



## MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

3 p.m.

Remote meeting via video and teleconferencing

### Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.

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

##### Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

JD Beltran

Mahsa Hakimi

Nabiel Musleh

##### Commissioners Absent:

Jeanne McCoy

Yiying Lu

Abby Sadin Schnair

Commissioner Ferras called for changes to the agenda and noted that Item 6—Potrero Yard Modernization Project was tabled.

#### 2. General Public Comment

(0:05:35)

*Raquel Redondiez with the SOMA Pilipinas—Filipino Cultural Heritage District, stated that she has been excited to work with leadership and staff of the Arts Commission on several projects and is diligently working on making SOMA Pilipinas Gateway a reality. Ms. Redondiez also mentioned legislation that was introduced by Supervisor Dorsey that would eliminate*

*Planning's 1% for Art requirement for 100% affordable housing, stating that the policy's elimination is a matter of equity and would severely affect the cultural district.*

**3. Consent Calendar**  
**(0:10:20)**

1. Motion to approve *Pagsasama Sama*, a mural design by Francesca Mateo. The mural will be installed on the building at 1048 Folsom St. at Russ St. in District 6. The mural measures approximately 39 ft. tall by 49 ft. wide on Folsom St.; 39 ft. tall by 80 ft. wide on Russ St. The artwork is funded by a SFOEWD Grant, SOMA West CBD, and SOMA Pilipinas and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
2. Motion to approve the 62 mural designs by 17 artists to be installed on 62 SFMTA utility boxes across the City. The artworks are privately funded and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
  1. Manuel Carmona: Valencia St. at 20<sup>th</sup> St.; Valencia St. at 21<sup>th</sup> St.; Valencia St. at 22<sup>nd</sup> St.
  2. Flavia Mora: 17<sup>th</sup> St. at Valencia St.; 18<sup>th</sup> St. at Valencia St.; 19<sup>th</sup> St. at Valencia St.
  3. Ayesha Rana: Geary St. at 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 24<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  4. ChiChai: Geary St. at 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave.
  5. Dilcia Giron: Geary St. at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Geary St. at 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  6. Serge Gay, Jr.: Market St at 16<sup>th</sup> St.; Market St. at Castro St.; Castro St. at 18<sup>th</sup> St.
  7. Elliot C Nathan: Market St. at Duboce Ave.; Market St. at Dolores St.; Market St. at 14<sup>th</sup> St.
  8. Seibot: Mason St. at Post St.; Post St. at Taylor St.; Jones St. at Post St.; Leavenworth at Post St.

9. Helice Wen: Mason St. at Geary St.; Geary St. at Taylor St.; Geary St. at Jones St.; Leavenworth St. at Geary St.
10. Bianca Rivera: Sutter St. at Taylor St.; Jones St. at Sutter St.; Leavenworth St. at Sutter St.; Hyde St. at Sutter St.
11. Caitlin Goebel: Jones St. at Market St.; Stockton St. at Market St.; Sutter St. at Stockton St.; Stockton St. at O'Farrell St.
12. Messy Beck: Powell St. at Ellis St.; Powell St. at O'Farrell St.; Powell St. at Sutter St.; Hyde St. at Turk St.
13. Duser (Ryan Stubbs): Hyde St. at Golden Gate Ave.; McAllister St. at Hyde St.; Hyde St. at Fulton St.
14. Art Koch: Davidson Ave at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Evans Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Evans Ave at Phelps St.; Fairfax Ave and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.
15. Mark Harris: Galvez Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Hudson Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Innes Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Jerrold Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.
16. Josue Rojas: Oakdale Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Palou Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Quesada Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Revere Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.
17. Nancy Cato: Shafter Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Thomas Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Underwood Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.; Van Dyke Ave. at 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

### *Public Comment*

*Christine Abiba with SOMA Pilipinas—Filipino Cultural Heritage District relayed the importance of public art within the Cultural District because it allows community members to feel connected to history and culture. She acknowledged new public art in the district by Cece Carpio, Mel Vera Cruz and the “Findling Filipino” Art on Market Street Poster Series by Rina Ayuyang and mentioned that the community overwhelmingly supports Francesca Mateo’s “Pagsasama Sama” mural design.*

