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MINUTES OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 29, 1987

PRESENT: Carson Wiley ABSENT: Judy Gordon
Tom Witt
Michael Himovitz
Rudy Cuellar
David Mogavero
Kim Heckes

APPC welcomed Armando Cid, Andy Plescia, and Tim Quintero to the meeting.

The minutes of the April 3, 1987 meeting were unanimously approved by the APPC.

RENO CLUB MURAL

Andy Plescia from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) gave a history of the acquisition of the Reno Club site. The SHRA has purchased the Thunderbird Hotel, City Center Hotel and Reno Club on 12th Street. The two hotels have been demolished and they are pursuing the demolition of the Reno Club. SHRA was approached by Armando Cid, Tim Quintero (Alkali PAC) and City Council members as they were concerned about preserving the mural on an exterior wall of the Reno Club; the mural was created by Armando Cid. The Arts Commission was also approached about three concerns: 1) preservation of the Reno Club mural; 2) preservation of murals throughout the Sacramento Community; 3) Civil Code Section 987, pertaining to preservation of artwork. At the conclusion of a second meeting with SHRA staff, Arts Commission staff, Alkali PAC staff, the artist, and City Council members, the following was recommended: 1) SHRA will demolish the Reno Club, as the artwork can not be removed without severe damage; 2) In compensation and as a replacement effort, artist Armando Cid will be named lead artist and awarded the 2% for Art monies to be expended by new development on the Reno Club site (as outlined in the City's Memorandum of Understanding with the SHRA). The replacement artwork will be of a size and material conducive to the new development. In the Request for Proposal (RFP) to developers for the site, they will be informed that the artist has been designated for the APP component. The designated artist can bring in additional artists to work on the project. The artist and architect will be able to collaborate on the design of the development and the integration of the artwork. The Alkali PAC would like to be kept advised on the design. The RFP to developers will go out at the end of 1987. There will be a two year period with no building on the site.

There was much discussion regarding the feasibility of saving the mural; the wall it is painted on is constructed of chicken wire and stucco. SHRA technical staff have reviewed the structure of the wall and determined that it can not be removed without substantial damage to the wall and artwork. A ball park estimate is that \$60 - \$70,000 will be allocated APP monies; there was the question of using the APP monies to remove and relocate the artwork, reconstructing it at another site. The APP monies would not be appropriated for at least another year and a half and currently there are no monetary resources to be used to preserve the mural. May 15th is the scheduled date for demolishing the mural. The SHRA, Alkali PAC and Armando Cid all believe that there is no possible way to save the wall and mural.

Armando discussed that he was working for a community agency funded with CETA money when he created the mural. He also created the tile murals at the Washington Square apartments, before the City and County APP programs were created. APPC asked Armando what his initial feelings were on the situation. He doesn't want to see any art destroyed; his first reaction was to save the mural. He feels that the larger issue is the need for a City-wide inventory of public artworks and a policy for preservation of those artworks. He also feels that there would be more artistic leeway in creating a new mural. Armando felt that initially there were two options available: 1) document the mural at its current site and find a wall on which to re-paint the image; 2) be designated as lead artist and have artistic control on a funded project. The mural was created in 1976 in effort to focus in on the Mexican community during the bicentennial. Currently, the Mexican community is being displaced in Alkali Flat; in the new mural his emphasis would be to give something back to the La Raza community. He concurs with the SHRA recommendation of designation as the lead artist on the new development on the Reno Club site.

It was questioned as to how many similar projects there are on SHRA property; SHRA doesn't currently own any sites with artwork incorporated into buildings in the Alkali area.

If the owner of the Reno Club had demolished the building prior to its purchase by the SHRA, there would have been no funding available to recreate the existing mural or create a new mural.

There was discussion that SMAC should formulate a policy regarding the preservation of public artwork.

APPC deliberated and agreed that Armando Cid was the most qualified artist for this project. There was concern of setting a precedent for similar situations, but it was discussed that each APP art program is unique and thus must be reviewed in context. It was also discussed that many sectors of the community are in favor of this recommendation (SHRA, Alkali PAC, City Council, the artist and community).

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APPC recommended that Armando Cid be named as lead artist on a future APP project to be located on the Reno Club site. APPC feels that it is a unique situation and further discussion should be pursued, to set guidelines for similar situations. 4 ayes; 1 abstention (Mogavero). This recommendation will go to the Arts Commission at its May meeting.

LIGHT RAIL CELEBRATION

APP staff has contacted Regional Transit regarding the feasibility of utilizing the Light Rail trains as part of the celebration honoring the Light Rail artists. The trains are available for rental at \$200 per hour (including an operator). It may be possible to contact RT General Manager David Boggs and request a donation of the trains; inquiry should come from the SMAC Director. There was much discussion regarding the proposal, and the following action should be taken: 1) SMAC staffmembers Kim Heckes and Eric Heilman will develop an outline of the proposal; 2) proposal will be submitted to Chuck Miller for recommendations on budget amounts; 3) Advocacy and APP committees will meet and flesh out proposal; 4) proposal will be presented to the Arts Commission for recommendation.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.