



# Minutes City of Sacramento Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

## COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Linda Merksamer, Chair  
Daniel Gorfain, Vice-Chair

Joanna de la Cuesta  
Margaret Park-Landau  
Patti Miller

Charles Barr  
Daniel Pane  
Jennifer Tachera

## CITY STAFF:

*Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director  
Randy Mackay, Administrative Analyst  
Jeanette Louis, Typist Clerk III*

*Historic City Hall  
915 I Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room  
July 9, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.*

*The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is a board of the City Council and Board of Supervisors with authority to advise the agencies on all matters concerning the arts, including pending legislation, allocation of funds, development of programs, assist artist groups or individuals in developing arts programs, and other activities as established.*

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken (3 minutes maximum) on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

**Notice to Lobbyists:** When addressing the Commission you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160).

**Speaker slips are located in the lobby of the hearing room and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Clerk.**

*Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.*

The order of agenda items are listed for reference and may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the Commission. The Agenda provides a general description and staff recommendations; however, the Commission may take action other than what is recommended. The Agenda is available for public review three (3) days prior to the meeting. Hard copies are available from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (25 cents per page)

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission at (916) 566-3992 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

# MINUTES

July 9, 2007

*Street Address, 915 I Street 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor, Hearing Room*

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

## Call to Order – 2:08 p.m.

**Roll Call -** Present: Gorfain, Pane, Miller, Tachera, Park, Barr, Geiger  
Late: Merksamer  
Absent: de la Cuesta, Mahon

## Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Anyone may request an item to be removed for separate consideration.

### 1. **Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2007**

**Recommendation:** Approve Meeting Minutes

**Contact:** Jeanette Louis, Typist Clerk III, 566-3992.

2:05 p.m. Meeting called to order.

June 11<sup>th</sup> approved as written.

June 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, Linda Merksamer corrected the minutes stating that on item one, Deaccession of "Fleet Shadows" and Acceptance of "Beach Cruiser" into the Art in Public Places Collection for Cosumnes Correctional Center (County), that she recused herself, and did not abstain as noted previously. After this correction, minutes were approved as written.

## Staff Reports

Staff reports include oral presentations and those recommending receive and file.

### 2. **Nomination and Approval of the Chairs for following Committees: Art in Public Places (APP), Arts Education (AE), Grants and Cultural Programs (GCP) and Visual Arts Program (VAC)**

**Recommendation:** Approve nominations for Committee Chairs.

**Contacts:** Linda Merksamer, Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3992.

Nominations for committee chairs and co-chairs were put forward.

Motion: Approve the nomination of:

- John Nicholas as Chair and Nancy Gotthart as Vice-Chair for Art in Public Places Committee,
- Sarah Anderberg as Arts Education Committee Chair,
- Griff Field as Grants and Cultural Programs Committee Chair and

▪ Kim Curry-Evans as the Visual Arts Committee Chair. Barr moved.  
Second: Geiger.  
Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.  
Motion Carries.

**3. Arts Plan for the Studios for the Performing Arts (SPA)  
(CIP#BC37) (City)**

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the arts plan for Studios for the Performing Arts (SPA)

**Contact:** Linda Bloom, Administrator, Art in Public Places, 566-3971 and  
Cari LaZansky Art in Public Places, 566-3977.

Art in Public places is seeking approval of arts plan for (SPA) Studios for the Performing Arts. Located at corners of 14<sup>th</sup> and H Streets it will be co-funded by the City of Sacramento and four non-profit Arts Organizations: Sacramento Ballet, California Musical Theatre, Sacramento Philharmonic and the Sacramento Opera. APP Committee approved applying APP administrative fee to Public dollars and exempting the fund-raised portion of the budget. Also Art in Public Places will charge just a 10% administrative fee to allow additional artwork. Of the Project budget total of \$180,000 \$18,000 is administration, \$20,000 will be set aside for maintenance, leaving \$160,000 for the artwork.

After discussion with the 4 clients and Architects (Dreyfuss and Blackford), two recommendations were made for the art plan:

- 1) A sculpture and lighting landmark which can be seen both day and night and installed in the stairwell or lobby. The project is "fast track: with completion in next 18 months and may include the input of major donor.
- 2) A donor wall is the second element and architectural team is building a niche for the inside sculpture/donor wall. Bloom clarified that there would be a relief sculpture that will stand alone. Despite the fact that city ordinance states signage can be within the scope of public art budget, the commissioners are uncomfortable supporting the recognition of donors with public art funds. Bloom agreed to carry this message back to design team.

Commissioners Geiger, Pane and Miller agree to serve on the upcoming artist selection panel.

Motion: Approval of the arts plan for the Studios Performing Arts (SPA).Park.

Second Tachera.

Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Recusal (Merksamer), 2 Absent.

Motion Carries.

#### 4. **Art in Public Places Infrastructure and Survey**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contact:** Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3989 and Linda Bloom, Administrator, Art in Public Places, 566-3971.

**APP Infrastructure Plan and the Survey** handout was distributed. Executive Director, Halpern reviewed 9 items on survey including: Project Tracking System, 600 Piece Collection Management, Conservator Initiative, Arts Education, Review and Update of Art in Public Places Documents, Develop and Institute Evaluation Methodology, Develop and Outreach Program and Development of the Gallery Program. Halpern noted the accomplishments since she developed the Plan a year ago. She noted that many staff and consultants alike have been working collaboratively to strengthen many aspects of the Art in Public Places Program.

