



## MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

3 p.m.

Remote meeting via video and teleconferencing

### Draft Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:08pm.

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

##### Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

Jeanne McCoy

Mahsa Hakimi

Nabiel Musleh

Yiying Lu

Abby Sadin Schnair

##### Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Commissioner Ferras asked for changes to the agenda, there were none.

#### 2. General Public Comment

(0:05:53)

There was no public comment.

#### 3. Consent Calendar

(0:07:01)

1. Motion to approve the restoration of the mural *The Chant of the Earth, the Voice of the Land*, being lead by Betsie Miller-Kusz. The

- mural is located on the retaining wall on Market St. at 19<sup>th</sup> St. in District 8. The mural measures 14 ft. at its highest point by 120 ft. wide. The restoration is funded by Special Project Grants and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
2. Motion to approve *Mr. S Leather*, a mural design by Serge Gay, Jr. The mural will be installed at Heron Street at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, in District 6. The mural measures approximately 20 ft. by 37 ft. The artwork is funded by MOHCD Cultural District and Private Funds and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  3. Motion to approve *The Excelsior Over Time*, a mural design by Claudio Talavera-Ballón. The mural will be installed at four locations at 4840 Mission St. between Onondaga and Seneca in District 11. The mural measures approximately 852.25 sq. ft. The artwork is funded by MOHCD and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  4. Motion to approve *Sanctorum*, a mural design by Mel Vera Cruz. The mural will be installed at 4<sup>th</sup> St. between Howard St. and Folsom St. in District 6. The mural will be installed on three walls, measuring approximately 10 ft by 20 ft., 15 ft. by 40 ft., 15 ft. by 40 ft., and one stairway measuring approximately 20 ft. wide and 30 total steps. The artwork is funded by Caltrans Clean California and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  5. Motion to approve *WolfSkate*, a mural design by Dennis McNett. The mural will be installed on 521 Jessie St. at 6<sup>th</sup> St. in District 6. The mural measures approximately 10 ft by 50 ft. The artwork is funded by OEWD and a grant from SFMTA and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  6. Motion to approve *In Unity SF Skate*, a mural design by Jeffery Cheung. The mural will be installed on 521 Jessie St. along the

- parking lot side of the building in District 6. The mural measures approximately 55 ft by 10 ft. The artwork is funded by OEWD and a grant from SFMTA and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
7. Motion to approve *SFC415*, a mural design by Alex “Neckface” Montijo. The mural will be installed on 64 6<sup>th</sup> St. at Jessie St, in District 6. The mural measures approximately 10 ft by 60 ft. The artwork is funded by OEWD and a grant from SFMTA and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  8. Motion to amend formerly approved RESOLUTION NO. 0503-21-114 to extend the installation an additional six months and to amend the name of the artist so that the revised motion reads: Motion to approve the design of Monumental Reckoning, by sculptor Dana King in partnership with the Museum of African Diaspora. The installation consists of three hundred-fifty 4’ figures surrounding the Francis Scott Key monument in Golden Gate Park. The installation will be from June 1, 2021 - December 31, 2023, with artwork to be deinstalled no later than January 14, 2024. The installation will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  9. Motion to enter into agreement with First Exposures for a summer youth photography program on Treasure Island, starting in June 2023, ending in August 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.
  10. Motion to extend the contract of Mido Lee until July 31, 2023 and with an additional cost increase not to exceed \$300 to cover the cost of extending the insurance required to continue work on the Treasure Island Documentary Photography program.

11. Motion to extend the contract of John Chiara until July 31, 2023 and with an additional cost increase not to exceed \$500 to cover the cost of extending the insurance required to continue work on the Treasure Island Documentary Photography program.
12. Motion to extend the contract of Janet Delaney until July 31, 2023 and with an additional cost increase not to exceed \$500 to cover the cost of extending the insurance required to continue work on the Treasure Island Documentary Photography program.
13. Motion to extend the contract of Cody Andresen (Studio Percolate) until July 31, 2023 and with an additional cost increase not to exceed \$500 to cover the cost of extending the insurance required to continue work on the Treasure Island Documentary Photography program.
14. Motion to extend the contract of David Alan Boyd until September 30, 2023 and with an additional cost increase not to exceed \$500 to cover the cost of extending the insurance required to continue work on the Treasure Island Documentary Photography program.

