



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024
1 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408**

Minutes

President Collins called the meeting to order at **1:07** p.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:22)

Commissioners Present

Charles Collins, President
Janine Shiota, Vice President
Abby Schnair
JD Beltran
Marcus Shelby

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present:

Sarah Hollenbeck, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration
Lex Leifheit, Deputy Director of Programs
Sandra Panopio, Senior Racial Equity and Engagement Analyst
Lisa Zayas-Chien, Capital Program Manager
Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary
Alyssa Ventre, Chief of Staff

President Collins asked for any agenda changes and no changes were suggested.

President Collins announced the public meeting instructions.

Commission Secretary Dhaliwal announced public comment instructions.

President Collins began the meeting by reading the Arts Commission’s land acknowledgment statement.

2. General Public Comment (6:18)

There was no public comment.

3. Director’s Report (7:05)

Director Remington stated that 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the Asian American Heritage Celebration here in San Francisco. He mentioned events are happening all month and details can be found on APASF.org. He noted that he attended the following events: A.C.T’s *A Strange Loop* on May 8, SF Jazz’s Gala honoring Patti Austin on May 9, and “The People’s Palace” at San Francisco City Hall on May 10, where several pieces were composed by Arts Commissioner Marcus Shelby.

Director Remington shared that the Community Investments (CI) team recently wrapped up the Art Vendor Market Manager Services Request for Proposal (RFP), which seeks qualified suppliers to provide proposals for an on-site Market Manager or Management Team for the Art Vendor Market at Embarcadero Plaza on Saturdays. He congratulated the CI Team on their continued work on the Cultural Services Allocation Plan (CSAP).

Director Remington moved on to Public Art updates. He shared the May 24 deadline for the artist-designed Perimeter Fence Panels Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the 11th & Natoma Park Project is nearing. He mentioned the deadline for the Fulton Street Plaza Activations RFP is May 31. He continued that the San Francisco Arts Commission invites artists and artist teams residing in the United States to submit qualifications to activate Fulton Street Plaza with a series of regular and predictable youth focused activations leading up to a large-scale performance or event; one project will culminate in a performance or event Fall 2024 and one project will culminate in a performance or event Spring 2025. He announced the



opening of Panorama Park, home to “Point of Infinity,” a 69-foot steel masterpiece by Japanese artist Hiroshi Sugimoto.

Director Remington continued with Gallery updates. He shared “Praxis of Local Knowledge,” an exhibition that delves into diverse narratives of movement and memory, exploring personal and ancestral migration experiences through various mediums including video, printmaking, photography, textiles, painting, and performance, will be opening on May 16 and ending August 17. He thanked OCEIA Executive Director Jorge Rivas for partnering on this exhibition and the planned public programs. He added that "A Public Voice/Una Voz Pública" will be showcased through September 27, 2024. He included the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) has issued a Call for Artists for the SFAC Galleries & SF Recreation and Parks: 2024 India Basin Artist in Residence RFQ. He noted an online information session will be on Friday, May 24 at 12 p.m. and the deadline for applications is Friday, May 31.

Director Remington moved onto budget updates. He shared initial budget instructions from Budget Chair Supervisor Connie Chan: Director Remington ended with a Commission update mentioning that President Collins appointed Commissioner Abby Schnair to the Chair of the Civic Design Review Committee.

There was no public comment.

4. San Francisco Symphony Agreement (24:04)

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Sarah Hollenbeck presented on the agreement. She mentioned that the agreement has been proposed for 2 years instead of 1 year for efficiency and the total amount are stated as not to exceed and an estimate due to property tax revenue and assess value which is the base of the determination has not yet been settled.

Commissioner Shelby asked if the charter is indefinite, Deputy Director



Hollenbeck stated yes. Commissioner Shelby asked if this can be changed, Director Remington clarified the process.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Shiota move to approve the San Francisco Symphony Agreement.

Public Comment:

Marni Cook with the San Francisco Symphony thanked the Arts Commission for their partnership and voiced appreciation.

