

**Public Art Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2018**

**Oakland City Hall
Hearing Room 4
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
5:30 - 7:30 pm**

AGENDA

- I. **Welcome/Call to Order**
- II. **Open Forum**
- III. **Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2018 meeting**
- IV. **Action Item: Pro Arts- Christopher White *Asking* Temporary Installation on FOP June 27-29, 2018**
- V. **Informational Item: Measure DD: 10th Street Bridge- Channel Project Update- Artist John Roloff**
- VI. **Informational Item: Public Art in Private Development Update: Council Proposed Revisions**
- VII. **Informational Item: Staff Updates on Pending Projects and Program Activity**
 - a. **Measure KK and Prop 84: Rainbow Recreation Center – Artist Selection Update**
 - b. **Measure DD: Coalition meeting updates including 10th Street, Lakeside Green Streets, Gardens at Lake Merritt Gates Project**
 - c. **Channel / Estuary Sculpture Updates**
- VIII. **Announcements**

Agenda Building: Outline agenda for July 2018 meeting

Next regular meeting: July 2, 2018, Hearing Room 4, Oakland City Hall
- IX. **Adjourn**

Oakland Cultural Affairs - Public Art Program, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9th fl. Oakland, CA 94612
www.oaklandculturalarts.org

**Cultural Affairs Division
Economic & Workforce Development Department**



**Public Art Advisory Committee
(PAAC)
May 7, 2018
Minutes**

Members Present: Bryan Cain (co-chair), Allison Cummings (co-chair), Jennifer Kessler, Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee*

Excused: Chris Treggiari, Patricia Cariño Valdez, Yulia Pinkusevich

Absent:

Staff Present: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator; Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager

Guests: Debbie Koppman, Eric Powell

Meeting Chair: A. Cummings

*Indicates partial attendance

1. Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. **Open Forum.**
3. **Informational Item: Public Art in Private Development Update: Council Proposed Revisions**
Staff reported that City Council was proposing some specific amendments to the Municipal Code requirements for Public Art in Private development, notably to allow projects to be realized on public property owned by other agencies or the contribution of funds to address capital needs in other City owned arts facilities. While staff have discussed these concepts with Council representatives and do not object to the intent of the proposed revisions, concern remains regarding the resources needed to implement these alternatives. PAAC members expressed concern regarding the original intent of the ordinance, stating they did not agree with the changes. They acknowledged City concerns regarding resources for the arts community but objected to the implementation of broad changes to the ordinance rather than an exception for specific projects, and requested more information regarding staffing and management of the alternative options for work not realized on site. Staff noted that administrative protocols would have to be developed for the alternative options, but without resources to operationalize the work it will happen incrementally. Committee members concluded by stating their concern that the changes would make the ordinance more vulnerable, and should not be made without deeper analysis and a larger, public discussion.
4. **Minutes: J. Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2018 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Action Item: Cultural Funding Grantee D. Koppman proposal for Soon's Lounge – 3449**

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Fruitvale Avenue. The City typically reviews proposals for public art projects receiving City funding. Debbie Koppman, a 2017-18 Cultural Funding Program (CFP) grantee, presented her proposal for an exterior mural entitled “Jazzin’ Up Soon’s Lounge” at 3449 Fruitvale. This will be the fifth of five community murals completed in the Dimond district over the last five years. CFP funds will be matched by community contributions. Committee members complimented the work and asked if the budget was sufficient to complete the project. Koppman noted she would be donating her time. The PAAC recommended the artist include the cost of her own labor to more accurately reflect the project budget, and asked to be notified when the project is completed. **Motion: B. Cain moved to approve Cultural Funding Grantee D. Koppman’s mural proposal for 3449 Fruitvale Avenue- Soon’s Lounge. J. Kessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 6. Action Item: MacArthur Gateway Arches Public Art by Eric Powell– Project Design Review.** K. Zaremba reported that artist Eric Powell has developed different design approaches to be presented to the PAAC for feedback prior to presentation to the Council office representatives. The artist has made a concerted effort to incorporate and respond to the initial design direction. Zaremba stated that staff directed Powell to develop his own designs, reflecting how he would approach the project independently, for comparison. Powell presented his original and revised designs, including concepts incorporating specific historic and community-based imagery, as well as renderings contemplating a more abstract approach. He shared images of previous projects where he has successfully worked with community to realize a project that honors the past while simultaneously embracing the future. Committee members reviewed and commented on all the designs, noting that they also preferred the more abstract, loose works, but incorporating select imagery and rendered to avoid conveying a sense of chaos. PAAC members also suggested researching other Oakland philosophical thinkers and activists who might reflect the values of East Oakland. Regarding physical execution of the work, which would be composed of three interwoven layers, committee members suggested the designs should include significant open work to convey transparency. The artist indicated he could do a model to study the composition. Finally, Committee members noted concern regarding the design feedback given to date, and the importance of sustaining the artist’s voice in the final designs. **Motion: J. Kessler moved to approve the revised conceptual designs for the MacArthur Gateway Arches, and a recommendation to proceed with the more abstract design approach. B. Cain seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 7. Action Item: PAAC Recruitment- Review Credentials and Recommend Nominees for Mayor and Council Appointment to the PAAC: Jennifer Correia.** PAAC members discussed the nominee and her specialized expertise as a conservator. **Motion: B. Cain moved to approve PAAC nominee Jennifer Correia. C. Roundtree-Baaqee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Informational Item: Staff Updates on Pending Projects and Program Activity

- a. Measure KK and Prop 84: Rainbow Recreation Center. K Zaremba reported that the Rainbow Recreation Center project was getting underway and on a very fast schedule due to the grant funding attached to the project. Due to the expedited timeline (the project must be completed by close of 2018), a shortlist of 20 East Bay artists pulled from the pre-qualified pool would be invited to submit updated credentials for

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consideration on the project. PAAC members recommended artist Muzae Sesay, who is working on a related project for the basketball court, be included in the list. The first community-based panel will be held early June, with finalist interviews scheduled prior to the July PAAC meeting.

