

**Cultural Affairs Division**

**Economic & Workforce Development Department**

**Public Art Advisory Committee**

**(PAAC)**

**May 2, 2022**

**Zoom Teleconference**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee (Co-Chair), Jennifer Kesseler (Co-Chair), Eric Murphy, Yulia Pinkusevich, Michele Ramirez

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator; Neha Balram, Cultural Affairs Commission Program Analyst

**Guests:** David Burke, Hank Phan (OPRYD)

**Meeting Chair: Jennifer Kesseler**

\*Indicates partial attendance

1. **Welcome/ Roll Call / Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.** Information on City of Oakland Boards and Commissions public comment procedures was presented.
2. **Public Comment:** No comment was provided.
3. **Action Item: Adopt a Resolution Determining that Conducting In-Person Meetings of the Public Art Advisory Committee Would Present Imminent Risks to Attendees’ Health, and Electing to Continue Conducting Meetings Using Teleconferencing in Accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(e), a Provision of AB-361.** Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba stated that the Committee must adopt the resolution before conducting business for this and all future remote meetings until further notice. **Motion: C. Roundtree-Baaqee moved to approve the motion. E. Murphy seconded. J. Kessler Aye; M. Ramirez Aye. Y. Pinkusevich Aye. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Action Item: Review and Approve Public Art Advisory Committee Minutes from the January 10, 2022 PAAC Meeting. C. Roundtree-Baaqee moved to approve the minutes. M. Ramirez seconded. Y. Pinkusevich Aye; E. Murphy; J. Kesseler Aye. Motion passed.**
5. **Action Item: Review and Approve Mural Design Proposal by Cultural Funding Neighborhood Voices Program Grantee David Burke, for the PG&E Substation located at 5143 Shattuck Avenue.** K. Zaremba introduced the item, noting that the proposal is for a mural funded by the City through a Neighborhood Voices grant for PGE property, and welcomed the Oakland artist David Burke to introduce the project. This is one in a series of murals called Love Letter to Oakland, which originated during the Oakland Mural Festival, intended to recognize and honor artists contributing to the Oakland arts community. The subjects of this mural unfortunately include two artists, Hung Liu and Michael Morgan, who recently passed, as well Kev Choice, and the Twin Walls Mural Group. Additional murals are planned for the future. Work is scheduled to start in the third week of May, including a community painting day. The overall budget is roughly $17,000, funded by the Neighborhood Voices grant and PGE. Oakland based Pancho Pescador and Jovak Yabon will assist, in addition to some younger emerging artists. PAAC members complimented the artist and thanked him for his work. They noted the quality of the design, the intergenerational composition of the artists included and the thoughtfulness of the work. Additionally, they asked whether there would be plans for future maintenance. There is a plan in process to address light maintenance for the work for 5 years. Zaremba noted that the City encourages PG&E to honor the artists’ efforts and to anticipate longevity as the mural is anticipated to become a beloved landmark in the community. Burke also noted it is important to monitor the artwork to ensure its longevity **Motion: E. Murphy moved to approve the Mural Design Proposal by Cultural Funding Neighborhood Voices Program Grantee David Burke, for the PG&E Substation located at 5143 Shattuck Avenue. C. Roundtree-Baaqee seconded the motion. C. M. Ramirez Aye; Y. Pinkusevich Aye; J. Kesseler Aye. Motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Action Item: Review and Approve Mural Design Proposal by Cultural Funding Neighborhood Voices Program Grantee Debra Koppman, for the True Buddha Vijaya Temple located at 3440 Foothill Blvd.** Zaremba presented the mural proposal, as the artist was unable to attend the rescheduled committee meeting, and described the project plan, noting that the Unity Council is also a funder for the project. The artist has already started work on the project, with a budget of approzimately $14,000, including a Cultural Funding grant for $7,000. The budget includes an in-kind donation of the artists’ time. Finally, the artist has agreed to light maintenance for up to 5 years. The Unity Council would be responsible for compensating the artist for any comprehensive maintenance. Committee members complimented the artist on her design, and asked if there was a plan for the transition from the main wall to the adjacent building to create a seamless composition. Additionally they acknowledged the artist for her generous contributions and expressed concern for artists’ compensation for the initial project and future maintenance. Staff noted the artists’ optimistic approach to budgeting for project realization with the grants program, which is intended to support “neighborhood voices” even if the work lasts for a day, a month, or years. Staff always encourage the artists to ensure the terms are clearly articulated in their agreements with property owners, on terms that the artists are comfortable with. Committee members discussed ongoing maintenance needs, and if there is consideration for a nominal maintenance fund for sustaining projects. The challenge is that the grants program runs on an annual cycle, and there is more demand for the support of new art over maintenance of existing. Staff and Committee members agreed to pursue the topic. **Motion: M. Ramirez moved to approve the Mural Design Proposal by Cultural Funding Neighborhood Voices Program Grantee Debra Koppman, for the True Buddha Vijaya Temple located at 3440 Foothill Blvd. Y. Pinkusevich seconded. C. Roundtree-Baaqee Aye. E. Murphy Aye. J. Kesseler Aye.**
7. **Action Item: Review and Approve Project Backboard Mural Design Proposal by Dan Peterson / Project Backboard with Artist Adia Millett for the Lowell Park Basketball Courts at 1180 -14th Street.** Zaremba introduced Dan Peterson, founder of project backboard, and Hank Phan, Capitol Projects staff for Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPRYD). Zaremba noted that the proposal is the next in a series of projects commissioned by Project Backboard for Oakland’s parks and basketball courts. The first project reviewed by the PAAC was designed by Oakland artist Muzae Sesay, for the Rainbow Recreation Center, concurrent with the other public art works commissioned by the City for the Center’s renovation in 2018. A second project designed by Oakland artist Alicia McCarthy was presented to the PAAC two year later. As the third project proposal for Oakland, each work delivered by Project Backboard is treated as a gift to the City and requires approval from the City Council. Hank Phan, Assistant Capital Improvement Coordinator (OPRYD) presented the proposal for Lowell Park, which is a two full court in West Oakland, just off 14th Street. Project Backboard worked with OPRYD staff to determine which courts and facilities were most in need of the improvements. Adia Millett was selected to create the designs for this project. The artist selected colors and a composition to honor the local community, entitled “Taking Flight,” as a kite or a basketball takes flight. The gift in place court resurfacing will go to Council for approval and be installed by the Project Backboard team and Dan Peters using appropriate court-surfacing paints. The painted design, applied to a new court surface, is anticipated to last for a minimum of five years, although they can last longer. Staff and committee members asked about emerging artist involvement, community engagement and on-site signage to alert visitors to the project history, noting it would be valuable to provide more context and acknowledgement regarding the artist’s work. Currently there is no plan for signage, but staff will research the opportunity. The work is considered temporary as it will not be maintained or restored once it ages. Committee members asked about promotional efforts on the City website regarding these projects and plans for future maintenance. Staff acknowledged the suggestion and committed to bringing it back to the Cultural Affairs Division as part of ongoing discussions regarding increased communications in CAD and how to cross pollinate those efforts with OPRYD. Committee members thanked Hank Phan for his work.

