



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

3 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.

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

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

JD Beltran

Mahsa Hakimi

Nabiel Musleh

Abby Sadin Schnair

Commissioners Absent:

Jeanne McCoy

Yiying Lu

SFAC staff in attendance: Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington, Deputy Director of Programs Lex Leifheit, Director of the Public Art Program and Civic Art Collection Mary Chou, and Program Associates Tara Peterson and Craig Corpora.

Commissioner Ferras called for changes to the agenda.

2. General Public Comment

(0:06:15)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(0:07:48)

1. Motion to retroactively approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection *Prisoners Repast*, 2018, by David Huffman. The two-dimensional artwork is comprised of acrylic, oil, collage, spray paint, glitter and colored pencil on wood panel. It measures 60 in. x 60 in. and is installed at the San Francisco International Airport, Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area B. The artwork was approved as purchased under Res. No. 1105-18-355.
2. Motion to retroactively approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection *Split*, 2018, by Yorgo Alexopoulos. The media artwork consists of a two-channel digital animation on 4K LCD displays with sound, aspect ratio 32:5 (6:40), synchronized media players, 11 minute, 30 second infinite loop, the screens measure 28 in. x 171 in. x 4 in. and is installed at the San Francisco International Airport, Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area B. The artwork was approved as purchased under Res. No. 0709-18-219.
3. Motion to retroactively approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection *Painting #2018-8-6*, 2018, by Fong Chung-Ray. The two-dimensional artwork, mixed media on canvas, measures 60 in x 90 in. and is installed at the San Francisco International Airport, Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area B. The artwork was approved as purchased under Res. No. 1105-18-355.
4. Motion to retroactively approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection *Parallel Portions*, 2017, by Mike Henderson. The two-dimensional artwork, oil on canvas, measures 72 in. x 87 in., and is installed at the San Francisco International Airport, Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area B. The artwork was approved as purchased under Res. No. 0201-21-035.

5. Motion to approve the temporary installation of two sculptures by artist Stefanie Mufson in honor of Chinese New Year, Year of the Dragon. The sculptures will be made from wood painted in a blue and white ornamental pattern, measuring 5' high by 4.5" wide to be installed in Portsmouth Square and Union Square from January 28, 2024 until March 2, 2024. The works are sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

There was no public comment.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Schnair

Commissioner Beltran recused herself from Item 4 and left the meeting at 3:15pm.

**4. 2530 18th Street
(0:09:36)**

Nine dot Arts Chief Curator Molly Casey presented artwork by Design Girl Magic and Leah Tumerman to be installed at 2530 18th Street. The building at 2530 18th Street will include housing, office space, and supportive services for the Homeless Prenatal Program. *Horizon Effect* is a large butterfly mural by Design Girl Magic created in dichroic acrylic which will be installed in the main stairwell. Leah Tumerman's *An Embrace :: Un Abrazo* painted mural depicting a dynamic collage or "weaving" of outstretched arms, reaching across to bridge the architectural gap will be installed on the backside of the new building. Another mural by Leah Tumerman *Growing Together :: Creciendo Juntos* will utilize a foundation of vibrantly colored figurative silhouettes featuring heads and shoulders intermixed with simple line drawings crafted and submitted by project participants which will be installed in the new building which faces the old building as well as a ground level mural on 18th Street.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the design of the artwork *Horizon Effect* by Design Girl Magic to be installed at 2530 18th Street. The artwork is funded by MOHCD. Mercy Housing will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The work will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Motion: to approve the design of the artwork *An Embrace :: Un Abrazo* by Leah Tumerman to be installed at 2530 18th Street. The artwork is funded by MOHCD. Mercy Housing will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The work will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Motion: to approve the design of the artwork *Growing Together :: Creciendo Juntos* by Leah Tumerman to be installed at 2530 18th Street. The artwork is funded by MOHCD. Mercy Housing will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The work will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Moved: Schnair/Hakimi

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Schnair

Commissioner McCoy entered the meeting at 3:23pm.

Commissioner Beltran re-entered the meeting at 3:29pm.

**5. SFAC Galleries 2024 Main Gallery Exhibition
(0:23:34)**

SFAC Galleries Director Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez presented information on the Spring 2024 Main Gallery exhibition at the Main Gallery. *Ch'ixi* is a four-artist exhibition, including Kimberly Acebo Arteché, Miguel Arzabe, Daniela Rivera, and Trina Michelle Robinson and curated by Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez. The exhibition is inspired by Aymara sociologist Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui's epistemology as a decolonizing practice. *Ch'ixi*, an Aymara word that embraces the co-existence of contrary and complementary natures. The show delves into plural-histories of migration, re-connection to ancestors through different practices and ways of being.

Kimberley Acebo Arteche is a Bay Area-based educator, cultural worker, and interdisciplinary artist. Their work explores the hybrid cultures formed by technology, movements of immigrants in America, and the way movements through space and spaces has been affected by these two.

