



Davis
California
Civic Arts Commission
Minutes
Monday, June 11th, 2018

Commissioners Present: Sarah Zimmerman (Chair), Carol Smith, Samantha McCarthy, Zinzi Raymond, Diane Carlson-Biggs

Commissioners Absent: Maya Makker, Nikhil Joshi, Jeffrey Day

City Council Liaison: Will Arnold (absent)

Staff: Rachel Hartsough, Arts & Culture Manager

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:22.

2. Approval of Agenda

Action: Commissioner McCarthy moved and Commissioner Smith 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 May 14, 2018

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

5. Regular Items

A. Commission Communication

A letter (drafted by Commissioners Makker and Zimmerman) acknowledging and thanking City Council members for their leadership and investment in the Arts, and support of the Civic Arts Commission initiatives was shared with Commissioners.

Action: Commissioner Raymond made a motion to accept the letter, and share with the City Council on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Carlson-Biggs seconded. 4 Commissioners voted to support the motion, and Commissioner McCarthy abstained from voting. Motion passed. Commissioner Carlson-Biggs will read the letter during Public Comment at the June 19th City Council meeting.

B. Public Programs

The Commission received an informational update on recent/upcoming City-supported programs, workshops, and performances:

- [Poet Laureate](#)-The current Poet Laureate, Dr. Andy Jones, will end his term in September. Commissioners Makker and Day served on the interview and selection panel, along with Mindy Cooper from the UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance, and Mimi Kusch, editor with Narrative Magazine. James Lee Jobe and Marque Cass were interviewed, and the selection committee has recommended the appointment of James Lee Jobe as the next Poet Laureate, to serve a term from September 2018-September 2020.

Action: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the recommendation of the selection committee and appoint James Lee Jobe as the next Poet Laureate for the City of Davis, to serve in this capacity from September 2018-September 2020.

Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- [Davis Shakespeare Festival](#) has moved into the Vet's Theatre for their season, which will run through October. They will be presenting: On the 20th Century, As You like It, and Mary Stuart. There are three plays, and as always, they have increased the professionalism of their cast and crew.
- [Davis Music Fest](#) will be presented June 15-17 at Sudwerk and downtown locations.
- [Summer on the Green](#) is in the works with partners from Davis Downtown, Davis Arts Center, Music Only makes Sense (the presenters of Davis Music Fest and Davis Live Music Collective), Fulcrum Properties, and possibly others. Confirmed musicians for this year include: 7/12 Jessica Malone, 7/19 Lance Canales and the Flood, 7/26 Bottom Dwellers, 8/2 Bomba Fried Rice, 8/9 Mondo Deco and Vasas, 8/16 Boca do Rio.
- [LUMENRoute](#), took place on April 27th. Documentation and pieces from the pop-up installation are on display in a show at the Manetti Shrem, now through June 17th. A great video documenting the artist vision and project can be viewed here: [official LumenRoute video](#).
- [Davis Chorale 40th Anniversary Concert](#), took place on May 19th
- [Mellon Music Festival](#), took place May 25-27th. Arts staff worked with the festival organizer Eunghie Cho, to locate new spaces for the performance of affordable and innovative classical music, including the free space made available by Repower Yolo.
- [Juneteenth](#), was on June 3rd. The event was well-attended, and a celebratory day honoring the Emancipation Proclamation.
- [Make Music Day Davis](#), will be on June 21st

Art & Cultural Affairs Fund (ACAF) new approved programs and updates:

- Mo Stoycoff, of Visit Yolo, will join the selection review team for the award of ACAF support. The program will be reviewed and updated in the next fiscal year.
- [Music on the Bus](#) pilot program with Unitrans and Eunah Cho launched May 5th with Jared Johnson playing accordion, and on June 2nd with guitarist David Jacobin on the monthly Farmer's market shuttle that runs every 1st Saturday morning. The program will run for 1 more month as a pilot to determine best next steps.
- Staff is working with the team from [Davis Shakespeare Festival](#) on recommendations for **improvements to the Veterans Memorial Theatre** that will help support all future users of the space. This coming week we will add the first round of conversions in theatre

lighting to LEDs. This will provide vastly improved energy efficiency both in the use of the actual bulbs, and in anticipated impact on the HVAC system, as these lights run a lot cooler than the traditional lighting. This conversion is being mandated in some communities, so we are getting ahead of the curve.