There was no additional public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Update on Cultural Services Allocation Plan for 2024-2029 (31:26)

Deputy Director Lex Leifheit presented on the draft updated Cultural Services Allocation Plan for the arts impact endowment, which is an investment of hotel tax funds, legislatively mandated to address needs in the arts community which is anticipated to be a portion of the Arts Commission grant making which will range from 2.1 to 2.8 million dollars annually over the next 5 years. She shared SFAC engaged AMS Planning and Research to evaluate the arts impact endowment investments of the past five years, engage stakeholders on current needs in the arts community and priorities, and recommend a framework and evaluation tool for future investments. She continued that with the support from steering committee, AMS facilitated robust in-person and online engagement, an online engagement of approximately 820 people that included stakeholder interviews, youth and neighborhood workshops in Chinatown, Bayview Hunters Point, the Mission District, and a citywide virtual workshop that was co-promoted with the Longmore Institute on Disability. She noted that together with an online survey, these found consistent needs related to keeping artists in San Francisco by funding their artistic and cultural production, their connections to the communities who nurture them, the organizations and spaces vital to support for conceiving, rehearsing, and

presenting their work.

Deputy Director Leifheit shared guiding principles that emerged from rich community conversations such as: incorporating racial and social justice as the primary lens for all program design, maintaining flexibility necessary to be responsive to needs in the arts community, prioritizing multi-year support so that grantees can predict and plan for their future, and maintaining accountability through transparent and regular reporting.

Deputy Director Leifheit moved onto recommendations. She stated that the allocation plan recommends three funding channels to enact change through these investments. She shared the three channels being sustaining ongoing initiatives, resilience, and growth and new creative opportunity, and included details about each channel. She included that once the plan is approved, the CI team will move forward with the development of grant opportunities and guidelines aiming for the summer with a fall release.

Commissioner Shelby asked about if there will be encouraging partnerships within the plan. Deputy Director Leifheit mentioned that the idea will be discussed and partnership will naturally form as the plan is implemented.

Commissioner Schnair asked if the plan will help smaller groups in terms of capital initiatives and space. Deputy Director Leifheit shared that in the second bucket that is resilience and growth, resilience speaks to different forms of capital and potential expenses. She included that working capital is required in addition to project-specific funds for organizations to be efficient.

Commissioner Shiota asked how investments percentages will be addressed in the next 5 years. Deputy Director Leifheit explained that AMS is recommending, after all the community engagement is to have a minimum of 10 percent to each bucket, stating that it may be an ebb and flow over each year. She noted that AMS also recommended accountability around the percent of program funds that are put out the door every year to make sure that deploying grants and resources into the community.

There was no public comment.

6. Cultural Center Grants (47:43)

6.1. The African American Art and Culture Complex (47:53)

Deputy Director Leifheit shared that all subitems are related to the annual operating agreements of the cultural centers and explained that a portion of the hotel tax helps assure that the city and county-owned community cultural centers remain open, accessible, and vial contributors to the cultural life of the city and county. She continued that the subitems are a projection that is conservative and based on the hotel tax projection which has continued to change. She included that last year the awards made to the cultural centers were maintained to maintain services and resources for the communities who depend on them even though the hotel tax projections decreased several times over the course of the year. She noted that the level of investment is subject to change.

Commissioner Schnair asked about the funds being used for the cultural centers and what the funds have gone towards. Deputy Director Leifheit mentioned the physical centers have their own board and various funding streams. She shared that each center is unique with a unique model of delivering services to the public, whether it is large immersive events, dance classes, youth programs, or a lot of festival activity during the given month. She noted that centers are not restricted from raising their own funds because they have their own boards.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Shelby move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to the African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC) to support the operation.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6.2. Bayview Opera House
(54:04)**

Deputy Director Leifheit shared that she has no further information.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Shiota move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to the Bayview Opera House (BVOH).

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6.3. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts
(56:22)**

Deputy Director Leifheit shared that she has no further comment.