Miguel Arzabe is a Bay Area-based visual artist, who makes colorful and dynamic abstractions – weavings, paintings, videos. He starts by finding outdated beauty in paper ephemera from art shows, modernist paintings, discarded audio recordings. These are methodically analyzed, deconstructed, and reverse-engineered. Drawing inspiration from the cultural techniques and motifs of his Andean heritage, Arzabe weaves the fragments together revealing uncanny intersections between form and content, the nostalgic and the hard-edged, failure and recuperation.

Daniela Rivera is an interdisciplinary artist and educator who considers it her responsibility to challenge the construction of stereotypes or categories that discriminate, isolate, and violently define the identities of others. Her work delves into ideas of displacement, memory, and cultural migration to celebrate difference and reject categorization. She builds, paints, and draws spaces that invite us to be vulnerable together, where she hopes to celebrate difference and cultural exchange through shared authorship. She focuses her attention on the migration of cultural objects, narratives, practices, and myths.

Trina Michelle Robinson is a San Francisco-based visual artist and educator who explores the relationship between memory and migration through film, print media and archival materials. She wants to get to the root of lost memories, especially in relation to migration, whether the move is forced or initiated by a search for new opportunities; we all have a migration story in our bloodlines. She studies the fragments of memory and repurposes them. The lives of her ancestors are the catalyst behind her artwork and their stories are woven into every detail.

There was no public comment.

Motion: for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve the artist honorarium in the amount of \$2500 to Kimberly Acebo Arteche; \$2500 to Miguel

Arzabe; \$4000 to Daniela Rivera; \$2500 to Trina Michelle Robinson; for the research and development of artwork for a SFAC Galleries exhibition in the Main Gallery on view May 16 – August 4, 2024.

Moved: Beltran/Hakimi

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Schnair

**6. Temporary Sculpture Installation on Embarcadero
(0:32:38)**

Public Art Trust and Special Initiatives Director Jill Manton presented a sculpture by Thomas J Price, proposed to be temporarily installed on The Embarcadero. *As Sounds Turn to Noise* is a larger-than-life bronze sculpture depicting a fictional African American woman that challenges the notion of who is allowed to be memorialized in public sculpture. The bronze works are constructed from a full spectrum of images and observations, as well as 3D scans that took place during an open call. The artists' work has previously been installed in front of the National Portrait Gallery in London and Studio Museum of Harlem has exhibited his work in Marcus Garvey Park. This will be his first installation in California. A proposed location is along the Embarcadero Promenade near Pier 1, just north of the Ferry Building. The presentation of this work is in part to fulfill the Mayor's objective to transform downtown San Francisco into a leading arts and cultural destination.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the temporary installation of a bronze figurative sculpture by artist Thomas J Price, titled *As Sounds Turn to Noise* which measures 9 ft. 2.5 in. x 4 ft. x 3 ft. 9 in. which will be loaned to the Arts Commission by Hauser & Wirth Gallery, to be installed at a prominent site on The Embarcadero determined in consultation with the Port, and pending Port approval, for a period of six months commencing late February/early March 2024 at a total cost not to exceed \$40,000 from the Public Art Trust.

Moved: Beltran/Musleh

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Schnair

**7. Westside Pump Station Reliability Improvement Project
(0:47:51)**

Project Manager Ari Gelardin presented the final design of *Fog Lilies*, a painted mural by artist Jet Martinez, that will be installed on the West Side Pump station at Great Highway and Sloat Blvd. The mural will be located on the upper level of the building's façade, viewable from multiple vantage points. The artwork is inspired by the natural beauty and simplicity of the Cala lily, a flower found throughout California and prevalent in the Sunset District of San Francisco. The design is meant to integrate the elegant curving lines of the Cala lily into the sophisticated rectilinear architecture of the new pump station building and will feature colors that represent the flower and evoke the often cool and overcast environment of Ocean Beach.

In October 2022, a mockup was conducted to test the durability and color palette of the paint product. It is a silicate-based façade paint-primer in one, and a very common and popular product for outdoor murals. The paint mockup has held up perfectly for the last 14 months in the harsh marine environment.

Ari Gelardin introduced Jet Martinez, who further elaborated on the concept of his artwork design.

Arts and Education Program Manager at the Public Utilities Commission Blair Randall thanked Jet Martinez, Project Manager Ari Gelardin, and the Commissioners for all their work on this project.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the final design of *Fog Lilies*, a painted mural by artist Jetro Martinez for the West Side Pump Station Reliability Improvement Project, located at Great Highway and Sloat Blvd.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Schnair

8. Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence (1:12:34)

Senior Program Manager Jackie von Treskow presented *Modalities & Motifs, 2023*, a temporary artwork by Afatasi The Artist, as installed on the Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence along Evans Avenue between Rankin and Phelps streets. Measuring 500 feet in length, Afatasi's monumental mural features a series of motifs that are deployed as a mode of visual storytelling, highlighting various facets of her community's experience, history, and cultural identity. The distinctive patterns that repeat across the background of each mural section seek to honor Afatasi and her community's unique lineage and history both locally and nationally; deep appreciation and respect for their ancestors, elders, and architects of freedom; continued fight for human rights in the United States; "Black-American" culture and beauty created under extreme duress; and the understanding that everything in the past, present and future is connected.