*Ms. Redondiez provided context for Francesca Mateo’s mural, which is located at Folsom and Russ. This is the location where Filipino Cultural Heritage District would like to have the first SOMA Pilipinas Gateway, it is*

*across the street from Victoria Manalo Draves Park, and will be on the Mission Hiring Hall building, where many Filipino community members go to seek work. The mural's location is also across Russ St. from another new mural by Cece Carpio and Francesca Mateo.*

**Moved: Beltran/Hakimi**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

**4. JFK Promenade**

**(00:26:00)**

Public Art Trust and Special Initiatives Director Jill Manton introduced Director of Property Management and Permits Dana Ketcham to give a brief reminder of the intent and objective of the temporary public art program for the JFK Promenade. Ms. Ketcham reminded the Committee that last year, voters approved the permanent closure of JFK Blvd., creating the promenade and stated that there is still much to do to further activate the space. She stressed the importance of larger placemaking pieces to prevent speeding bicyclists.

Ben Davis advocated for the proposed temporary artwork, adding that the works will increase the sense of joy to the promenade while also increasing public safety. Mr. Davis said that *Eat, Travel, Play and Care* will be placed in the middle of the Promenade and meant to be experienced as an interpretive walk. The NO DANCING will be placed near the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Roller Skating area however, the exact location is to be determined.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve a one year text-based sculptural installation of metal letters which spell out the words NO DANCING as part of the Temporary Art Program in Golden Gate Park located on the JFK Promenade which has been created by the San Francisco-based artist collective Looking Up Arts and measures approximately 18.5 ft. tall by 115 ft. wide and is designed to withstand winds of up to 100 mph to be installed next to the Skating Place. The project is privately funded and will be maintained by

Illuminate, the firm engaged by the Recreation and Park Department to produce and oversee the art program, pending final ADA and structural engineering approval once exact location is determined.

**Motion:** to approve the one-year temporary installation of four bronze figurative sculptures of animal figures impersonating male and female humans created by the Australian artists Gille and Marc which are titled *Eat, Travel, Play* and *Care*, two of which are fabricated from bronze and feature two figures with dimensions of 85.4 in. by 78.7 in. by 47.2 in. and 86.6 in. by 70.9 in. by 47.2 in and two of which are fabricated from bronze and stainless steel and feature three figures, with dimensions 67.3 in. by 132.7 in. by 62.2 in. and 79.5 in. by 65.7 in. by 90.2 in. The project is privately funded and will be maintained by Illuminate, the firm engaged by the Recreation and Park Department to produce and oversee the art program, pending final ADA and structural engineering approval once exact location is determined.

**Moved: Beltran/Musleh**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

**5. Alameda Creek Watershed  
(0:43:10)**

Senior Program Manager Jackie von Treskow presented the completed artwork by Walter Kitundu and purchased artwork by Adrian Arias for the Alameda Creek Watershed Center. Located in Sunol, on the aboriginal homeland of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, the mission of the new Alameda Creek Watershed Center's is to educate the public about the Alameda Creek Watershed, the SFPUC water system, and the history and heritage of the Muwekma Ohlone people through interpretive and interactive exhibits.

Walter Kitundu's *Ruupaywa: Songs of the Watershed* pays tribute to the Muwekma Ohlone People and recognizes both their history and continued presence and power. Taking the form of Ruupaywa (the eagle)—a chief, a

protector, and a creator in the Muwekma Ohlone creation story—the sculpture represents a protector spirit, a guardian of spaces above and below ground. It is meant as a vessel, a sheltering place for reflection, remembrance, and visioning. Additionally, interspersed through the gardens in locations matching their preferred habitats within the watershed are nine weatherproof speakers that subtly emit the voices of Muwekma Tribal Members singing phrases in Chochenyo that have been transformed into the songs and calls of local birds.

Ms. Treskow also presented the 2-dimensional artwork purchase made for the Center’s community meeting room titled *Traveler* by Oakland-based artist Adrian Arias, whose painting depicts a California golden trout moving through water layered with a motif inspired by the iconography found on Ohlone woven baskets.