*Public Comment:*

*Alex Lemberg, President of the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association, sponsoring entity of the mural restoration for item 3.1 on the consent calendar, called to thank the San Francisco Arts Commission and Department of Public Works for their partnership in making this mural restoration a reality. He also corrected the artist's name in the motion from Bestie to Betsie.*

Commissioner McCoy asked for clarification around motions 3.10-3.14. Director of Public Art Trust and Special Initiatives, Jill Manton explained that due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances the photography project at Treasure Island was delayed so they want to extend the artists contract to complete the project. An extension of a contract requires an extension of liability insurance while working on city property which is a

direct cost to the artist so this motion allows the artist to be reimbursed for this cost.

**Moved: Schnair/Hakimi**

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Ayes:** Ferras, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

**4. Judah Streetscape**

**(0:18:20 )**

Program Manager Marcus Davies gave an overview of the project including a summary of the design changes under review and introduced artist Jesse Schlesinger. Mr. Schlesinger described the artwork design, materials, fabrication, and maintenance.

Changes to neighborhood infrastructure, notably the addition of sidewalk-mounted bicycle racks and passenger loading zones and their associated accessibility requirements necessitated changes to the previously approved design. These changes include the elimination of four sculptures at Judah and 45<sup>th</sup> and two of the five sculptures to be located on the Lower Great Highway at Judah in front of the historic bath house. The grouping of seven sculptures located on Judah at 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue remains unchanged. This design revision reduces the object count from 16 sculptures to 10 sculptures and enables the project to accommodate new streetscape amenities and the reintroduction of materials like bronze that had been cost out in the previous design.

There was no public comment.

Commissioners asked for additional imagery. Staff pulled up an image of the maquettes that Mr. Schlesinger made under the original design to give context to the design change. Commissioners also asked about a local foundry but no local foundry was able to accommodate this project so a foundry in Los Angeles was chosen.

**Motion:** to approve final design revisions of an artwork by Jesse Schlesinger for the Judah Streetscape public art project.

**Moved: Schnair/Musleh**

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Ayes:** Ferras, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

**5. 49 South Van Ness Video Wall**

**(0:39:48)**

Program Associate Craig Corpora presented the conceptual design of artist Zenia Barakeh for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall project. Mr. Corpora explained the artwork will be a 1–3-minute video with no audio. Barakeh’s stop-motion animation centers on California’s historical trajectory through the discourse of war, with two main scenes: past colonial wars as California’s history, and future wars shaped by the Bay Area’s technological renaissance.

The first scene occurs on a bridge structure derived from the Sumerian Standard of Ur: War and Peace panels evoking roman aqueducts to reference California’s droughts. The heroine—the fictional Queen Calafia, after whom California was named—travels on the bridge to Alhambra to fight the Spanish seat of power and an elite group of European colonial monarchs and conquistadors, sourced from works from the collections of local museums (de Young, Legion of Honor). The bridge motif uses architectural elements from Alhambra, symbolizing the Bay Area’s architectural, cultural, temporal, technological, and social justice bridging.

The second scene occurs in a desert landscape, referencing war technologies fielded in Californian deserts. The action depicts hybrid characters from the first scene, conducting “human enhancement” on a large figure situated in the altarpiece part of the composition to emphasize the rising importance of technology.