Displayed along the length of the mural are excerpts from Afatasi's ongoing series *Afro Block Party*, featuring pop art-style portraits of various art historical, pop culture, and local personalities reinterpreted as cartoon characters with different Afro hairstyles.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve *Modalities & Motifs, 2023*, a temporary artwork by Afatasi The Artist (Fatasilima LLC), as installed on the Southeast Treatment Plant Construction Fence along Evans Avenue between Rankin and Phelps streets.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, McCoy, Musleh, Schnair

9. Pier 27 Cruise Terminal

(1:26:17)

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the recommended artist Ana Teresa Fernández and her proposal for the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Public Art Project. The artist review panel met on Friday, December 8th, to review proposals from the project finalists: David Brooks, Ana Teresa Fernández, and James Shen and recommended for approval of Ana Teresa's proposal.

Ana Teresa's proposal is for an artwork made of colored polycarbonate panels framed by steel tubing. *Mareas*, meaning tides, captures changing light, color, and reflected form as projected across the plaza in changing light and weather throughout the day. Its colors and form recall rainbows, water, and light at sea, and the piece offers contrast to the scale and dominance of nearby architectural features, invites interaction, and offers a welcome to cruise passengers and casual pedestrians alike. The arch will stand almost 15 feet high, 24 feet wide, and 7 feet across.

Marcus Davies noted that further consideration of the polycarbonate material with respect to its maintenance needs will need to be considered during the design development phase. There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve Ana Teresa Fernández and proposal for the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Public Art Project, as recommended by the artist review panel.

Motion: to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Ana Teresa Fernández for an amount not to exceed \$136,000 for the design, engineering, fabrication, transportation and installation consultation of an artwork for the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Public Art Project.

Moved: Beltran/Schnair

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Schnair

10. Herz Recreation Center

(1:43:05)

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the Final Design by Sanjay Vora for Herz Recreation Center. The artwork will measure just shy of 8 feet high by 10 feet wide and is comprised of 80 alternating mirror-polish stainless and porcelain enamel tiles. The work forms an experiential and interactive experience celebrating and reflecting joy and play. Sanjay's painting reproduced in the porcelain enamel tiles will be created to scale in order to capture Sanjay's brushstrokes in great detail and convey a hand-made quality. The polished steel panels will allow viewers to see themselves and the park within the artwork.

The intersecting tiles will be individually mounted to a mild steel framing system screwed to rails attached to dedicated metal blocking provided by the building. This will allow for careful spacing and leveling. The steel framework will be treated for weatherproofing and will have drilled weep holes to prevent pooling water. The porcelain enamel tiles will be mounted to the framing by three threaded studs welded to the reverse of the tiles allowing for hand-tightening a locking nut connection by reaching through the framing. The stainless tiles will then be set in place with a 3M marine-grade adhesive which can be reversed via high heat application if a damaged tile needs to be eventually replaced.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve Construction Document and Final Design deliverables by Sanjay Vora for the Herz Recreation Center Public Art Project.

Moved: Beltran/Hakimi

The motions unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Schnair

11. Staff Report

(1:54:24)



Director of the Public Art Program and Civic Art Collection Mary Chou shared that the deadline to apply to the Potrero Yard Modernization Public Art Project has been extended. The new deadline is Monday, January 22, 2024. There are two other open calls: the RFQ for the Streetsmart Mural Program Artist Pool is open until Friday, January 19, 2024 and the RFP for Existing Large Scale Sculptures for Display in Patricia's Green is open until Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

Mary Chou also notified the Committee that there legislation has been introduced at the Board of Supervisors to amend the Planning code to eliminate the 1 percent public art requirement for 100 percent affordable housing projects. The State of California recently issued a report containing required actions for San Francisco housing development, which included the removal of this requirement.

Mary Chou also extended her deep appreciation and gratitude to Public Art and Collections staff for all their hard work throughout the last year. And thanked the Commissioners for their support and encouragement and also thanked Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington and Deputy Director of Programs Lex Leifheit for their leadership.

Commissioners extended their appreciation for Mary Chou's leadership of the Public Art Program.

There was no public comment.

12. New Business and Announcements (1:59:44)

Commissioner Hakimi announced that she attended the opening of *Transcending Physicality: The Essence of Place* at SFAC Main Gallery and really enjoyed the event and encouraged fellow Commissioners to attend more events.

Deputy Director of Programs Lex Leifheit relayed that the opening reception of *we were here*, an exhibition by 2022 Artist in Residence tanea lunsford lynx, will be held on January 11, 2024 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at



the African American Center, San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 100 Larkin Street, 3rd Floor.

There was no public comment.

13. Adjourn (2:13:29)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Posted 10/28/2023, 4:32PM CC

Archives Available

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

Language Accessibility

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