



City of Richmond

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Meeting Minutes Public Art Commission

Thursday, November 14, 2019

4:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

This is a special meeting of the Public Art Commission.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present -- 7 - * Commissioner Gary Flowers, * Commissioner Charles Piper, * Commissioner Matthew Spahr, * Commissioner Andrea Almond, * Commissioner Amber Esseiva, * Commissioner Ashley Kistler and * Commissioner Anne Fletcher

Absent -- 3 - * Commissioner Mark Olinger, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy and * Commissioner Ana Edwards

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Matt Spahr to approve the October minutes as written, seconded by Gary Flowers, and unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report

Bloomberg Philanthropies has just announced a new grant category, AsphaltArt that will provide 10 medium-sized cities with up to \$25,000 for a community based-project involving public art. One requirement of the grant is that it is led by a city agency, in this case, the Public Art Commission.

Details

Venture Richmond approached the Public Art Commission as a possible partner for this grant. They are proposing a three-part project consisting of a parklet, a pedestrian plaza, and a mural at the intersection of Brook Road and East Marshall.

Community partners would include Art 180, Gallery 5, Big Secrets, the Downtown Neighborhood Association/Richmond Arts District, et al. Plans are also underway to contact condo owners in the neighborhood for input and participation in the project planning.

There is also a possibility to leverage additional funds from Venture Richmond, and the Richmond Arts District (TBD).

The grant application is due December 12 and awards will be announced in the spring. All funds will need to be spent by the end of 2020.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

New Commissioner: Ashley is still working to identify a new Commissioner to fill the Visual Artist vacancy. There are currently 5 candidates under consideration.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion to finalize 2-3 non-CIP-funded projects for FY21 and beyond

[Prior to the meeting, a list of 20 project proposals submitted by Commissioners and staff were distributed to Commissioners along with each project's relationship to the Public Art Master Plan recommendations and Voter District location; Commissioners then reported their top 3-4 priority preferences to the PAC Coordinator who compiled the votes, which were shared with Commissioners for the first time at the meeting.] During the meeting, Commission members undertook a substantive discussion about those projects that received the most priority votes.

Below are several key observations that informed the discussion:

- 2-3 different types of projects should be included
- At least one project should be "iconic"
- Projects should illuminate/support the title of the Public Art Master Plan—"Revealing Richmond" and provide greater visibility for the Master Plan by quoting the Plan in any RFPs/RFQs
- High visibility areas should be emphasized
- Projects should be subject based rather than location driven
- Artists should be encouraged to collaborate

Commissioners agreed that there were synergies between several proposed projects on the list that would allow combining multiple ideas into one or several projects. Specifically—and by unanimous agreement—the Commissioners felt strongly about a large artist-determined project/signature piece of art for the City; the RFP/RFQ for this project could include as "suggestions" several project proposals from the list such as Libby Hill Park, the Canal Walk, playgrounds/skate parks, and Monument Avenue.

These addition issues were discussed as well:

A significant project in Shockoe Bottom should be pursued via a major grant and not necessarily with existing funds since the project is still a least a year out; Bloomberg Philanthropies has a large grant application that is due next August for which planning should begin now.

It was felt that Capital Trees projects had other possibilities for art-related partners. Any money the PAC would put toward the area will likely be need to remove the three existing sculptures that will interfere with the redesign of the end of the Capital Trail that is being undertaken this winter.

It was also felt that it was too late for the PAC to do anything with Abner Clay Park as construction is well under way. It was suggested that the PAC do something programmatically when the Park reopens but PAC funds cannot be spent on non-permanent projects. One suggestion was to commission a performance piece that had an infrastructure component (like bleachers) that could be constructed and made useful to park users after the performance.

Ad hoc committees should be established to pursue the following:

- Cultivate Richmond Public Schools to begin campaigning for more public art in new school construction
- Engage with the new History and Culture Commission to make certain that the PAC has a voice in any plans for re-contextualizing Monument Avenue
- Discuss a small project—possibly with matching funds—for the intersection of

Jahnke Road and Forest Hill Avenue; it was felt this was a politically strategic plan to engage a City Councilwoman who expressly sought the help of the PAC

OTHER BUSINESS

Adjournment