

**Minutes of the Regular Public Art Commission Meeting
Thursday, August 23, 2007
Conference Room 360, City Hall**

CONVENE: 7:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL: Chair Huston, Vice-Chair Lee, and Commissioner Rosenberg
Commissioner Wolfe was absent

STAFF PRESENT: Douglas Vu, Planner III; Simone Wolter, Recording Secretary

2. MINUTES:

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION:

4. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Recommendation of 2007 – 2009 Public Art Plan

Chair Huston directed the Commission to review the plan and provide comments for discussion.

The Commission wanted to amend 2.5 to read “to design a grant program and to develop a public art process to administer the public art grants.”

Motion to approve Public Art Plan as amended (Rosenberg), Second (Lee)

Motion passes with unanimous vote 3-0

B. Discussion of Amendments to the Public Art Ordinance

Chair Huston directed the Commission to review the document regarding the funding cap, staging and to discuss changes.

Chair Huston requested clarification of the Arts Grants funding because the ordinance does not allow for adding outside money to this fund or applying money in this fund to anything other than public art or the administration of the public art project

Doug Vu explained that when the grant program is developed, the ordinance may also be amended. He recommended that the Commissioners focus the discussion on the total cap as stated in the ordinance.

Commissioner Lee requested that the Commission develop a review process to ensure quality control and follow-up on the status of approved projects.

Mr. Vu pointed out that the non-object based specific art guidelines (e.g. programming) require additional information, as they are too vague.

Chair Huston requested that the new guidelines include that non-object based specific art submittals would require a schedule or more detailed information so that it can be verified.

Commissioner Lee noted that the timelines and schedules as listed in the ordinance are difficult to adhere to and require revision.

Chair Huston said the ordinance should be amended to include penalties to developments that do not actually fulfill the public art requirement. Some receive approval of their applications but do not execute as agreed (Bridgeside). Others never apply (Summerhouse).

Mr. Vu suggested that more types of art (e.g. performance art) be elaborated upon in the policy guidelines in order to help the Commission and staff determine if applicants have met the criteria and requirements of the ordinance.

Chair Huston requested clarification on the overall timeline of adopting and implementing amendments and how amendments to the ordinance shall be discussed and incorporated. Doug Vu suggested that this discussion be placed on the agenda for the October meeting, which will be attended by Cathy Woodbury, Planning & Building Director. Chair Huston requested that the amendments and guidelines be sent out as a packet to inform all new Commissioners.

5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Vu summarized the meeting with Chair Huston, Cathy Woodbury, and Doug Vu to discuss the proposed cultural arts grant program.

The Alameda arts community is holding a meeting on September 15, 2007 to discuss the cultural arts grant program. Doug Vu welcomes any input on this matter, which Chair Huston and Commissioner Rosenberg seconded.

Commissioner Rosenberg requested that the October meeting include an agenda item to list public or private spaces that could be used to place public art and to initiate a call for artists.

Mr. Vu handed out a matrix listing nation-wide arts grant programs. He directed the Commissioners to review the various grant programs to allow for a focused discussion at the October meeting.

A discussion between the Commission and the public occurred that brought to the forefront the public's desire to assist the Commission in the cultural arts grant program. The Commissioners also explained the existing funding mechanisms, art project requirements and the potential conflict of interest in developing public art.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Vu, Secretary
Public Art Commission