

Civic Arts Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
November 13, 2006

Commissioners Present: Joanna Stone (Chair), James Allen (Vice Chair), Roy Engoron
Casey Hutchins, Suzanna Duffy-Tajeldin, Robert Smith, Stacey
Vetter
Staff Present: Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager

Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Approval of agenda.

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Hutchins seconded, approval of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Introductions On-going Commissioners introduced themselves to new Commissioner Robert Smith

3. Approval of September 2006 Minutes. (Note: There was no meeting in October.)

Action: Commissioner Hutchins moved, and Commissioner Engoron seconded, approval of the September 11, 2006 minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Communications. None.

5. Written Communications. Art announcements and monthly publications were circulated.

6. Temporary Arts Project Proposal Staff reported that the project budget has been approved by City Council and that plans are proceeding to identify sites downtown for the installation pieces. Tentative plans are for the project to begin by early April, possibly sooner. Staff will update the Commissioners as needed at monthly meetings.

7. Civic Arts Planning for 2007

A. Juried Art Show After preliminary discussion, Commissioner Vetter volunteered to take the lead on planning. Final roles will be determined later. Commissioner Smith expressed an interest in participating as needed. Dates for the show are June 20 through August 19. The reception and award announcement will be held as part of the July 9th ArtAbout. Commissioner Vetter explained that the first task is to identify a juror. Recommendations on applying the “small works” theme to the 2007 competition will be

considered in February. Commissioner Vetter and staff will meet with Pence Director Natalie Nelson once the theme is confirmed to project schedule and responsibilities.

Action: By consensus, Commissioners agreed to bring juror recommendations to the December meeting.

B. Neighborhood Art Projects – Site Selection update Staff and Commissioner Engoron will meet this week to review potential sites on the east side on the North Davis greenbelt. Options will be brought to the Commission in January or February, depending on the agenda time needed for the Commission's Art Contract recommendations. Once tentative sites are selected, staff will prepare a press release to engage community members in the decision and solicit interest in serving on an advisory panel. The project goal is to select a panel and announce the new competition prior to summer, 2007.

C. New Commission Goals Chair Stone led the Commission in a discussion of goals and objectives. Council liaison Don Saylor joined the Commission during this discussion. Ideas discussed included:

- Assistance to performing art groups: Commissioner Engoron reported that he and previous Commissioner Burkhardt contacted performing groups regarding mutual assistance opportunities, but found no interest in exploring options at this time.
- Phantom Galleries: Commissioners then need for temporary exhibit space, concurring that having a lead organizer is key to utilizing spaces efficiently. A stipend could be provided by the city. Ideas for spaces mentioned were public sites such as the Varsity lobby and underutilized public buildings, and private locations such as empty retail and office spaces and the courtyard of Mansion Square. Staff was asked to consult on the concept with the Davis Downtown Business Association. Commissioner Hutchins commented that a van was recently used on campus as a temporary exhibit space. The Commission will continue the discussion after 2007 Art Contract recommendations are made.
- Future public art pieces: Commissioners discussed the long term planning needed for a landmark art piece. The budget needed for the second round of Neighborhood Art projects is not yet determined, but the target is to reserve approximately \$75,000 in the Municipal Art Fund for a Landmark Art Project. Staff advised that artists typically receive 15 – 20 % of an art budget for their creative fee. Landmark pieces usually have complex engineering, material and installation expenses as well as fabrication costs. A total budget in the range of \$250,000 should be anticipated. Council member Saylor reminded the Commission that the UC/City Connector project may yield Landmark art possibilities, with some shared budget responsibilities. The ideas will be investigated during the development of an art plan.
- Art Festival: Commissioners continue to be interested in helping develop an ongoing community art festival. Staff was directed to contact local art agencies, the DDBA and the Chamber of Commerce to investigate interest in a meeting to brainstorm ideas. Staff suggested that Art Contract application may also yield festival possibilities. Ultimately, broad commitment by a number of agencies is needed for festival development.

- 8. City Council, Commissioner and Staff communications** Council Liaison Saylor explained that his duty as liaison to other commissions often conflicts with the Civic Arts meeting, making it impossible for him to attend. He remains highly interested in the Civic Arts Commissions projects, and encourages Commissioners to contact him directly as needed.

Staff Polito reminded Commissioners of the Nov. 14 Council ceremony to honor outgoing Commissioners. Staff also reported that the Alluvium repairs are close to complete, and reviewed the Art Contract competition schedule.

- 8. Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito
Planner and Cultural Services Manager