



MINUTES

MEETING OF THE Arts and Culture Commission

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
This meeting was held via teleconference.

Staff Liaison
Alexandra Orogas | 510-215-4302
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This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington. Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Absent:** None

2. **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

Chair Cooper announced an opportunity to join the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and the Contra Costa Civic Theatre in a roundtable discussion of the arts in El Cerrito.

City Councilmember Tessa Rudnick introduced herself as the new Council Liaison to the ACC.

Staff Liaison Alex Orogas reported on upcoming City staff transitions.

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved/Second: Member (Cazden/Washington) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting with one amendment. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

5. **BUDGET UPDATE**

Staff Liaison Orogas provided current information on the balance in and possible expenditures from the Public Art Fund.

6. **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – MINI GRANT PROGRAM**

Erin Merritt made a presentation on her proposed "Neighborhood Stories" project, in request for financial support by the ACC. Discussion followed.

Moved/Second: Member (Nichols/Cooper) **Action:** Passed a motion to support the "Neighborhood Stories" project in an amount of \$1000. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF POET LAUREATE

Member Helion presented information on the Poet Laureate selection process. The selection panel recommended 2 Poets Laureate. Discussion followed.

Moved/Second: Member (Cooper/Washington) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Eevelyn Mitchell and Brandon Brown as the next El Cerrito Poets Laureate. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Member Courtney Helion. **Noes:** Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. Motion failed.

Moved/Second: Member (Cooper/Cazden) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Eevelyn Mitchell as the next El Cerrito Poet Laureate. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

8. PUBLIC UTILITY ART BOX PILOT PROGRAM

Member Nichols presented information on the Utility Box artist selection process. The selection panel recommended one design from each of 3 artists. Discussion followed.

Moved/Second: Member (Wiens/Cooper) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Richard Cerezo, Martial, and Jesse White as the artists in the Utility Box Pilot Program. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

9. PARKS AND RECREATION COLLABORATION

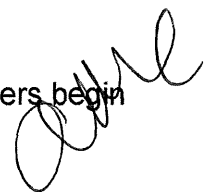
Discussion regarding work of the Recreation Liaison Subcommittee was deferred to the next meeting.

10. WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

Discussion about the 2020 Workplan and ongoing projects was deferred to the next meeting.

11. UPCOMING ACC-SPONSORED EVENTS

No immediate events. Chair Cooper suggested that the commissioners begin thinking of possible ideas for celebrating Arts Month in October.



12. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

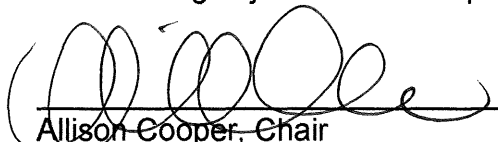
- a. Community Outreach Subcommittee (Cazden, Gager, Washington): no update
- b. Recreation Liaison subcommittee (Cazden, Helion, Cooper): awaiting feedback from most recent meeting with Rec staff.
- c. Visual Arts Subcommittee (Cooper, Helion, Nichols): The library signage project is moving forward slowly; Heidi Goldstein presented at the City Council.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

See items #9 and #10 above.

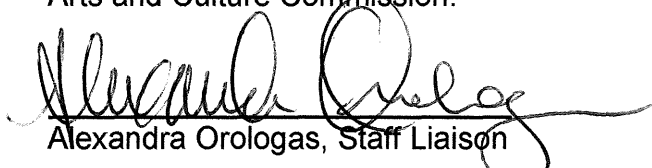
14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



Allison Cooper, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Arts and Culture Commission meeting of January 25, 2021 as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.



Alexandra Orogas, Staff Liaison