

MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

3 p.m.

Remote meeting via video and teleconferencing

Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

JD Beltran

Nabiel Musleh

Abby Sadin Schnair

Commissioners Absent:

Mahsa Hakimi

Yiying Lu

Commissioner Ferras announced that there was a typo in the dimensions of the second motion of item 6 Central Subway – Chinatown-Rose Pak Station. The correct dimensions for the Clare Rojas artwork, *A sense of Community*, is 34 ft by 14 ft., not 34 ft by 27 ft.

2. General Public Comment

(0:10:32)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(0:11:34)

1. Motion to approve *Our Story: Past, Present, and Future. We Honor Our Elders*, a mural design by Monica Canilao, Xara Thustra, and Gaia Weise. The mural will be installed at 145 Eddy St. in District 6. The mural measures approximately 17 ft. by 21 ft. The project is funded by Grants for the Arts, Zellerbach Foundation, and Horizons Foundation. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
2. Motion to approve *City in a Garden*, a mural design by Amos Goldbaum. The murals will be installed on the Virginia Walk retainer wall at 311-319 Virginia Ave. in District 9. The mural installation will consist of 10 murals ranging in size from 2 ft. by 9 ft. 5 in. to 6 ft. by 10 ft. 8 in. The project is funded by a Community Challenge Grant. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
3. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into two contracts in the amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for as-needed fine art services agreement with Atthowe Fine Art Services.

There was no public comment.

Motion: Motion to approve consent calendar.

Moved: **Beltran/Schnair**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

4. Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project

(0:14:12)

Project Manager Aleta Lee presented the recommended artist and proposal for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Public Art Project. Three artists presented their proposals at the second panel. The artwork proposals addressed climate change and/or sea level rise and are to be placed in the plaza adjacent to the Great Highway and Sloat Blvd. Mark Baugh-Sasaki's proposal was selected by the panel for recommendation.

Baugh-Sasaki's proposal is titled *Listening Stones* and the artwork will create a contemplative place for the community to slow down and listen to the environment physically and figuratively. The artwork consists of 11 carved granite boulders representing the reservoirs that are part of the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct that will be distributed throughout the plaza area. Seven of the boulders will have a cone cut through the rock pointing in different directions at various angles and heights to capture both the built and natural environments and accommodate visitors of various heights and abilities. The other four boulders will be cut with a flat surface as a contrast to the other natural shaped boulders and a reminder of human interaction with nature. Each stone element will be surrounded by a bronze ring inset in the ground to draw attention to each stone. Ms. Lee stated that the project would be passed on to Project Manager Arianne Gelardin.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve artist Mark Baugh-Sasaki and proposal for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Public Art Project, as recommended by the artist review panel.

Motion: to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Mark Baugh-Sasaki for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the design, engineering, fabrication, transportation and installation consultation of an artwork for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

5. SFPD Traffic and Forensic Services Division

(0:27:13)

Project Manager Marcus Davies gave a brief review of the project and introduced the artist, Susan Narduli, who presented the revised Design Phase deliverables for the San Francisco Police Department Traffic Company and Forensic Services Division artwork. SFAC sought input on images from community representatives for use in the bottom two cubes of the four-cube sculpture. The selected images relate to the history of the site, the local community, and the police department. The images are sourced from Police Department and Public Library archives and have been reviewed and approved by the Client.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the Revised Design Phase deliverables (updated design) by Susan Narduli for the San Francisco Police Department Traffic Company and Forensic Services facility.

Moved: Beltran/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

6. Central Subway – Chinatown-Rose Pak Station

(0:41:41)

Senior Program Manager, Jackie von Treskow, presented the completed artworks by Yumei Hou and Clare Rojas for the Central Subway Chinatown-Rose Pak Station. Yumei Hou is renowned for her mastery of Chinese papercutting and cuts her artwork from a single sheet of paper

without using a sketch. The two painted steel artworks are based on Ms. Hou's original papercuts and are inspired by the "Yangge" or "Rice Sprout Song, a popular folkdance from the northern provinces of China. These are Ms. Hou's first permanent public artworks.