#### **Survey – Linda Bloom**

Results of national survey were presented, showing that APP has comparable programs to its size, although understaffed. Bloom stated that our Art in Public Places Program, thirty this year, is one of the oldest programs in the country. This is also one of the only city-county programs around. The docent program is rare. Bloom underscored that while the survey is not “scientific” much useful feedback surfaced and it will be a great tool for future endeavors. Rosenberg stated that responses improved once the survey went online with use of Survey Monkey. Rosenberg confirmed that the raw data is also available at the commission office if you are interested.

The Watt Avenue Art Dedication will take place on Friday, July 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Wal Mart parking lot at Watt and El Camino.

#### 5. **Discussion:** Is public art accessible to the public?

**Contacts:** Dan Gorfain, Commissioner, 566-3992 and Linda Bloom,

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

Gorfain observes a trend where public art is “going inside public buildings” and it is important to insure that the art is accessible to the public. Furthermore he brought up the issues of : pooling a percentage of project funds for use with other than the originally funded project, the authority of SHRA to negotiate reduced APP requirements, and bond limitations placed on the use of APP funds and what else is happening around the country with other organizations.

Bloom suggested covering the accessibility issue now and responded that at a minimum the art must be “reachable” by the public. If a building is considered inaccessible to the public, then the APP requirement can be waved. This may mean going through security, being escorted through the facility on a tour by art docents or with building staff. However, public art is never installed in a private office. Since 9-11, security has increased. Barr pointed out that indoor art is much easier to secure and less costly to maintain. Bloom stated that approximately 50% of the Public Art collection is located outdoors currently. Bloom reminded commissioners that an arts plan can be disapproved if there is a publicly accessible problem.

Bloom pointed out that "public art" is not just for local residents, but for tourists (such as at the airport or on our Rapid Transit line.) It is also for public employees in city or county buildings.

**6. LiveScan Policy for Teaching Artists**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contacts:** Erika Kraft, Coordinator, Arts Education, 566-3983 and Randall Mackay, Administrative Analyst, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3982.

Kraft stated Live Scan, fingerprinting and police record checks are essential for Arts Education and other areas of agency working with and educating children. City Parks and Recreation previously handled this function, but records could not be shared with the Commission. Now SMAC will be its own reporting agency, with initial status and periodic updates. Mackay reported that the application has been completed and submitted to the Department of Justice. Files received will be locked and destroyed following protocol. Finance department took the lead on this, working with new attorney, Angela Casagrande. This will be presented to City Council on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Update: Artist Residency Institute**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contact:** Erika Kraft, Coordinator, Arts Education, 566-3983 and Zenaida Lopez-Cid, Program Assistant, Arts Education, 566-3991.

Kraft clarified agenda misprint from Artist Registry item as: "Artist Residency Institute." Forty applications were received from visual, performing and literary artists. Twenty five participants were accepted into the Institute and have completed five sessions of interactive workshops geared to building teaching skills. Program is now in the "residency phase" with artists delivering artist residencies in sites ranging from adult, to special needs and child education programs. SMAC will fund the first 3 residency sessions for each artist and sites will pay for further sessions beyond that.

The program will be offered in some form in the next year. Kraft has submitted a grant letter of intent to the Dana Foundation for funding to collaborative with the Placer County Arts Council, focusing on artists in more rural county areas, not just the urban areas.

Merksamer commented on the warm testimony presented to commissioners from Dr. Rosalind Flynn and commended Kraft and her staff for a very successful effort.

**8. Definition of Quorum for Committee**

**Recommendation:** Change to simple majority.

**Contact:** Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3989.

A long-standing issue at the the committee level has been that of the size of a quorum. Atty has advised that Section 4.3 of SMAC By-Laws can be amended to change the quorum to a simple majority.

Tachera is interested in working on article IV which relates to the committees and she will draft language for the next meeting and will work with Halpern.

9. **Chair's Report:** Initial Comments

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contact:** Linda Merksamer, Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3992.

Only report item is "thanks to everyone for your hard work!"

10. **Director's Report:** Agency Report, Economic Impact Study, Hewlett Foundation, CAC LSPP, Cultural Data Project, July 14<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event, SMAC Mission & Vision Statement, Commissioner Quorum, Pins, Next Meeting Location at Historic City Hall.

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contact:** Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 566-3989.

Please attend "Experience the Boulevard," sponsored by Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy, on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.from 12:00 Noon until 6:00 p.m. SMAC will have a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (inside the commission) for our neighbors and community at large. Thank you to committee members: Gorfain, Scronce, Geiger, Reynolds, Lopez-Cid and Chair, Roberta McClellan.

Handout on the Values and Mission Statement was distributed. Review these comments prior to the September Retreat. Thank you to Oncken, Merksamer, Park and Rosenberg for clarifying some of this language further.

Electronic survey for the business plan had 2400 responses. The responses at round tables and town hall, surveys are now posted on the Web Site. Review all before next meeting. Halpern recognized Rosenberg efforts.

Hewlett Foundation Presentation event occurred; data reflects there are not enough people in line to fill in for those leaving art s positions in the next few years. The sector is in a state of huge change.

**Public Comments - Matters Not on the Agenda**

None

**Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members**

August 13<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting will take place at Historic City Hall at 2:00 p.m. Vice Chair, Dan Gorfain will be leading the meeting as Linda will be away.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.