



**Civic Arts Commission
Minutes
Monday, November 18, 2019**

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

Commissioners Absent: Patricia Quinn

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 6:53.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

- Downtown Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) will be holding a meeting, likely on December 4th, to solicit commission feedback on the Draft Downtown Specific plan. More details to follow.

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 October 14, 2019

Action: Commissioner Carlson-Biggs moved and Commissioner Smith 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:

- **Stories on Stage**
- **Pence Gallery**
- **International House Davis**
- **Bike City Theatre Company**

- **Arts Alliance Davis**

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
- Davis Cherry Blossom Festival

B. Waste Water Treatment Plant/Municipal Arts Funding

The city has initiated work with local Cheng+Snyder to support the initial community engagement process for the roll-out of the public art initiative connected with funds from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This process will hold community information gathering and engagement to develop a scope for how the project funding will be used. Prior to that beginning, staff are working this quarter with students in Brett Snyder's UCD Design class to evaluate aspects of the WWTP operations to develop materials and inform the public community process, which will begin in 2020.

UCD Design student presentations on the Wastewater treatment Plan Project (WWTP) will be presented on November 20th from 9:30-11:30, and on December 11th from 10:30-noon. Commissioners are invited to attend.

C. 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 continued to refine 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. A staff report soliciting input will be shared with the Historical Resources Management Commission (HRMC) on November 18, 2019. Lead donors Bill and Nancy Roe have been successful in their fundraising efforts thus far, and have commitments for nearly \$100,000 in community support. Landscape architect Margot Anderson has generated several draft concepts for 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.

- Art Inventory/Public Art Map

The public art pocket map is complete! We printed 11,000 copies of the map and will begin distributing and promoting it. Art and GIS staff have completed the process to identify all city and privately owned artwork in Davis and enter it into a GIS program. We now have completed a comprehensive digital record for each piece of artwork, containing historical records, images, special maintenance needs, history or damage or repair, geo-location, etc. 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.

D. Public Art Collection

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

- *Davis Needle*-work has been completed.
- 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)
- Richards I-80 Project (Upcoming RFP)
- *Balance Beam* siting at Veterans Memorial theatre lawn
- *Chicken + Egg Situation* (in discussion)
- *Pentamonium* (in discussion)
- *Frog Totem* by Mary McChesney (purchased approved-siting location in progress)

E. Maintenance update

The Commission received a maintenance update on the following artwork:

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

F. Community Arts Grants

The Commission began the first phase of evaluating applicants for the 2020 grants season. A total of 30 grants were received, requesting \$140,545. Commissioner Smith noted that 50% of

the applications were from first time applicants. Suggestions for review were shared by staff and discussed among commissioners.

Commissioners reviewed all 30 grants, and will return to the next meeting with additional considerations for final review and recommendation. Some considerations included recent grants awarded to applicants, inclusion of compelling artistic materials and samples, identified need in the community, and inclusion of diversity in programming.

Some suggestions were raised for future grants guidelines:

- Request more/better examples of artwork to support artistic technical skills
- Support improved methods of evaluation-could we have some standards to share? Or examples of different types of evaluation that grantees could use if needed?

G. Commission Goals and Objectives

The Commission began a workshop-style activity in 2018 to develop priorities and goals for future Commission direction. This project will be resumed in the future, as time permits.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

- A.** Organizational Development grants from the CA Arts Council
 - B.** Consideration of city purchase of portable set risers for mobile audience seating
- 8. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm, to the next meeting at 6:45 pm on Monday, December 9th at 23 Russell Boulevard, in the Community Chambers Conference Room.

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