

Public Art Advisory Committee  
(PAAC)

March 4, 2024

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Hearing Room 1

Minutes

**Members Present:** Sarah Miller (Co-Chair), Marcus Guillard, Kaitlin Kushner, Katerina Leventi, Mario Navasero

**Excused:** Eric Murphy (Co-Chair), Jennifer Kessler

**Staff Present:** Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator; Raquel Iglesias, Cultural Funding Coordinator; Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager; Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

**Guests:** Quincy Williams - CIP Projects Coordinator, Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development Department; Felicia Gotthelf - Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development Management Assistant; Holly Alonso - Executive Director of Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park; Andrea Bacigalupo – Artist; Andre Sandford - State Assembly (District 18) Candidate

**Meeting Chair:** Sarah Miller

\*Indicates partial attendance

- 1. Welcome/ Roll Call / Meeting called to order at 5:44 p.m.** PAAC Chair Sarah Miller called the meeting to order and recited the Cultural Affairs Commission/Public Art Advisory Committee Land Acknowledgment.
- 2. Public Comment:** Roberto Bedoya, City of Oakland Cultural Affairs Manager addressed the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to acknowledge Cultural Affairs Division staff changes regarding the departure of Neha Balram, Cultural Affairs Commission Program Analyst, and the hiring of Josie de Mira, Public Art Program Analyst II. Bedoya thanked the PAAC for the work they do and contributions to the public art field and the City of Oakland.
- 3. Action Item: Adopt the Minutes from the February 5, 2024 Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting.** K. Kushner motioned to approve the minutes. M. Guillard seconded; M. Navasero Aye; K. Leventi Aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Action Item: Review and Approve Public Art Sculptural Installations by Linda Yamane (Artist 1) and Walter Hood (Artist 2) for the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, Lower Park, Creek Nature Area, 2465 34th Avenue (District 5).** Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba introduced the agenda item as a privately funded permanent public art installation on City property. The proposal includes two sculptural installations to be placed in open spaces on City property under Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD)

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management. Felicia Gotthelf, OPRYD Management Assistant presented Holly Alonso, Executive Director of Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, who commissioned the artwork. Gotthelf showed support for the project and welcomed Alonso to the podium. Alonso provided historical context of the site as a Spanish colonial land grant and the intent of the artwork to decolonize the site by recognizing the presence of the Ohlone people and the strong indigenous identity of the Fruitvale neighborhood. Meetings and workshops with a number of native communities were conducted to hone themes and decide how to best represent the Ohlone culture through this art installation. These workshops included Corrina Gould, a prominent Huchiun Ohlone activist. Artists Walter Hood and Deja Gould (daughter of Corrina Gould) are addressing the loss of Ohlone language by creating monument word sculptures. Alonso presented the first phase of the project which includes one of three sculptures. (The two additional sculptures will be included in the second phase of the installation.) The sculpture will display the word “sii” meaning “water” in Chochenyo. Artwork will be participatory and consist of faceted grids that will be interwoven with fibers and yarn, incorporating the indigenous traditional practice of weaving. The facets were chosen by community members who are weavers. The sculpture will be placed twenty feet away from the bank of the creek, per regulations. The second component of the installation will be a story path telling the Ohlone creation story illustrated and retold by Linda Yamane about Kaknu, a peregrine falcon. The plaques will be translated in English, Spanish and Chochenyo. Scientific Arts Studio will fabricate a sculpture placed on a long pole of Kaknu in flight, designed by Linda Yamane. A second model of the falcon will be fabricated and placed inside of the Peralta House exhibit. Scientific Arts Studio was chosen because of their involvement on a successful past project at Peralta Hacienda Park. Alonso and Zarembo referred to the renderings, maintenance, and funding plan in the packet. Zarembo noted that these installations are sited as new improvements that do not fall under existing parameters of the park. Alonso shared that Friends of Peralta Hacienda has been in contact with Planning and Zoning and the maintenance plan **was** approved by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) in January 2024. Committee members asked about the plan for the programming of the seasonal weaving. Alonso responded that there are several art programs based at the park with community members’ participation, and the weaving would be changed every six months. The Committee asked about mitigation for children climbing the sculptural structures and Alonso explained that they hope that the art will be respected but will discuss safety with the artists. Staff suggested signage to discourage climbing on the sculpture. There is signage planned for the ADA ramp as well as directly on the sculpture. Alonso described how the sculptures for the second phase of the project will interact with the sculpture of the first phase. Finally, Committee members raised concerns about how birds will interact with the sculpture. Alonso explained that the negative spaces of the grid are too small for birds to get caught. Committee members praised Alonso for a beautiful and thoughtful art installation. **Motion: K. Kushner moved to approve public art sculptural installations by Linda Yamane (Artist 1) and Walter Hood (Artist 2) for the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, Lower Park, Creek Nature Area, 2465 34th Avenue. K. Leventi seconded. S. Miller Aye; M. Navasero Aye; M. Guillard Aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 5. Action Item: Review and Approve Dimond Gateway Sculpture Proposal by artist Andrea Bacigalupo for the Dimond Gateway Garden, Northwest Corner of Lincoln and MacArthur**

