



**Civic Arts Commission
Minutes
Monday, April 17, 2017
7:15 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Casey Hutchins (acting Chair), Jane Higgins, Samantha McCarthy, Carol Smith, Jeffrey Day (alternate)

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Zimmerman, Nikhil Joshi (Chair), Piper Milton

City Council Liaison: Will Arnold

Staff: Rachel Hartsough, Arts & Culture Manager

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:25 by Commissioner Hutchins, standing in for Chair Joshi.

2. Approval of Agenda

Action: Commissioner Higgins moved and Commissioner Hutchins seconded approval of the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment. none

4. Consent Calendar

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and non-controversial, require no discussion, as items are expected to have unanimous support, and may be enacted by one motion.

A. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2017

Action: Commissioner Higgins moved and Commissioner Day seconded approval of the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Regular Items

A. Percent for Art Private Development ordinance discussion

Staff had a follow-up meeting with the sub-committee on March 20th. Shared several examples of ordinance paperwork from other cities, including Palo Alto, which will be used as a model. Staff met with several members of CMO and Community Development staff to review program details and solicit input. Next steps will be compiling and condensing research to create a 1-sheet and succinct report to share with Developers. Commissioners are encouraged to share any information that they come across with staff to incorporate.

B. Centennial Projects

Staff has begun having conversations with local arts supporters about contributing funds for an art gift which would be used to commission a legacy project to commemorate the Centennial.

At the last meeting, Commissioners suggested new seat benches in Central Park as a possible location, and requested staff to return with an update from the Parks Department on the status of development in Central Park, as well as a timeline for potentially evaluating the seat benches as a future location for the creation of public art. Arts staff was advised by Parks staff that there is additional grounds work yet to be completed in Central Park, and nothing should happen there regarding new art until that work is completed—probably another 6 months. Staff will return with this item once work is finalized. Other Commissioners agreed this would be a good location to further explore.

C. Public Art Donations

Commissioners received a staff report on Downtown Public Art/Murals, and were tasked with identifying next steps to take regarding the ownership and long-term care and conservation of the murals, most of which were painted by the Davis Mural Team and are located on private property.

Commissioners suggested referring to current **Public Art Guidelines** and **Donations Policy** regarding acceptance of privately sited/owned artwork for guidance on procedure. Commissioner Hutchins noted that it is necessary for any artwork being considered for ownership by the City, particularly when the City will incur financial responsibility, to not circumvent the processes in place.

Commissioners agreed, and noted that moving forward it is essential that there is an explicit policy that precludes this circumstance in the future. Artists or patrons who are creating work with the intention of placing it in the public inventory must get permission from the City PRIOR to creation of the art, or have no expectation that the City will be charged with care of the work. The Commission noted that the City is under no obligation to care for privately created or owned art without proper review and explicit prior consent or approval.

Commissioners also suggested that in the future the City should consider adopting a style guide regarding public art on private property.

Action: Commissioner Hutchins made a motion that any piece of art that is up for consideration to be acquired into the City's collection goes through the existing CAC Public Art Guidelines regarding donations of artwork. The Commission wishes to consider the proposed works once information on the following questions and concerns can be answered:

1. Talk to each property owner to determine what original arrangements were made regarding mural ownership and care. Who do they currently legally belong to? This is a question that the City needs to pursue with BBK.
2. What is the financial value of the murals? Who determines that value? Will someone be receiving a tax benefit from the City acquiring them, and if so, who would that go to?
3. Request a condition assessment of the current murals from members of the original Mural Team, forecasting current condition, and anticipated

lifespan in current location considering weather and sun exposure, surface treatment, building preparation before painting, etc.

4. Long-term cost associated with ongoing care and conservation efforts.
5. Who would “own” the artwork?

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Commission will move through the process toward acceptance of the proposed works once these items have been addressed with the appropriate legal and administrative personnel, and looks forward to receiving additional information. The Commission further suggested that it would like a separate procedure for evaluating the Art Garage because of its unique characteristics, and that it should be evaluated as multiple works of art.

D. Public Art Commissions

Staff reported that we would like to implement the next phase of painted utility boxes, and tasked the Commissioners with identifying boxes in good locations to include in an RFP later this year. Photos and descriptions should be sent to staff, along with identifying information that names box ownership (City, AT&T, PG&E, or other). The goal is to locate boxes that are geographically distributed outside of the Downtown, so that the community might come across these in unexpected places. Commissioners were asked to find and share boxes by the next meeting.

E. Maps

Staff is continuing to work with Jenni Cadieux, a UCD graduate student in Design, and Marc Hoshovsky, on the creation of a new pilot citywide art map. A draft map was shared with Commissioners for feedback, and currently includes all works of publicly accessible artwork, as well as a pullout of the Downtown. It will be designed to fold into a pocket-sized map for fun and easy distribution, and also references Open Spaces, Parks, wildlife viewing, and other points of interest.

F. Maintenance Update

Collaboration was relocated to the Bank of America parking lot landscaping at the corner of 4th and E on March 9th using the services of Dave Dewsnup. An engineered concrete pad was poured by City staff, and the work has been properly installed in this new location.

Quercus, Bike tunnel, continues to get minor graffiti tags. The PD and Arboretum volunteers have continued to help to clean the graffiti.

Bike Fun Mural, Wheelworks. PD volunteers helped to clean graffiti that had been painted on this mural.

Balance Beam. This piece was successfully relocated to a City storage facility until it can be re-sited. The Commissioners were asked to be on the lookout for sites that would be good—not too close to a playground, sited in a park, against

foliage like trees, but not too close to where people will be encouraged to access and/or climb on the statue. Final approval of this donation will go on the City Council agenda on April 18, 2017.

6. Brief Commission and Staff Communications

- A. Staff reminder Commissioners of upcoming openings on the Civic Arts Commission, and encouraged them to reach out to potential new candidates for the positions (2 regular and 1 alternate).
 - B. The large Valley Oak tree behind the Pence gallery will be removed, as it has been deemed dangerous by the City arborist. The tree dropped another large limb on April 14th. Staff has reached out to local wood and arts groups to attempt to get as much of the usable wood as possible to local artists to repurpose. The goal is to provide wood in exchange for commissioning some commemorative pieces for the City. The tree is believed to be over 150 years old.
7. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm, to the next meeting on **May 8, 2017** in the City Hall, Council Chambers conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Hartsough
Arts & Culture Manager
City of Davis