

**MINUTES**  
**Public Art Commission**  
**Thursday, August 19, 2004**  
Palo Alto Civic Center  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
7:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Gerald Brett, Ron Cooper, Barbara Mortkowitz, Laura Deem, Patrice Langevin, Paula Kirkeby, Karen Frankel  
**Staff Present:** Linda Craighead, Richard James

CALL TO ORDER - Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Brett at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of June 17, 2004 approved as corrected.

**WORLD AIDS AWARENESS WEEK PHOTO EXHIBITION**

Brett asked Commission to consider organizing or sponsoring a photo exhibition by a Palo Alto born artist for Aids Awareness Week the first week of December. Brett did not have the artist or exhibit information with him.

Discussion: Brett asked staff if exhibition could hang in the Civic Center lobby. Craighead advised that the lobby space was not available this December, and suggested the Art Center meeting room as an alternate space. Kirkeby recommended the Palo Alto Medical Foundation as an exhibition site. Commission expressed interested in this photo exhibition.

Next Steps: Commission to review photographs and artist information at next meeting.

**DIGITAL DNA SCULPTURE, ADRIANNA VARELLA AND NILTON MALTZ**

Craighead reported that the City would be reimbursed for the full amount minus \$2,500 for the deductible. Artwork has been removed from warehouse and has been recycled. Artist has been fully paid for first artwork. Craighead reported that artist is willing to recreate *Digital DNA* for \$10,000. Varella has asked staff's permission to hang a two-dimensional exhibit in the Civic Center Lobby in March, which will coincide with completed installation of *Digital DNA*. The artist believes that artwork could be ready by year-end.

**Motion – Move that the artist recreate Digital DNA for \$10,000.00.**

**MOVED: Langevin: Seconded: Cooper: Ayes: Unanimous.**

**Motion – To install Digital DNA and have exhibition in Civic Center Lobby in March 2005.**

**MOVED: Kirkeby: Seconded: Frankel: Ayes: Unanimous.**

Discussion: Cooper asked how the proposed redesign process discussion for Lytton Plaza currently impacts siting Digital DNA at Lytton Plaza.

Chair Langevin left meeting at 7:18 p.m. due to a conflict of interest.

Digital DNA has previously been approved by Commission to be installed at Lytton Plaza and Commission will continue with plans to site Digital DNA at Lytton Plaza. Craighead commented that Lytton Plaza might be agendized at a Council meeting sometime in September for a discussion regarding public-private partnership. Commission asked again to be kept in the loop by Staff about any future discussions regarding Lytton Plaza.

Chair Langevin returned to meeting at 7:23 p.m.

**CIVIC CENTER PLAZA ART INSTALLATION, SAM YATES**

Yates reported he would be ready to begin photographing in two weeks. He is currently installing computer. The photography process will last six months. Yates estimated that he would have *The Color of Palo Alto* in March 2005.

Discussion: Craighead requested that Yates provide a full list of donations and project contributors. Commission discussed signage and publicity for project. Yates will participate in Art Day. Past Commissioners Levin and Wasserman were the pioneers of this project.

Next steps: Yates to provide full list of donations and project contributors. Subcommittee to meet with Yates regarding plans for Art Day.

**Motion: Move that the Commission allocate \$500 for publicity and signage for this project.**

**MOVED: Langevin: Seconded: Mortkowitz: Ayes: Unanimous.**

#### **ART DAY DOWNTOWN**

Commission asked staff to survey Council and Commission for availability to attend an Art Day on Saturday, October 9.

**Motion: Move that the Commission allocate \$500 for publicity.**

**MOVED: Langevin: Seconded: Mortkowitz: Ayes: Unanimous**

#### **DOWNTOWN ART WALK IN COLLABORATION WITH PACIFIC ART LEAGUE**

Commissioner Deem reported that Pacific Art League has asked Commission to partner with them for a postcard that costs \$800 (5,000 cards). Card to be distributed over a 3-month period advertising Art Walk and Public Art Commission events downtown.

Discussion: The current timing of a postcard might be premature. March 2005 may be the better month for postcard collaboration with the Pacific Art League.

Next steps: Item to be re-agendized for next month.