- Staff is currently working with several potential applicants with the balance of the funding for this year. A final report on the fund will be presented next month.

C. Public Art Donations /Collection

The Commission received an informational update on recent and pending donations to the Art in Public Places collection and inventory care, including:

- Davis Legacy installation at Hunt-Boyer
Staff met on-site at the Hunt-Boyer Mansion property with artist Susan Shelton, and supporters Bill and Nancy Roe, who have pledged a starting gift to this project, which would commemorate the city's historic legacy. Currently staff are working with City properties manager to evaluate public/private easements to determine if the location is appropriate for placement of public art based on potential conflicts with utility easements on the property. Once we determine if this location is a go, we will work with the donors to help look for additional sponsors.
- Art Inventory/Mapping Questions for Commission
Art and GIS staff have been collaborating to identify all city and privately owned artwork in Davis and enter it into a GIS program. This included a very comprehensive look at ALL inventory and maintenance records from the inception of the program, and includes an on-site visit for documentation of the existing location and condition report for each unique piece. Jessie Nakahara, our program assistant, is conducting these field visits has been working with a specially-designed program and tablet to collect data and update records. We now have completed a comprehensive digital record for each piece of artwork, containing historical records, special maintenance needs, history or damage or repair, geo-location, etc.
- Print Map
Staff has reviewed and handed off all edits to Jenni Cadieux, UCD Design MFA graduate and our map designer, to update and finalize all of this information to include in our updated print map. Once the map is updated, we will go to print on our first version of a pocket public art map.

D. Public Art Commissions

The Commission received an informational update on current artwork commissions and contracts for temporary art:

- Bicycle Pump Track—The City is working with a local community group to install a bike pump track in Community Park, and there is a roughly \$1,000 allocation toward public art for the project. Feedback has been requested from the Commission regarding the placement of public art at this site.

Staff requested feedback from the Commission regarding the arts component of the Bike Pump Track project, and potential allocation of additional funding to the project. Commission is interested in pursuing an artistic treatment of the fencing, and will determine direction once the fencing material has been selected. They also recommended siting a maintenance station, tools, pump, and safety signage on-site.

- Burning Man Arts—we are currently working with Parks staff and the City insurance provider to evaluate a potential work—a giant chicken basket—to add to our temporary art program with Burning Man. Connected with Karie Medina at the Cannery, thanks to an introduction from Commissioner Makker. Shared engineering drawings and details, and she has taken this information to their Board and management for review. Their board has referred us back to our own Parks Department, so we are evaluating if and where this could be placed, and how much it might cost to install, and if there is still a potential of acquiring funds to support this project.
- Pentamonium—artist Gary Gunderson has reached out to say that he is interested in selling this piece, and specifically retooling it for its ultimate location. He plans to submit a proposal for review if the Commission is interested in purchasing the work.
- Senior Center—The Senior Center will begin work in the next few months on an outdoor patio remodel, and staff has been working with the designer and project team to determine the best location for the placement of public art, which appears to be the exterior walls along the patio. The project has dedicated roughly \$15,000 toward the inclusion of a public art component (\$10,000 from the project, and another \$5,000 allocated by the Civic Arts Commission. Staff is working on a draft RFP which will go out as soon as it is completed.
- Bicycle Obelisk—This piece was originally commissioned in 2012 for the work currently being done on Third Street. The artists Mark Grieve and Ilana Spector won the commission, and will be installing the work in the fall once the road work is complete. Staff is working closely with the artists, PW staff, and Teichert Construction to ensure that appropriate foundation engineering and lighting/electrical conduit is in place. Currently the artist is working with Holly Solar to look into additional lighting components to enhance the art, including the capability to remotely program LED lighting, and have it be interactive and responsive to environmental stimulus such as temperature and nearby audio input (like music). The contracted amount will be for \$35,000 (this was the original amount on the RFP, but initially only \$29,500 was awarded by Council. The balance of this amount was approved by the Commission at the May 2018 meeting). The artist contract is currently being reviewed by BBK, the City's attorney.
- Utility Boxes—Staff is working on a draft RFP to select a team of artists who will provide artwork for the first round of vinyl covered utility boxes. We anticipate posting the RFP for this project over the summer.