Commissioner Lu asked for more context to the storytelling and clarity of the message the artist is trying to convey in the next presentation. Ms. Chou suggested that the artist be present at a subsequent meeting to provide additional context for Commissioners. Commissioner Hakimi

requested that future presentations include an overview of each project and a map of the location of the project in order to provide additional context.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve the conceptual design by Zenia Barakeh for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

**Moved: Beltran/Musleh**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

## **6. 49 South Van Ness Project – 2D Artwork Program (0:57:13)**

Project Manager Aleta Lee provided a project overview and presented the list of two-dimensional artworks for purchase and display at the 49 South Van Ness building, a permit center and office building, occupied by several City departments. The building is an 18-story tower on 11th Street between Market and Mission streets. The building currently houses 32 two-dimensional artworks in common areas on floors 3-16 and mediums include painting, drawing, fabric (quilt), photography, collage, and mixed media. The current collection installed in April 2021 represents 13 Bay Area-based artists, 2 previously Bay Area-based artists, 11 female artists and 4 male artists.

For this second round of 2D purchases additional empty walls in common areas were identified on Floors 2-16. The purchase list consists of 35 artworks by 23 artists, 22 of which are Bay Area-based artists, 14 Female artists, 10 male artists and media includes painting, drawing, fabric textile, tapestry, photography, collage and mixed media. Ms. Lee then shared images and a short description of each artwork and artist on the proposed list.

The Commissioners were impressed with the diversity of the artwork, artists and content of the artwork. Commissioner Hakimi commented that the stakeholders on the panel should not just be the employees of the



department itself but also the people of the city, who the department represents. She also commented on increasing the racial diversity of artists presented in the selection artworks. Ms. Chou gave some background to the public art panel process including the inclusion of community members on review panels and encouraged commissioners to recommend arts professionals to the Arts Commission for future panels.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve the list of two-dimensional artworks for purchase and display at the 49 South Van Ness Building Project:

- i. Kim Anno, *Natural History*, 2021, Oil on aluminum, 84 in x 56 in, \$15,000
- ii. Deborah Aschheim, *Human Be-in*, January 14, 1967, 2016, Ink and watercolor on Duralar, 50 in x 40 in, \$6000
- iii. Tara Daly, *"If economic growth can be a substitute for equality, then equality can be a substitute for economic growth." - Jason Hickel*, 2022, Satin, cotton, acrylic, nylon, and other cordage, yarns and ribbons, glass, wooden and plastic beads, acrylic sheeting, 62 in x 64 in x 3 in, \$4500
- iv. Mel Davis, *Mirror 1*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 36 in x 24 in, \$5000
- v. Mel Davis, *Mirror 2*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 36 in x 24 in, \$5000
- vi. Janet Delaney, *AIDS Activists, First Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade*, 1986, 1986, Archival Pigment Print, 30 in x 30 in, \$6000
- vii. Janet Delaney, *Heart of the City Farmers Market*, 1983, 1983, Archival Pigment Print, 30 in x 30 in, \$6000
- viii. Janet Delaney, *Helen and her husband, Chester, at the Helen Cafe, 486 6th Street*, 1980, 1980, Archival Pigment Print, 30 in x 40 in, \$6000
- ix. Vincent Escareno, *The Basketmaker*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 30 in x 30 in, \$7000



