



**Civic Arts Commission
Minutes
Monday, October 14, 2019**

Commissioners Present: Maya Makker (chair), Carol Smith, Zinzi Raymond, Chad Fisk, Patricia Quinn, Ruth Santer, Diane Carlson-Biggs

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Zimmerman (alternate),

City Council Liaison: Will Arnold (absent)

Staff: Rachel Hartsough, Arts & Culture Manager

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Makker at 6:49.

2. Approval of Agenda

Action: Commissioner Carlson-Biggs moved and Commissioner Santer seconded approval of the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

- Community Arts Grants guidelines have been released, and applications will be due on October 25th. Information is available on the city's arts website at www.cityofdavis.org/arts, and staff is trying to publicize the grant through Arts Alliance Davis members.

4. Public Comment.

None.

5. 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 September 9, 2019

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

6. Regular Items

A. Public Programs

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

- **Davis Musical Theatre Company**
- **Stories on Stage**
- **Pence Gallery**

- **Davis Shakespeare Festival**
- **International House Davis**
- **Ground and Field Theatre Festival**

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

- Music on the Bus
- Juneteenth
- California Conference on the Advancement of Ceramic Art
- Art of Painting in the 21st Century
- Mellon Music Festival
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- Davis Music Fest
- The Pence Gallery/Roma Devanbu installation
- Boris Allenou
- Davis Shakespeare Festival
- ACME Theatre Company

B. Recreation & Parks Commission Collaboration

Commissioners received a brief update from staff regarding collaboration between Art and Parks programming for several upcoming grants. Staff requested 2 commissioners to serve on a sub-committee with Recreation & Parks commissioners, primarily to look at opportunities to collaborate on grants funding to enhance art and creative activities in Davis parks.

Commissioners Santer and Makker volunteered to serve in this capacity.

C. Waste Water Treatment Plant/Municipal Arts Funding

Staff has contracted with Cheng+Snyder to support the initial community engagement process, which has been bid for \$10,500. The first phase of the project, which precedes the contracted portion of the work, is to engage with the students in Brett Snyder's design course, who will be focusing the efforts of their work this quarter on the Waste Water treatment Plant public art project. Student efforts will inform the next phase of the project, which will include community outreach.

D. Public Art Donations

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

- Davis Centennial Seal at Hunt-Boyer

Artist Susan Shelton has completed a large portion of research and work on the clay model that will be cast into a bronze seal, and installed in the ground in front of the Hunt Boyer Mansion. Plans will be shared with the Historical Resources Management Commission (HRMC) once complete. Lead donors Bill and Nancy Roe have begun fundraising efforts to gather full support for the project, and landscape architect Margot Anderson has begun work on a plaza design to accommodate installation of the bronze seal once complete. The Civic Arts Commission has committed \$25,000 of the total project budget (approximately \$175,000) to cover the costs of installation. On October 5th a small gathering of donors and potential donors was invited to

preview the work-in-progress at the studio of Susan Shelton. To date close to \$100,000 has been committed to the project through community donations.

- Art Inventory/Public Art Map

Commissioners received an informational update on the status of the public art map, which has been finalized and approved at all levels in the CMO, and has been sent to the printer. A final proof has been approved, and the map is in the final stage of printing. Next steps will include exploring what format to use to make the digital version available to the public, and staff has been working with GIS staff and researching online tools for this purpose.

E. Public Art Collection

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

- *Davis Needle* at 3rd/University (recently installed-awaiting final configuration of lighting component)
- Russell Greening Project at City Hall (the project has been temporarily placed on hold pending resolution of funding issues.)
- Senior Center patio redesign (Upcoming RFP)
- Bicycle Pump Track (Upcoming RFP)
- Covell Path Reconstruction at Little League field (Upcoming RFP)
The next RFQ that will be released by the city is for this project. Commissioners discussed ideas to inform the RFQ for artists who wish to apply to work on a commission for public art. Suggestions included: something that says “Davis”, a silhouette with back-lighting, colorful/programmable lighting, a baseball theme, an active play/sports theme, kids/families playing, perforated screen on curved metal, train/railroad theme, dance/theatre/sports theme. Ideas will be incorporated into the final RFQ.
- Covell/Manzanita Pump fencing element (Upcoming RFP)
- Poleline/Olive Overcrossing shade element (Upcoming RFP)
- *Balance Beam* siting at Veterans Memorial theatre lawn
- *Chicken + Egg Situation* (in discussion)
- *Pentamonium* (in discussion)
- Mary McChesney *Frog Totem* (purchased approved-siting location in progress)

F. Maintenance update

The Commission received a maintenance update on the following artwork:

- *Watchman #8*
- *I am Quercus*
- *Source/Resource*

G. Veterans Memorial Theatre

Beginning on July 1, 2019, operation of the VMT will be under the arts & cultural affairs program, and over the next 1-2 years we will begin the process of evaluating how the space is used by the community, and how we might implement physical improvements and update existing policies and protocols in order to better utilize this community resource. During the summer and fall, staff worked with Sapsis Rigging and our city Fire Marshall to conduct safety evaluations of the stage rigging and a fire inspection of selected parts of the theatre complex. Additionally, staff worked with our Police department to conduct a CPTed (Crime prevention through Environmental Design) evaluation. Results from all reviews will be provided to our Facilities Department to implement needed repair and safety upgrades. In the fall a full fire inspection will be conducted.

Staff will begin working more closely with performing arts groups who are using the space, and those who wish to use the space, to come up with new ways to activate programming there.

A new theatre manager Joseph Fletcher has been hired and will start on October 14th. Joseph comes to the city with a wealth of information and experience about theatre management and production.

This will initially be an hourly .50FTE position, with the goal of building the role as the theatre becomes more fully utilized.

H. 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. This work will continue at future meetings as time permits.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

- A. Long-Range topics for agenda—none were raised at this time.
- B. Staff gave a brief overview of the upcoming community arts grant review process.

- 8. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm, to the next meeting at 6:45 pm on Monday, November 18th at 23 Russell Boulevard, in the Community Chambers Conference Room.

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