Mr. Kitundu expressed his gratitude for receiving the commission and his honor working with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe on the project. He personally thanked Ms. von Treskow for their collaboration on the artwork.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Ruupaywa: Songs of the Watershed, 2023* by Walter Kitundu for the Alameda Creek Watershed Center. The artwork is installed in the Center’s gardens and consists of a steel and glass sculpture with bench seating and a subterranean archive, as well as nine environmental audio speakers comprising an immersive sound installation.

**Motion:** to approve as installed the artwork titled *Traveler, 2022* by Adrian Arias for the Alameda Creek Watershed Center. The artwork is installed in the Center’s community meeting room and consists of mixed media on paper, measuring 71 in. by 51 in.

**Moved: Beltran/Hakimi**

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED**

**6. Potrero Yard Modernization Project**

**Motion:** to approve the Project Plan for the Potrero Yard Modernization public art project.

**7. 49 South Van Ness Wall**

**(1:06:00)**

Program Associate Craig Corpora presented the final designs by Susana Barrón, Zeina Barakeh, Kota Ezawa, Chitra Ganesh, and Patrick Sean Gibson for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

*Workers at Night* by Susana Barrón shows many rhythms and shifting characteristics of San Francisco that fluctuate in cycles. During the day, the City pulsates with energy. At night, the City is still abuzz with people but seems even more alive than the day with the glowing lights breaking through the night.

But it's after most people have gone to bed that a new world emerges. The beaming lights of the night still illuminate the City, but new lights also start to appear. An area near Needles Rock is one such place that is a nocturnal hive of activity where maintenance workers trickle in and out of the base of Golden Gate Bridge. Here, the lights on their hard hats and the glow from their phones flicker like luminescent fireflies against the night sky.

Illustrating San Francisco as a center of progressive culture and innovative technology, *PsyClone Calafia* by Zeina Barakeh extrapolates from California's history to depict the toppling of colonialists of the New World. The images are sourced from local and international museums and organized on a bridge structure resembling the 49 South Van Ness building façade. The second scene represents a glimpse into a speculative future, referencing human enhancement and global warming.



*Alcatraz is an Idea* by Kota Ezawa is a looped video animation showing scenes from the Alcatraz Canoe Journey that took place in the waters off San Francisco on October 14, 2019. The boat journey, in which Indigenous peoples of all nations from up and down the West Coast and beyond participated, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz by Indians of all Tribes.

The animation shows canoes leaving Aquatic Park and paddling around Alcatraz Island. By manually redrawing the archival footage, Ezawa is distilling these images to their essential colors and shapes, giving viewers the opportunity to experience this important event in our recent local history as an artwork freed from the patina of news and social media.

*Coherence* by Chitra Ganesh illustrates a sequence of movements inspired by a breath work practice known as coherent breathing, which has been developed as a synthesis of meditation and concentration practices that have roots in many ancient cultures. This breath work paired with movement aids with aligning the sympathetic nervous system, and has proven very helpful for treating anxiety, depression and PTSD, and building capacity and spaciousness within ourselves to better endure the stresses of everyday life.

*For Legends of the 7x7*, Gibson wanted to celebrate and highlight some of his favorite San Franciscans using his hand-painted watercolor animation technique. He chose 49 individuals who have inspired him in some way, painting each 6 times, which is 294 total paintings! Individuals include: Margaret Kilgallen, Robin Williams, Harvey Milk, Vicki Manalo Draves, Maya Angelou, Ruth Asawa, Michael Jang, and Tommy Guerrero, to name a few.

The Commissioner Musleh acknowledged the tremendous time and effort that went into producing these video projects and thanked Zeina Barakeh for following through with her unique vision.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve *Workers at Night*, the final design by Susana Barrón for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.



**Motion:** to approve *Psyclone Calafia*, the final design by Zeina Barakeh for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

**Motion:** to approve *Alcatraz is an Idea*, the final design by Kota Ezawa for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

**Motion:** to approve *Coherence*, the final design by Chitra Ganesh for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

**Motion:** to approve *Legends of the 7 x 7*, the final design by Patrick Sean Gibson for the 49 South Van Ness Video Wall Project.

