



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

3 p.m.

Remote meeting via video and teleconferencing

Draft Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:10pm.

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

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

Mahsa Hakimi

Yiying Lu

Nabiel Musleh

Abby Sadin Schnair

Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Commissioner Ferras announced that item 4—Ambulance Deployment Facility is tabled.

2. General Public Comment

(0:07:10)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(0:08:13)

The Commissioners asked for some background/clarification around the first item, the motion pertaining to the Major Encroachment Permit at Mint Plaza. City Attorney Lauren Curry and Director of Public Art and Collections Mary Chou stated that this motion is needed due to language in the DPW major encroachment permit that pertains to artwork installed in DPW right-of-ways. The terms negotiated between SFAC and DPW for this permit will apply to future permits where a major encroachment permit is needed for artwork on DPW right-of-ways.

Motion: to authorize the future removal of an original artwork by HYBYCOZO titled *Aurum* (which will be installed in Mint Plaza) under Section 5.8 (Revocability) of the Major Encroachment Permit between the Arts Commission and Public Works in the event that: 1) such removal is required for public right-of-way needs or use or public health or safety reasons as reasonably determined by the Director of Public Works, 2) a Major Encroachment Permit applicable to the site of the artwork is revoked, or 3) the site of the artwork is approved for conversion to a roadway.

Motion: to retroactively approve as installed, *Unfolding Space (in Gold)*, 2020, a wall sculpture composed of 400 pieces of rectangular architectural bronze tubing measuring 132 in. by 540 in., by Andrew Vogt at San Francisco International Airport, Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area B.

Moved: Schnair/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Hakimi, Lu, Musleh, Schnair

There was no public comment.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED

4. Ambulance Deployment Facility

(0:16:28)

Discussion and Possible Action

Staff Presenter: Marcus Davies

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Presentation of the completed artwork by Michael Bartalos for Fire Station 49 (Ambulance Deployment Facility).

Discussion and possible motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Serving the City*, 2023, by Michael Bartalos for Fire Station 49 (Ambulance Deployment Facility) at 2241 Jerrold Avenue. The artwork, installed at the station's Jerrold Avenue entrance and McKinnon Avenue exit, consists of twenty-one cut and painted steel panels. The overall artwork dimensions are 10 ft. high by approximately 114-½ ft. wide.

5. San Francisco International Airport - International Terminal (0:16:30)

Project manager Marcus Davies presented the completed artwork, *MMXX*, by Alicia McCarthy at San Francisco International Airport, International Terminal, Boarding Area A. Ms. McCarthy worked closely with Lenehan Architectural Glass in Oakland to translate her visual aesthetics of repetition, variation, and chance into glass through various techniques including painting, airbrushing, and sandblasting. The artwork was installed in 2021 but the surrounding architectural panels and caulking between the artwork and the panels were not finished until 2022 due to the general contractor being reassigned to take advantage of the decrease in commuter traffic at the airport during the pandemic.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *MMXX*, 2021, by Alicia McCarthy for the San Francisco International Airport, International Terminal, Boarding Area A. The artwork consists of six painted and sandblasted glass panels with overall dimensions totaling 7 ft. 6 in. high by 24 ft. wide.

Moved: Schnair/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Hakimi, Lu, Musleh, Schnair

There was no public comment.

6. 49 South Van Ness Video Wall

(0:23:21)

Program Associate Craig Corpora presented the conceptual designs of three of the eleven selected artists for the 49 South Van Ness video project.

The artist, Selina Trepp's concept, titled *The Dynamics of Building and Maintaining* is inspired by the City Departments in 49 South Van Ness tasked with maintaining a livable environment in the shared urban space of the city. The video will reflect the dynamics of building and maintaining the city through a stop-motion piece in which an organic space transforms into a more angular environment. As the vistas morph into one another, they are transformed and rebuilt. The imagery is mostly abstract with moments of figuration.

Aron Kantor's concept, titled *Ritual: Initiation*, uses mirrors to play with the motif of repetition that calls to mind the extravagant staging of Busby Berkeley musicals. The video evolves through three stages of queer magic ritual: creating the space, building the playground, and joyous expression. The film aims to invite the spectator into the ritual to generate a sense of queer joy with each viewing. The film transitions from the recognizable motifs of magic to a new visual language of queer ritual. Bodies in motion will represent a spectrum of gender identities and body types, championing inclusion and diversity.