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**Boulevard, Funded by Dimond Improvement Association (District 4).** Quincy Williams, Assistant Capital Improvement Coordinator for OPRYD introduced the proposed sculpture by artist Andrea Bacigalupo, which is supported by the Dimond Improvement Association and the Dimond Beautification Committee and was approved by PRAC at their January 2024 meeting. OPRYD also supports the project. Artist Andrea Bacigalupo shared that she has lived and worked in the Dimond neighborhood for over 20 years and felt this sculpture would fit well in the location while representing female sculptors. Bacigalupo explores themes of democracy, being architecturally inviting, relationships, and a sense of place. This location was selected because there is less risk of children climbing on the sculpture. Lighting and signage are not yet included in the proposal, but Bacigalupo is in discussion with a lighting designer. This is an existing concrete sculpture that was not specifically designed for the location. The sculpture is internally reinforced with steel and rebar which will prevent it from being broken in half. Artist Bacigalupo is not concerned about graffiti in the specific location but will research surface coatings and plans for graffiti removal. The sculpture installation plan has been prepared by an engineer and includes a footing with a two-foot depth that will be installed by a licensed contractor. Staff confirmed that the sculpture height does not require a building permit for installation (under six feet). Signage for the sculpture is still being determined. **Motion: K. Leventi moved to approve Dimond Gateway Sculpture Proposal by artist Andrea Bacigalupo for the Dimond Gateway Garden, Northwest Corner of Lincoln and MacArthur Boulevard, Funded by Dimond Improvement Association. M. Guillard seconded; K. Kushner Aye; M. Navasero Aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Informational Item: Public Art Coordinator Updates on Current Projects / Program Activity**
  - a. **Recruitment: PAAC, Artist Updates** Cultural Affairs continues recruitment for additional PAAC members who bring a broad perspective. Roberto Bedoya spoke about the need for a PAAC liaison on the Cultural Affairs Commission. Zarembo discussed the *Vermillion Bird* installation by Patricia Ravarra in Oakland City Hall as a prompt for PAAC and Staff to consider what types of projects to share in the RFQ for the next round of artist recruitment.
  - b. **CIP Program: New Projects Planning and Collections Maintenance** The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) is requesting removal of the I-880/Broadway underpass public art project by the artist group known as Team of Five, as part of the OakDOT streetscape improvement projects, Public Art staff are recommended review and discussion with the PAAC. Zarembo will share more background information with PAAC on previous discussions with PAAC regarding this installation, as well as with Caltrans around public art within the streetscape improvements.
  - c. **Public Art in Private Development Projects** Zarembo discussed the applicability of the public art municipal code requirement for private development, noting that not all cities apply the requirement to affordable housing. Staff will be meeting with other City representatives to discuss options and will report back. Zarembo shared information regarding state labor regulations that may require hiring of artists, including muralists, as licensed contractors for public and private building improvements, and how this affects public art across the state. The California Public Art Administrators (CAPAA) network is discussing how to communicate the value of free speech and copyright laws in public art, and the potential impacts of these regulations, to state representatives. This is an ongoing topic of interest. Staff will share more information when relevant for future discussion.

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**d. Artist-Community Initiated Projects** Zaremba referenced a program initiated by staff in the early 1990s called Open Proposals, which included City commissioned, artist initiated, permanent and temporary public art projects. The program has been replicated intermittently as funding has been available. Staff would like to resurrect this program in the future and will present more background on the program at a future meeting.

**e. General Public Art Program Administration** Zaremba acknowledged Raquel Iglesias, Cultural Funding Coordinator and welcomed new hire Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator. Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed the outlook for the Cultural Affairs Division for 2024-2025.

7. **Open Forum:** Andre Sandford, currently running for State Assembly (District 18) shared the importance of art in our public schools and encouraged the City to work with student artists within the school system.
8. **Announcements**
9. **Agenda Building**
10. **Adjournment:** M. Navasero moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26. K. Kushner seconded. M. Guillard Aye; K. Leventi Aye; S. Miller Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

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