**Moved: Beltran/Musleh**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Schnair

## **8. Pelican Park (Formerly Transbay Block 3 Park) (1:36:56)**

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the Final Design by Mark Baugh Sasaki for the Pelican Park public art project. The park, formerly known as Transbay Block 3, measures approximately 1 acre, and is bordered by Tehama, Clementina, Main and Beale streets on the former Transbay Temporary Terminal lot. Mr. Baugh Sasaki has been working closely with the design team over the last few months to refine the locations of the artwork. Baugh Sasaki's commission will consist of three large locally sourced granite boulders that will be banded in polished stainless steel and placed at grade within the central meadow of the park.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve Final Design deliverables by Mark Baugh Sasaki for the Pelican Park public art project.

**Moved: Beltran/Hakimi**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

## **9. San Francisco International Airport Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Underpass Lighting Project (1:50:55)**

Mr. Davies presented the revised Design Phase deliverables (updated design) by Andrea Bowers. With conceptual design originally approved in 2019 and additional design development approvals in 2021 and 2022, the project has been challenged by increasing and projected material and labor costs, as well as amplified costs specific to inert gasses used in neon production coming from and through Ukraine.

To address these increases, the Arts Commission asked the artist to revise the artwork design with a targeted overall 25% reduction in lighting elements. As a result, Ms. Bowers focused on the removal of 28 linear “bobby pin” shapes, each measuring approximately 8’ long by 8” wide. After an internal review with SFO and discussions with the artist, it was determined that this reduction would not negatively affect the aesthetic impact of the work overall. Both Arts Commission staff and the SFO project team are in support of the change and are eager to move the project to the fabrication phase.

Commissioners requested additional information regarding the increase to the budget, as stated in the motion. The motion for the proposed contract increase with the fabricator, Lite Brite Neon Studio, was tabled and will be on the agenda for the September 2023 Visual Arts Committee meeting.

No public comment.

**Motion:** to approve revised Design Phase deliverables (updated design) by Andrea Bowers (DBA Radical Patience Inc.) for the San Francisco International Airport: Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Underpass Lighting Project.

**Moved: Beltran/Hakimi**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

**THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS TABLED**

**Motion:** to approve a contract increase with Lite Brite Neon Studio LLC

from \$144,864 to \$1,425,000 (an increase of \$1,280,136) for fabrication, transportation, and consultation during installation of an artwork by Andrea Bowers (DBA Radical Patience Inc.) for the San Francisco International Airport: Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Underpass Lighting Project.

## **10. Staff Report** **(1:58:24)**

Civic Art Collection and Public Art Director Mary Chou welcomed Rebeka Rodriguez, the new Project Manager for Temporary Art and Activations. Ms. Rodriguez is an artist, curator, and cultural producer based in San Francisco. She was previously with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where she was the Director of Community Partnerships.

Ms. Chou announced that the RFQ for the Gene Friend Recreation Center Improvement Project is open and the deadline to apply is Monday, September 18, 2023.

Ms. Chou also gave a brief and thorough overview of the various benchmarks of a public art project, highlighting in particular, Commissioner involvement at each of these stages and guidelines for review and discussion by Commissioners at each of these stages.

There was no public comment.

## **11. New Business and Announcements** **(2:44:50)**

Commissioner Beltran commended Ms. Chou for the excellent work she doing as Director of the Public Art program. She also requested to agendize a discussion on the Political Reform Act of 1974, which prevents public officials from voting on any project that falls within 1000 feet of where they live.

Commissioner Musleh recommended attending the Annual Dahlia Show at The Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on August 19-20, 2023.

Commission Hakimi informed the Committee about the Persian Ballet *The White Feather*, which will be performed at Herbst Theatre on September 9, 2023 at 8:00pm.

Commissioner Ferras announced the next ArtWalkSF event will be on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> on Castro, Market, Noe, and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets from 12:00pm to 5pm.

There was no public comment.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm.

Posted 8/31/2023, 11:50AM CC

Approved: 9/11/2023

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## **Archives Available**

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