- x. Nina Fabunmi, *A Lion is Born*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 36 in x 36 in, \$2910
- xi. Nina Fabunmi, *Chasing Shadows*, 2017, Oil on canvas, 36 in x 48 in, \$3600
- xii. Nina Fabunmi, *Night Light*, 2017, Oil on canvas, 28 in x 54 in, \$3800
- xiii. Sheila Ghidini, *Shelter in Place 20*, 2021, Graphite and colored pencil drawing, 29 in x 26 in, \$1800
- xiv. Victoria Heilweil, *Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco*, 2017, Archival Pigment Print on Watercolor Paper, 36 in x 24 in, \$950
- xv. Victoria Heilweil, *Day 40 (4-25-20)*, 2021, Archival Pigment Print on Watercolor Paper, 36 in x 24 in, \$950
- xvi. Victoria Heilweil, *Fort Mason, San Francisco*, 2018, Archival Pigment Print on Watercolor Paper, 36 in x 24 in, \$950
- xvii. Victoria Heilweil, *Mariposa Street, San Francisco*, 2018, Archival Pigment Print on Watercolor Paper, 36 in x 24 in, \$950
- xviii. Ray Koh, *San Francisco Urban Fabric*, 2021, Archival Pigment Print, 40 in x 50 in, \$6000
- xix. Carrie Lederer, *Deep in the Willowwacks II*, 2023, Acryla Gouache on paper, 29  $\frac{3}{4}$  in x 36  $\frac{1}{2}$  in, \$8500
- xx. Derek Lynch, *Habitat*, 2020, Acrylic on wood, 37  $\frac{1}{4}$  in x 36 in, \$3800
- xxi. Paul Madonna, *Transbay Park*, 2021, Pen and ink on watercolor paper, 20 in x 30 in, \$3500
- xxii. David Maisel, *The Lake Project 18*, 2003, Archival Pigment Print, 29 in x 29 in, \$12,000
- xxiii. Christopher Martin, *Ever Been Someplace...*, 2019, Fabric and Wood, 62 in x 36 in, \$4500
- xxiv. Sean McFarland, *Untitled (4.5 billion years a lifetime, clouds #1)*, 2019, Cyanotype, 21 in x 28 in, \$6500
- xxv. Carmen McNall, *Untitled (#1)*, 2023, Acrylic on hand carved wood panel, 24 in x 30 in, \$3200
- xxvi. Carmen McNall, *Untitled (#2)*, 2023, Acrylic on hand carved wood panel, 24 in x 30 in, \$3200

- xxvii. Carmen McNall, *Untitled (#3)*, 2023, Acrylic on hand carved wood panel, 24 in x 30 in, \$3200
- xxviii. Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo, *Grief and Power*, 2011, Oil on canvas, 48 in x 36 in, \$3000
- xxix. Sarah Newton, *Treasure Island Road (elev. 9 ft)*, Brown & blue ink, gouache, and chalk on tan paper, 22 in x 28 in, \$1400
- xxx. William Rhodes and Emory Douglas, *African American Solidarity Quilt*, 2021, Paint, pencil, pen and fabric, 60 in x 72 in x .5 in, \$10,000
- xxxi. Chloe Roth, *The Avenues*, 2022, Pen, ink, and watercolor on watercolor paper, 27.5 in x 20 in, \$6500
- xxxii. Claudio Talavera-Ballon, *Ese oscuro dia en el campo*, 2021, Oil on canvas, 60 in x 40 in, \$9500
- xxxiii. Tanya Wischerath, *The Bouquet*, 2022, Ink and oil paint on Arches watercolor paper, 42 in x 45 in, \$3200
- xxxiv. Tanya Wischerath, *The Mare's Nest*, 2022, Ink and oil paint on Arches watercolor paper, 28 in x 42 in, \$3200
- xxxv. Tanya Wischerath, *The Star*, 2022, Ink and oil paint on Arches watercolor paper, 31 in x 42 in, \$3200

**Moved: Schnair/Hakimi**

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Ayes:** Ferras, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

Commissioner Schnair left the meeting at 4:44pm.

**7. Staff Report  
(1:35:15)**

Ms. Chou introduced the new Project Manager for Collections, Grace Weiss. Ms. Weiss has been an art professional since 2015 and previously worked as an associate registrar at SFMOMA with a specialty in digital media.

Ms. Chou shared that she will be moderating a talk at Art Market on Saturday April 22 with three of the Central Subway artists.

Ms. Chou announced that the 110 ft. sculpture *Node* by Roxy Paine will be installed on Saturday April 22 at Yerba Buena Moscone Station at 4<sup>th</sup> and Clementina Streets. She also shared that the installation of the artwork by Hiroshi Sugimoto will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Yerba Buena Island.

There was no public comment.

### **13. New Business and Announcements**

**(1:40:26)**

Commissioner Hakimi reminded everyone that Art Market would be April 20-23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Lu shared that SFMOMA's Art Bash was being held April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Commissioner Ferras announced the next ArtWalkSF would be in the lower Haight on May 6, 12-5pm on Haight Street between Webster and Pierce.

There was no public comment.

### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm.

Posted 4/28/2023, 2:13pm TP

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### **Archives Available**

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

### **Language Accessibility**



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