- b. Measure DD Bond Project Updates-Garden Gates. K. Zarembo reported that the artist is nearing completion on fabrication of the project, but determine the finish treatment and color. Due to advice secured from another experienced gate artist, she will now be galvanizing and painting all elements of the gates, with a powder rubbed finish in silver or gold. Committee members reviewed samples and recommended the gold finish, noting its elegance would complement the beautiful gate designs.

Motion: B. Cain moved to extend the meeting for ten minutes. J. Kessler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Announcements:

10. Agenda Building: Staff updates on Pending Projects and Program Activity. MacArthur Gateway Arches, Rainbow Recreation Center, Pro Arts FOP programming.

11. Adjournment: J. Kessler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43. C. Roundtree-Baaqee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Description of *Asking*
Installation by Christopher W. White**

**Presented by Pro Arts Gallery
June 27-29, 2018 | Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland**

The installation will be open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily.

Attendees will be invited to enter a circular “structure” of vertical pieces of wood.

- The structure will be loosely assembled from branches and pieces of driftwood; inspired by structures like this:



- One will be able to see in through the “walls” of the structure. The space inside is still public, but is slightly contained in order to feel more private.
- Inside the circular structure will be another circle of chairs, in which attendees can sit.
- Occasionally, recordings of questions will play in the speakers. Recordings will play at conversational levels and will not be audible from more than 12’ away from the installation.
- In the center of the circle of chairs will stand a box containing a voice-activated microphone. Attendees will be invited to ask a question into the microphone. The question will be recorded and added to the randomly-playing questions playing over the speakers.
- Attendees are invited to stay in the installation as long as they like. They are encouraged to practice remaining quiet.

**Materials list for *Asking*
Installation by Christopher W. White**

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Outer perimeter of installation: Wooden branches and driftwood, connected with wire, attached to wooden bases for stability.

- Constructed modularly; at the end of each exhibition day, the pieces will be easily removed.
- Fire treated, if necessary

Inner circle of chairs: Wooden chairs.

- Fire treated, if necessary

Microphone box: Plywood, with microphone inside

- This will rest on a wooden plinth
- Fire treated, if necessary

Locked computer box: Plywood, with computer and other electronic equipment inside

- This will be attended by Pro Arts Gallery staff to prevent tampering and theft.
- Fire treated, if necessary

Speakers: Plywood and electronics

Cables for electricity will need to be run from Pro Arts Gallery or other source, as well as to speakers from the locked computer box. All cables will be secured to prevent tripping and allow for ADA/wheelchair access.

A Performance & Installation by Christopher W. White – Pro Arts

Asking

A performance and installation created by **Christopher W. White**, in collaboration with **Teddy Hulsker**

Performed by Christopher W. White, El Beh, and Ryan Tacata

A procedure, an illumination, an homage, a meeting, a seance.

Asking is a performance and public installation dedicated to the power of questions. Audiences are invited to contribute their own inquiries, if they so choose: to illuminate another person's experience, to seek answers, to simply contemplate the unanswerable. Inspired in part by Quaker practices to reach difficult decisions and by seances practiced by spiritual mediums, both the performance and installation tempt audiences to quiet themselves and contemplate the unknown and unknowable.

Together, the performance and installation provoke audiences to consider the place our contemplative, vulnerable selves have within a larger society. What are the benefits and concomitant risks of sharing those aspects of ourselves publicly? What do we sacrifice by inhibiting them, as our high-speed society demands?

Asking was originally created in residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts.

***Asking* installation** will be on view FREE and Open to the Public at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland from June 27th through June 29th, 2018, daily, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

***Asking* performance dates:**

Friday, June 29th at 8:00 p.m. at Pro Arts Gallery

Saturday, June 30th at 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. at Pro Arts Gallery

Door: \$15 the day of the event

*Pro Arts Gallery is located at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612. Street parking available. 12th Street BART stop.

Christopher W. White

Oakland-based performance/theater artist and writer Christopher W. White makes work that reconfigures audience/performer boundaries and interrogates unacknowledged undercurrents to the American national psyche. As co-founding Artistic Director of SF's experimental ensemble Mugwumpin, he co-created over 20 works, including Blockbuster Season, Luster (Asian Art Museum), The Great Big Also

(Z Space), Future Motive Power. He was a 2016 Artist in Residence at Headlands Center for the Arts. Other collaborators: Campo Santo, Shotgun Players, EmSpace Dance, Magic Theater, Banana Bag & Bodice, SF Opera. White is also a bike advocate and educator with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. Publications: American Theatre, TheatreForum, Howlround. MFA: Naropa University/LISPA; BA: Yale University.

***Asking* is a recipient of The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, NEW Program award and funded in part with a grant by The Zellerbach Family Foundation and The Fleishhacker Foundation.**

**Schematic diagram for *Asking*
Installation by Christopher W. White**

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