Commissioner Shiota asked about the move for MCCLA and if programming will continue in alternate spaces. Deputy Director Leifheit confirmed and elaborated that they will potentially be breaking ground this upcoming fall for the new location and if MCCLA is needing to relocate before the end of the fiscal year, the city attorney has advised that within the language of investments ensures the cultural centers and programming them remain vital, accessible, vital contributors to cultural life that many expenses would be eligible.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Schnair move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to the Mission Cultural for Latino Arts (MCCLA).

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6.4. SOMArts
(59:57)**

Deputy Director Leifheit stated that she has no further comment.

Commissioner Shelby, seconded by Beltran move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to SOMArts.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6.5. The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco
(1:01:25)**

Deputy Director Leifheit mentioned that this item and the next two are for the virtual cultural center. She stated that each virtual cultural center must be awarded their grant as a sub grantee of an operator of a physical cultural center. She continued that the purpose remains the same and that these grants must meet city supplier and controller requirements in order to get into a grant agreement.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Schnair move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to SOMArts with sub-grantee The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**6.6. Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center
(1:04:13)**

Deputy Director Leifheit stated that she has no further comment.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Shelby move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to SOMArts with sub-grantee Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

6.7. QCC – The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture
(1:05:53)

Deputy Director Leifheit stated that she has no further comment.

Commissioner Shelby, seconded by Beltran move to approve the Cultural Center fiscal year 2024-2025 grant amount to SOMArts with sub-grantee QCC-The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

7.Cultural Center Lease and Operating Agreements
(1:08:14)

Deputy Director Leifheit shared they are proposing to extend all lease terms with the cultural centers and within each lease agreement requires an active grant agreement. She included if anything was to change that the grant agreement is a key document to bring continuity with all centers.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Schnair move to approve the cultural center lease and operating agreements.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

8.Racial Equity Updates

(1:13:42)

Senior Racial Equity and Engagement Analyst Sandra Panopio noted that a progress report was submitted to the Office of Racial Equity on May 13. She continued with some racial equity practices that are priority for departments to learn or implement in the upcoming year, those being: conduct an internal analysis of existing tools and frameworks that staff already use, identify all-staff training opportunities to learn about the integrate key racial equity frameworks utilized within government and the arts sector to apply it to our work, utilize the SFAC internal homepage to provide an accessible location for racial equity training and learning resources, and racial equity team will work closely with the communications team to develop ways to share out how equity tools have been utilized. She shared the timeline for the Racial Equity Action Plan: a progress report to Office of Racial Equity that was recently sent in May, Racial Equity Action Plan assessment by end of summer 2024, and phase 2 Racial Equity Action Plan development beginning in the 2nd quarter of 2024.

President Collins asked about keeping track of the baseline of examination and public policy. Analyst Panopio emphasized the importance of data and talked about establishing a standard demographic that has been in place since 2021. She shared that a larger review is needed, and a new grant management system has been in place for Community Investment that will help establish a baseline.

There was no public comment.

8. New Business and Announcements

(1:30:12)

Commissioner Beltran shared San Francisco Design Week starts June 1st. She included that her project with the San Francisco University, sustainable material library will be giving a talk and presentation on June 4. She mentioned that she has been working on a community art project in East Palo Alto with a youth art and design education center that was recently opened will be presenting public art utility box project on opening day.



Commissioner Shelby shared that he will be working alongside Joanna Haigood on a piece called “The People’s Palace” that will take place at San Francisco City Hall, May 9 -10 and May 12, 2024.

Commissioner Shelby announced three upcoming events: May 30 – June 1 the Half Moon Bay Wine and Jazz Festival, on June 4 he will be interviewing Terence Blanchard at SFJazz to discussing Terrance’s upcoming season, and June 15 – June 23 is the Healdsburg Jazz Summer Festival.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment (1:35:25)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Posted 05/31/2024, 10:10 am, MD

Archives Available

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

<https://www.sf.gov/meeting/march-27-2024/executive-committee-meeting>

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