Kota Ezawa's concept, titled *Anniversary*, is a looped video animation showing scenes from the Alcatraz Canoe Journey in San Francisco Bay on

October 14, 2019. The boat journey commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz by Indians of all Tribes. The animation loops four individual scenes from the canoe journey and moves them horizontally across the screen in an endless moving image scroll thus mirroring the movement of the canoes and of the journey. *Anniversary* hopes to bring attention to the presence of Indigenous People in the region and to the land and waters that surround us. The artist has been in contact with April McGill, Executive Director of the American Indian Cultural Center via email about the project.

Commissioner Schnair stated that Selina Trepp's video clip visually did not match the stated descriptive concept of transforming from more abstract to more angular shapes. The commissioners liked the artist's written concept and encouraged the artist to better reflect this concept as they continue to develop the film.

Motion: to approve the conceptual design *The Dynamics of Building and Maintaining* by Selina Trepp for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall project.

Motion: to approve the conceptual design *Ritual: Initiation* by Aron Kantor for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall project.

Motion: to approve the conceptual design *Anniversary* by Kota Ezawa for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall project.

Moved: Musleh/Schnair

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

There was no public comment.

7. Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence (0:44:45)

Senior Program Manager for Public Art, Jackie von Treskow, presented the images of the completed artwork, *Jamari's Journey, 2022*, a temporary artwork by Nancy Cato, as installed on the Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence along Evans Avenue between Rankin and Phelps Streets. This is the third artwork in a series of four. The artwork is rendered in the style of a comic book and tells the story of Jamari, a young child frustrated with the oppressive forces around him. To escape these injustices, Jamari creates a portal to the Universe where he can breathe and find serenity. When called home by his mother, Jamari brings this newfound inner peace home with him. The artwork is repeated twice along the fence and will be displayed until the end of the year.

Commissioner Ferras asked what happens to the banners after exhibit. Ms. von Treskow stated that the artists are given first right of refusal. Some of the artists have re-used them and displayed them elsewhere. If the artist does not want the banners, they are re-cycled at the printing house.

Motion: to approve as installed, *Jamari's Journey, 2022*, a temporary artwork by Nancy Cato, as installed on the Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence along Evans Avenue between Rankin and Phelps Streets.

Moved: Schnair/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Hakimi, Lu, Musleh, Schnair

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Lu left the meeting at 4:04pm.

8. Staff Report

(0:54:22)

Ms. Chou presented three updates in the Staff Report:



Conceptual proposals for India Basin Shoreline Park by four artist finalists - Michael Arcega, Cheryl Derricotte, Kristine Mays, and William Rhodes - are now posted online and displayed at the India Basin Shoreline Park's Tech Hub for public comment through February 20th at 5pm.

Saturday, February 18th from 1:30pm – 3pm at the Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans artists Mildred Howard, Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle, Malik Seneferu, and Afatasi the Artist will be joining Arts Commission President Chuck Collins to talk about their artworks in the Center's collection and engagement with the Bayview-Hunters Point community, more broadly. This artist talk is being offered as part of the Center's first official Black History Month parade and celebration.

Thursday, February 23rd from 12 – 1 pm, SFO Airport Museum is hosting an online lunch time talk for both SFO and SFAC staff. Ms. Chou and SFO Museums Director Tim O'Brien will be providing a brief overview of the partnership between SFO and SFAC, highlight the work of some Black artists in the Civic Art Collection at SFO, and hear from Mildred Howard and Leonardo Drew about their work at SFO.

There was no public comment.

9. New Business and Announcements **(0:58:59)**

Commissioner Ferras mentioned Mayor Breed's *State of the City* plan to bring Arts and Culture to the downtown to aid the revitalization of downtown and possibly make an Arts and Culture District in the downtown. Commissioner Schnair commented on this plan and shared the names of other organizations that may be able to help with the project.

Commissioner Hakimi confirmed that this is the last virtual meeting. Mr. Corpora confirmed that the March Visual Arts Committee will be held in person at the Veteran's Building, 401 Van Ness, Suite 125.

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Posted 3/1/2023, 10:10AM TP

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address:

Language Accessibility

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