



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Art and Culture Commission

Monday, June 24, 2019 at 7 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, EL Cerrito

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:03 p.m. **CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Cazden called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Present: Chair Ruth Cazden; Vice-Chair Judith Tannenbaum; Members Richard Fernandez, George Gager, Christopher Walsh, Blake Washington **Absent:** Member Allison Cooper (excused)

1. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Council Liaison Janet Abelson reported on major actions by City Council at recent Council meetings.

Staff Liaison Maya Williams provided an update on the California Sound Collective orchestra series, offered through the Rec department this summer. She also reported that El Cerrito was awarded a grant by the California Arts Council to support Poet Laureate Dani Gabriel.

Member Tannenbaum reported that the Poet Laureate and the ECCRU Artist in Residence events and exhibits at the library have been well-received. The library will henceforth pay artists who hold events at the library.

Member Fernandez reported that he attended and enjoyed the Commissioner Recognition Dinner earlier this month.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the 1) March 25, 2019 meeting, 2) the May 13, 2019 special meeting, and 3) the May 28, 2019 meeting.

Moved/Second: Member (Fernandez/Tannenbaum) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting, the May 13, 2019 special meeting, and the May 28, 2019 meeting. **Ayes:** Members Cazden, Fernandez, Gager, Tannenbaum, Walsh, Washington. **Noes:** None.

4. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Discussion and action regarding meeting for July. Staff recommends moving July meeting due to work-related scheduling conflicts.

Moved/Second: Member (Tannenbaum/Walsh) **Action:** Passed a motion to cancel the regular July 22, 2019 meeting and set a special meeting on July 15, 2019. **Ayes:** Members Cazden, Fernandez, Gager, Tannenbaum, Walsh, Washington. **Noes:** None.

5. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT -

Taylor Melton, of the Recreation Department, made a presentation requesting financial support for a proposed Environmental Awareness Art & Essay Contest, a creative challenge for teens. (Attachment)

Moved/Second: Member (Tannenbaum/Washington) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve \$250 for prize money for the Environmental Awareness Art & Essay Contest; also to approve an amount not to exceed \$200 for supplies, should a workshop take place. **Ayes:** Members Cazden, Fernandez, Gager, Tannenbaum, Walsh, Washington. **Noes:** None.

6. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT -

Bob Helliesen, of the El Cerrito Free Folk Festival, made a presentation requesting financial support for the 2019 Free Folk Festival.

Moved/Second: Member (Cazden/Fernandez) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve \$1,000 to be used for custodial expenses incurred in putting on the Free Folk Festival. **Ayes:** Members Cazden, Fernandez, Gager, Tannenbaum, Walsh, Washington. **Noes:** None.

7. CIVIC ARTS PROGRAM -

Jennifer Lovvorn, City of Berkeley Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, discussed the arts program in Berkeley. Future agenda item: discussion of the possibility of El Cerrito moving to a two-tiered Public Art ordinance model.

8. WORK PLAN REVIEW -

Discussion of the draft 2019-2020 Work Plan.

Moved/Second: Member (Gager/Tannenbaum) **Action:** Passed a motion to direct staff to finalize the work plan and to seek a date on which to present it to the City Council. **Ayes:** Members Cazden, Fernandez, Gager, Tannenbaum, Walsh, Washington. **Noes:** None.

9. ECCRU UPDATE -

Commission directed staff to contact Member Cooper and Linda Levitsky, Executive Director of the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, in regards to being on the ECCRU selection panel.

10. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION -

- a) Discussion regarding ACC table at July 4 Festival. Members to staff table. Staff to provide materials by July 1.
- b) Tannenbaum reported that no decision has been made regarding the ACC/HRC joint "Housing/Home" project.

11. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES -**

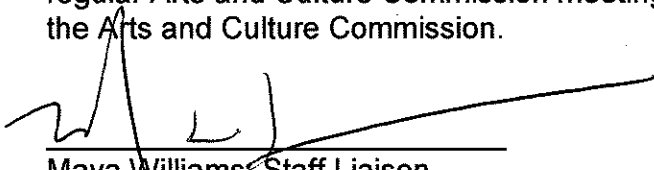
- a) Performance Space subcommittee: no update.
- b) Publicity subcommittee: no update.

12. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Ruth Cazden, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Arts and Culture Commission meeting of June 24, 2019 as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.



Maya Williams, Staff Liaison

Environmental Awareness Art & Essay Contest: A Creative Challenge for Teens

Our Ecological Footprint is defined as *the impact of human activities on nature and the environment*. It compares our use of natural resources with earth's ability to regenerate them. This contest is an opportunity for local teens to use their writing and artistic talents to bring attention to the importance of reducing our impact on the environment.

THEME: *The Most Important Step to Reducing our Environmental Footprint*

Write an essay or create an art piece on what you feel is the most effectual step(s) humans can take to reduce their impact on earth. What practices can we put into our daily lives that protect the land we live on, the water we rely on, and the air we breathe? What can you imagine and create to bring awareness to these practices?

Potential Focus Topics

- Strategies for Going Green
- Water Conservation
- Mass Transit
- Preventing Air Pollution
- Benefits of Gardening/Composting
- Reducing the Use of Plastic
- Creative Reuse

WHO CAN ENTER: Teens who live or go to school in El Cerrito are encouraged to participate in this Art & Essay Contest. Teens should enter divisions based on age at the time of entry:

Junior Division: Age 13-14 • Senior Division: Age 15-17

HOW TO ENTER: WHAT TO SUBMIT

Art: Your work may be in any 2D medium including painting, watercolor, drawing, digital art, photography, and more. All artwork should include a label with the name of the piece and artist, as well as an artist statement of up to 250 words.

Essays: Written interpretations of the theme including fiction, nonfiction, analytical essays and stories are acceptable in this category. Essay should be in 12-point type, Arial font; double-spaced with 1-inch margins and written in English. Include your name and the title of your work in this document.

Submission length: Jr. Division: 500-1,000 words (2-3 pages); Sr. Division: 1,000-1,300 words (3-4 pages)

HOW TO ENTER: WHERE & WHEN

Where: A hard, original copy of your submission should be delivered to the El Cerrito Community Center at 7007 Moeser Ln. El Cerrito, CA, 94530; Attention Taylor Melton. All submissions should include a completed El Cerrito Recreation Department Fall 2019 Registration Form. If your address is not in El Cerrito, please make a note with the name of your El Cerrito School. It is recommended that all artwork be photographed/copied prior to submission, and a copy of all essays be made.

When: Submissions will be accepted Wednesday, September 25 through Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

WHY PARTICIPATE: Be recognized at the Essay and Art Show on Friday, November 15, 2019; Have your work showcased; Winners will receive **awards and prizes!**

ESSAY & ART SHOWCASE: Submissions will be reviewed between 10/31-11/12. **An Essay & Art Show will take place at the El Cerrito Community Center on Friday, 11/15 from 4-5:30pm.** The event will begin with an Open House for the contestants, their family/friends, and the general public, followed by an announcement of the contest winners and awarding of prizes. There will be one award presented to each category, in each division (4 awards total). Honorable mentions will also be recognized.