Clare Rojas' ceramic tile mural features a variety of unique Silk Road textiles patterned in the style of a cathedral window quilt. The swatches were sourced from art and design institutions, fashion designers and local fabric stores. Silk Road trade routes spanned over 4,000 miles and played a central role in cultural, social, and economic interactions between east and west. By using textiles derived from the countries and territories traversed by the Silk Road, the artwork calls to mind the possibility of similar exchanges and connections now made possible by the new Central Subway line that connects the neighborhoods in the southeast of the city to those in and around Chinatown.

The Commissioners loved the artwork and inquired about the maintenance of these artworks. Ms. Treskow stated that these materials are quite robust, and that the Arts Commission is entering into an extensive maintenance agreement with SFMTA that details the regular maintenance required of the artworks to keep them in good condition. The Commissioners also encouraged staff to use these artworks as example of how to transfer an artist's small-scale artwork into a permanent large-scale artwork.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artworks titled *Yangge: Dance of the New Year, 2022*, and *Yangge: Dance of the Bride, 2022* by Yumei Hou for the Central Subway Chinatown-Rose Pak station. The artworks are installed on the station's south mezzanine landing and north ticketing hall walls, and consist of laser-cut, painted stainless steel panels. The artwork on the mezzanine landing measures 35 ft. by 16 ft. and the artwork in the ticketing hall measures 34 ft. by 27 ft.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *A Sense of Community*, 2022, by Clare Rojas for the Central Subway Chinatown-Rose Pak station. The artwork, measuring 34 ft. by 14 ft., is installed in the station's crosscut cavern and consists of ceramic tiles.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

7. Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans (0:57:13)

Ms. von Treskow presented the completed artworks by Mildred Howard, Phillip Hua, and Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, and the Two-Dimensional Artwork Program for the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans.

Mildred Howard's artwork, located in the entrance plaza of the Southeast Community Center, is entitled *Promissory Notes* and consists of three bronze sculptures inspired by Ivory Coast currency. The currency forms are enlarged and oriented vertically to suggest the outline of a ship's hull in reference to the neighborhood's shipbuilding history as well as the movement of immigrants. The work signifies the travels, trials and perseverance of Bayview-Hunters Point residents. Ms. Howard collaborated with landscape architect Cliff Lowe to design the plaza to compliment the sculpture and integrate it with the campus. The handrails and cane rails were fabricated in a similar finish by the Artworks Foundry who fabricated the artwork.

On the second floor of the community center, artist Philip Hua created a three-dimensional photo collage mural that commemorates the six founders of the Southeast Community Center. Images of the founders are in the foreground with relevant newspaper and publication quotes and images of the Bayview surrounding them. Mr. Hua worked closely with the founders' families to select the photographs featured in the mural and secure the necessary permissions.

On the first floor, in the Alex Pitcher Pavilion, is an aluminum mural by Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle. Ms. Hinkle's artwork is a culmination of a year-long collaboration with multiple generations of Bayview-Hunters Point residents and intensive research in the Shades of Bayview Archive housed at the San Francisco Public Library. The artist views this artwork as a way of challenging representation, fighting against erasure and gentrification, and a way of depicting the community as it wants to be represented. Ms. Hinkle layered archival images over blue hand painted canvases that evoke the feeling of water, migration, and cleansing.

On the 2nd and 3rd floors are 37 individual framed two-dimensional artworks by 27 artists. Included in this grouping are eight photographs by the youth photographers who participated in Mildred Howards mentorship and residency program which was offered in partnership with the local non-profit photography program First Exposures.

