansion of the Peninsula Arts Museum in Tanforan Shopping Mall; he is working with the San Bruno Lyon's Club on developing two murals for San Bruno's downtown area; he had a pop-up art event in downtown San Bruno at the Centennial Park in front of Boris Koodrin's murals
- **Commissioner Stone:** now that the initial phase of the Arts and Civil Rights project is complete, she is working with Robin Rodricks on developing a plan to use to remaining funds for supporting the cohort in launching their civil rights projects for phase two
- **Commissioner McHugh:** she reported that the Coastal Art League is having an in-person reception; the Sanchez Art Gallery is still having visits by appointment only, their 50/50 show will be up in September; Silicon Valley Open Studios took place in May, the next Open Studios is set for November; there will be no Pumpkin Festival this year; she is monitoring Half Moon Bay's development of a public arts policy
- **Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga:** she is working with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation who has expressed a desire to have the San Mateo County Arts Commission raise up artists that address themes of social justice and equity for communities of color
- **Commissioner Heise:** she is attending meetings of the San Mateo County Veterans Memorial and Essential Workers Monument that will be installed in the County Center plaza; she is focused on the Arts Commission's grant program
- **Commissioner Sweeney:** he has been attending a Redwood City arts group's meetings, led by Beth Mostovoy, who is exploring the possibility of establishing a city arts center; they have procured the pro bono services of a design firm and are working on defining program and space needs; the group will be developing a city-wide survey to determine community interest
- **Commissioner Liaiga-Anoa'i:** she reported that the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate will be holding an event on July 7th; she announced that Westmoor High School is allowing for the community to use its theater space for events

B. Staff Reports

- **Connie Juarez Diroll:** she was introduced as the person that Robin Rodricks and Mara Grimes will be reporting to in the County Manager's Office; she reported that she is working on a new training for members of County boards and commissions; she announced that a new Board and Commission's Handbook is being worked on and will include an equity lens overlay incorporating the County's diversity, equity, and inclusion commitment
- **Mara Grimes:** she was introduced as the new Arts Commission's Arts Administrator/Manager; she will be tasked with, among other things, reviewing and re-prioritizing the Commission's goals for consideration in the post-COVID months
- **Boris Koodrin:** he submitted a report of upcoming gallery shows in the Commission's packet; for the past 5-1/2 years, he has curated the Caldwell, Community, and Rotunda gallery shows; during the past 13 years, he has staged the visual art show and overseen the programs in the Fine Arts Galleria at the San Mateo County Fair; he thanked the Arts Commission for its support of the Best of Show awards funding of ~\$1,200 each year, he stated that this show takes all submissions and acts as an incubator for artists to begin a career in art, and he mentioned that this fair show is one of the best in the country for the sale of art; he announced that he is retiring both positions on June 30th to focus his attention on his own art projects, including a vision he has of a corridor of art up El Camino Real, and to spend more time with his family in Florida
- **Juda Tolmasoff:** along with the Commissioners and other staff, she applauded and thanked Boris for his service to the community; she reported that the County has been holding its initial Budget Hearings beginning on June 21st and ending today (6/23/2021); the hearings have

highlighted the efforts made during the pandemic and the promise of post-pandemic opening possibilities, with a strong support of the arts by the Supervisors and County Manager's Office

7. Discussion Item

- A. Executive Director provided update on current & upcoming work for OAC and Commissioners:
The Director advised an offer had been made and accepted for the new Administrator/Manager position, Mara Grimes, who will start on May 12.

The Director asked for Commissioners to volunteer on ad hoc committees for

- Post-pandemic review of the Commission's strategic workplan
- Development of a policy statement

Calendar of regular Commission meetings for the remainder of 2021 was provided

She reviewed potential permanent revenue streams for the Commission, including donation solicitations on County property tax bill, and on website.

8. Adjournment

Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: Virtual, JULY 21, 2021 – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.