E. Maintenance update

The Commission received a maintenance update on the following artwork:

- Burka Boarder—sculpture by artist Finley Fryer has been sited on the sidewalk in Downtown Davis, on 4th Street, between E and F. The piece was intentionally placed

directly on the sidewalk, as it depicts a woman on a skateboard, so as to appear as if she is actually skateboarding. A new plaque is in production.

- Watchman #8—Staff met with Parks staff and Rotary Club members to revisit plans to collaborate on restoration work on this piece of art. Staff also reached out to the artist, John Zylstra, for feedback and guidance. This project is awaiting next steps from Rotary members.
- Medusa—Staff are continuing to work with insurance providers to recoup costs associated with the artwork damaged in April by equipment failure of West Coast Arborists while removing a tree.

F. Commission Goals and Objectives

The Commission began a workshop-style activity at the April 2018 meeting to brainstorm and develop priorities and goals for future Commission direction. Commission Chair Zimmerman led an activity which paired up commissioners to create lists of priorities and areas in which they would like to focus energy in the coming months/years. This work will continue at the next meeting in May.

Questions addressed included:

- What could you do to help make this project happen?
- Who else could you recruit to volunteer and help make it happen, and/or what people volunteer resources are needed to make it happen?
- Why are you excited about it?
- What is the arts connection, in alliance with one of the four Council Goals identified in the City of Davis Council Arts Department Priorities document shared with the Commission:

Goal 2 – Drive a Diverse and Resilient Economy

Goal 3 – Pursue Environmental Sustainability

Goal 4 – Build and Promote a Vibrant Downtown

Goal 5 – Promote Community

Commissioners expressed interest in future conversations further exploring the role of public art—what it is? Traditional or ephemeral? Should more consideration be placed in the future on more alternative/innovative ways to use public art.

This project was tabled due to low attendance at the May 2018 meeting, and again at the June meeting due to low attendance. Commissioners were requested to all send their notes from the April meeting to staff to compile for review at the next meeting.

6. Brief Commission and Staff Communications

7. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm, to the next meeting scheduled on July 9, 2018 at 7:15 in the City Hall, Council Chambers conference room.

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

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION





Bike Obelisk Sculpture on Third Street



Concept drawing for Bike Pump Track in Community Park

City of Davis
23 Russell Blvd
Davis, CA 95616

To Mayor Davis and Members of the Davis City Council:

We are writing this letter to express our appreciation for your decision to increase the budget for arts funding last year. We dramatically increased our support and services to the arts community with this additional funding and forged new, impactful partnerships with a number of local artists and organizations.

We supported public access to several festivals and national arts gatherings, including the Imagining America National Conference, painting and ceramics festivals, and the expansion of Davis Shakespeare Festival program. In addition, we established a link between the City and UC Davis with the launch of the Ground and Field Theatre Festival, a program that invited the Davis community to engage directly with emerging playwrights and artists.

In addition, we supported new and emerging arts programs such as the Mellon Music Festival, an event that will bring celebrated musicians from across the nation to Davis. We have also supported new projects that use unconventional and liminal spaces in town, including the Unitrans Live Music Project, an initiative that brings music to the community in transit!

Over the course of a year, we supported artists working in mediums ranging from iPhone video to clay to light. With this work, we seek to increase the accessibility of the arts in Davis and create opportunities for every resident, regardless of age or background, to engage with the City's arts program.

The arts stimulate the economy, increase well-being in a community, and foster a sense of belonging. With your support, we can continue widening the reach and impact of the arts program in Davis. We look forward to greater collaboration and recommendations for innovative and meaningful programming in our community.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in the important role of the arts in Davis. Your leadership is helping to bring tangible change and growth to the community through continued investment in the arts.

Sincerely,
City of Davis Civic Arts Commission