#### **ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMUNITY WEBSITE RFP**

Craighead reported that the City is reviewing the overhaul of the City website.

Discussion: Brett reported that HD Projects, designer of California Avenue brochure is no longer interested in website project. Commission wants to move ahead with an open RFP for a website that will be hosted temporarily outside City with link to City website. Target of RFP are local colleges, universities and art schools. Commission to begin research for a website host.

**Motion: To add an addition \$1,000 in funds, for total project budget of \$3,500, to issue a wide RFP for a Public Art Website.**

**MOVED: Deem: Seconded: Langevin: Ayes: Unanimous.**

Next steps: Staff to pull together current photographs of artwork and ask HD Projects for images used in the creation of the California Avenue brochure.

#### **SCULPTURE, FLETCHER BENTON**

Brett is setting up site selection meeting with Fletcher Benton.

Discussion: Staff will move ahead with contract process after site is selected. Cooper recommended Mayfield Soccer field at El Camino Real and Page Mill Road as potential site for artwork. Richard James commented that negotiations between Stanford and the City regarding Mayfield Soccer Field have not been approved yet.

#### **MIDTOWN MURAL, GREG BROWN**

Cooper reported that several locations in Midtown have been identified for Greg Brown mural. Subcommittee and Annette Ashton are working on site selection and business owner approval.

#### **RRRUN RUNNING CAR SCULPTURE**

Subcommittee reported that a site review would be scheduled at Bowden Park with artist, Mortkowitz, Craighead and Paul Dias, Director, Parks and Golf.

Next step: Staff to set site meeting at Bowden Park.

#### **MURAL AT THE BISHOP BUILDING RFP**

Craighead reported that the Bishop Building RFP mural has been mailed to six artists. Craighead asked Commission to refer any other artist recommendations to staff as soon as possible. Staff

reminded Commission that there would need to be equal number of Commission and CAADA members for jury process.

#### **OPPORTUNITY CENTER MURAL/SIGNAGE, JOE SAM**

Craighead reported on meeting with Maryanne Welton. Welton is waiting on building construction. If there are alternations to design, Sam will return to Commission. Another meeting with project stakeholders is still to be determined. Welton wants to fundraise money for benches.

#### **ADOBE CREEK AT EL CAMINO REAL GATEWAY PROJECT, THAI BUI**

Craighead reported that artist has been ready with his project. Delay is with the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

#### ***KAIKOO V* SCULPTURE, BETTY GOLD**

Craighead reported that the sculpture *Kaikoo V* needs maintenance. Sculpture was painted in 1998. Bids are coming in, and maintenance will likely be over \$5,000.

Discussion: Commission discussed whether artwork is sited in stable environment. Sprinklers at Golf Course may compromise artwork. Commission may consider pursuing pro bono avenues for sculpture maintenance.

Commissioner Frankel left meeting at 8:26 p.m.

#### **UTILITY BOXES ARTWORK**

Craighead reported that six boxes are complete. Remaining boxes will be complete in October.

#### **PERCENT FOR ART IN CITY PROJECTS**

Craighead reported that meeting has been agendized for October.

#### **COUNTRY SUN MURAL, M. SOUMAH**

Craighead reported that contract has been signed and project is proceeding.

#### **MEDIA CENTER MURAL BY GREG BROWN**

Craighead reported that mural project has been withdrawn due to lack of funds. Media Center hopes the Commission can keep a door open for this project in future.

#### **BROWN ACT**

Item to be agendized for October. Commission wish to send their questions to Kolling in advance.

#### **PUBLIC ART MAQUETTE EXHIBITION**

Commission selected next September for a maquette exhibition in the Civic Center Lobby.

Next steps: Staff asked to give Commission a count of maguettes available for exhibition.

#### **RETREAT**

Commission discussed retreat plans. Retreat to be held at Brett's home on Saturday, August 28.

#### **MEETING RESCHEDULE**

Commission meeting rescheduled to Thursday, September 9. Commission wants to discuss deaccessioning and maintenance of collection in future.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brett is celebrating a 25-year anniversary at Language Pacifica.

Deem is participating in a group art show at Filoli.

Mortkowitz asked that staff make an effort to always have Commission brochures available in public buildings.

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Brett at 8:53 p.m.