**Motion: C. Roundtree-Baaqee moved to approve the Project Backboard Mural Design Proposal by Dan Peterson / Project Backboard with Artist Adia Millett for the Lowell Park Basketball Courts at 1180 -14th Street. E. Murphy seconded. M. Ramirez Aye. Y. Pinkusevich Aye; J. Kesseler Aye.**

1. **Informational Item: Staff Updates on Current Projects and Program Activity**
   1. **Oakland Art Murmur Public Art for Private Development Walking Tour Report.** Zaremba reported on an Oakland Art Murmur tour staff were asked to participate in leading shared images from the successful Public Art walking tour held in April. She noted the tour was well attended (approximately 35 people) and featured work by Squeak Carnwath, Taraneh Hemami and David Huffman, as well as Johanna Poethig, and included Sorell Raino-Tsui and some fabricators who spoke about their involvement. Zaremba noted that another public art consultant, Danielle Fox – Slate Contemporary, would like to feature projects on a future tour. Zaremba noted it was a beneficial way to collaborate on efforts to share more public information. Finally, Zaremba noted that staff would like to target emerging Oakland artists on a future tour.
   2. **General Program Updates:** Zaremba reported on many community and privately driven projects which provide opportunity for the City’s departments to work together on creating a transparent and seamless process for artists, while also highlighting the PAAC’s role, and the due diligence others must apply to the work they propose. While ongoing Cultural Affairs staff shortages continue to cause some delays, Zaremba reported that an artist has been selected to work with the Cultural Strategist in Government (CSIG) on artist outreach efforts and professional development opportunities for artists interested in public art. The strategist will not be working for the City but functioning as a partner to transform the outreach efforts for the program. Committee members expressed support for the future collaborative efforts. Zaremba reported on the efforts of the Cultural Affairs Division, the recent event hosting the National Endowment for the Arts Chair Dr. Jackson and the efforts of everyone on the PAAC to uplift the cultural lives of all Oakland residents. Finally, a future installation to be realized by RBA Creative and the Smith Group, entitled Society’s Cage, will be located on Frank Ogawa Plaza in May. Staff have returned to City offices part time and continue to work on efforts to reengage community.Committee members thanked the staff for all the updates and asked for ongoing outreach communications regarding future events.
2. **Open Forum:**
3. **Announcements:**.
4. **Agenda Building:** PAAC appointments, CSIG updates, Artist recruitment
5. **Adjournment: C. Roundtree-Baaqee moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00. J. Kesseler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**