Blair Randall, Arts and Education Program Manager at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, stated that this is the culmination of a six-year journey and the agency is thrilled with the results. He thanked everyone involved with the project.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Promissory Notes, 2022*, by Mildred Howard for the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans. The artwork, installed in the Center's main entrance plaza, consists of three bronze sculptures measuring 14, 16, and 18 feet in height.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Building a Better Bayview, 2022*, by Phillip Hua for the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans. The artwork is installed in the Center's main lobby and consists of hand-painted and gold-leafed acrylic prints in wooden box frames of varying depths. The artwork measures 41 ft. by 10 ft.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Navigating The Historical Present: Bayview-Hunters Point, 2022*, by Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle for the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans. The artwork is

installed in the Center's Alex Pitcher Pavilion, consists of dye-sublimated aluminum panels, and measures 61 ft. by 13 ft.

Motion: to approve as installed the Two-Dimensional Artwork Program for the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans. The program features 37 individual artworks by 27 artists and is installed on the Center's 2nd and 3rd floors.

Moved: Schnair/Beltran

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

8. Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence (1:15:48)

Ms. von Treskow gave a brief history of the multi-year project on the construction fence of the Southeast Water Treatment Plant and introduced the artist, Nancy Cato. Ms. Cato held six cartooning classes and discussions with elders at the Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center. The design is in graphic novel/narrative form. Each panel of the design equals one of the eighteen banners that will be installed on the fence. The design is centered around a character named Jamari, a child in the Bayview, who is surrounded by many oppressive forces he must contend with daily. As Jamari runs past these forces, he reaches a portal to outer space where he finds some peace/serenity. Jamari is brought back to reality by his mother calling his name and upon his return he brings some of his serenity back with him to the Bayview.

Blair Randall, Arts and Education Program Manager at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, stated that this is the third year of four of this project. He shared that this project also includes a youth internship with the printing press. This is another great partnership between the SFPUC and the Arts Commission where the agencies are breaking ground with their collaboration. Mr. Randall also noted PUC was able to allocate additional Art Enrichment funds to this location from other nearby construction for the completion of the artwork at the center.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the final design of Nancy Cato's artwork for the Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence along Evans Avenue. Artwork will be on display for one year beginning in November 2022.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Schnair

9. Staff Report

(1:35:09)

Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou presented the staff report. For the first item Ms. Chou invited Project Manager Marcus Davies to present on the first annual 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake anniversary held at the artwork *Bow* at Fire Station #35 on the Embarcadero on October 17, 2022. The event was well attended by the San Francisco Fire Department and the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team. Mr. Davies shared that this location will be the annual gathering place for the Loma Prieta anniversary just as *Lotta's Fountain* is for the 1906 Earthquake commemorative events. Ms. Chou stated how nice it is to see that the artworks we commission become part of the culture and social life of the city.

Ms. Chou stated that the 1842 Civic Art Collection Project Manager job is posted and open until October 25 at 5pm. She encouraged Commissioners to share the link.

Ms. Chou gave an update on the Monuments and Memorial Advisory Committee. The survey is open until October 31st and SFAC has collected almost 500 completed surveys so far. She stated that the first Community Listening session was the previous Saturday, the 15th, and the second one would be this evening at 5:30.

Ms. Chou shared that the Southeast Community Center grand opening would be Saturday, October 22nd and it was open to the public.

Central Subway will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in January when the stations open for full service and are fully connected to the T line. Starting November 19th, the stations will open for weekend service just between the new stations. As part of this activation there will be multiple invite only community events at the new stations.

There was no public comment.

9. New Business and Announcements **(1:46:58)**

Chair Ferras announced that the next Art WalkSF is on Saturday, November 5th on London Street between Geneva and Amazon Streets from 12-5pm in the Excelsior district. She encouraged everyone to come out to support artists and small businesses.

There was no public comment.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.

Posted 10/31/2022, 4:12pm TP
Approved 11/7/2022

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address: <https://sfgov.org/arts/node/708>



Language Accessibility

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