

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 2017
City Hall Community Meeting Room
250 Hamilton Ave
7:06 p.m.

Commissioners Present: **Jim Migdal, Ben Miyaji, Loren Gordon, and Nia Taylor.**
Amanda Ross joined the meeting at 7:07.

Commissioners Absent: **Mila Zelkha, Dara Olmsted Silverstein**

Staff Present: **Elise DeMarzo**, Public Art Program Director
Rhyena Halpern, Community Services Assistant Director
Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Migdal called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 16, 2017 PAC Regular Meeting Minutes **Moved:** Ben Miyaji,
Second: Jim Migdal. **All in favor.**

STAFF COMMENTS: Staff congratulated Chair Migdal, Commissioners Ross & Taylor on their re-appointments. Staff also welcomed a newly appointed commissioner Hsinya Shen, whose term commences on June 1, 2017. Shen’s professional background is in law, and she is a self-professed lifetime supporter of the arts. The new commissioner present in the audience addressed the PAC to express her enthusiasm about serving on the Commission. Staff reported on a one day installation of the Truth Booth on April 19th – more than 80 “truths” were recorded and hundreds of conversations took place on the plaza about truth, transparency, and government. Staff reported on Joyce Hsu’s support “tee” installed in May at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, with the installation of “Birdie” timed for August or September once the grasses and landscaping are established. Staff reported on the completion of the mural repair project along California Avenue bike and pedestrian tunnel. The original mural by Oscar Castillo, deteriorated due to water-seeping walls and multiple bike collisions with the walls, was “refreshed” by a Bay Area-based muralist Morgan Bricca. Staff announced the new logo developed for the Public Art Program by San Francisco-based design group Public Design. Staff provided overall update on completion of a three-day public art event Code:ART with more details to follow as a non-action information Item 6 on the agenda..

ACTION:

1. **Junior Museum and Zoo** – Staff provided overall background information on the development project of the new Junior Museum and Zoo, and described the artist selection: an open call to artists

launched in December 2016 yielded over 250 applications. Of the 181 qualifying artists, staff conducted three pre-panels that narrowed the list to the final 20 artists to be considered by the selection panel. The selection panel chose four artists and artist teams to give presentations about their previous work and design development process to the panel April 27, 2017. Panelists were asked to score the artists in three categories: 1- Strength of previous work in similar environments; 2- Suitability to the Junior Museum and Zoo; 3- Durability of Materials; and 4- High degree of audience engagement. After the interviews, the panelists scored the artists, and Charles Sowers was the highest ranked artist. Staff did a presentation to demonstrate examples of previous work by the selected artist. Staff reported that they intend to engage Sowers in a design contract, then bring the design back to the PAC prior to entering into a fabrication/installation contract. Staff recommended that the Commissioners approve artist Charles Sowers as the artist for the JMZ project. **Moved:** Commissioner Gordon moved to approve Charles Sowers as the project artist. **Second:** Commissioner Taylor. **All in Favor.**

2. **Bike Boulevards** – Staff provided an overview of the pilot project: the City would like to incorporate art crosswalks targeting the Louis and Fielding raised intersection near Ohlone school, a residential; area in Palo Alto and recommended the allocation of funds for the Bike Boulevards / Art Crosswalks pilot project. Municipal funding phased over several years is available to support public art in the bike boulevards. Staff is exploring two possibilities for the integration of art in the identified intersection: cover the entire area, or have creative crosswalks at the entrances and have the raised stamped area in the center. Staff conducted preliminary research to estimate costs for both options, vendors and types of material and methods of application. Thermoplastic material is recommended for longevity and safety concerns. Price estimates include artist design fees, material and installation costs, permit and traffic control costs. Material and installation costs depend on density of design, volume and number of colors, and application methods and range between \$12,000 and \$16,000 per standard crosswalk. Staff estimated that it would cost around \$80,000 to cover the entire identified area the Louis and Fielding raised intersection. Commissioners had clarifying questions about required maintenance and expected lifespan of enhanced crosswalks, approach to the artist selection and design guidelines, and overall impact of the enhanced crosswalks. **Moved:** Chair Migdal moved to allocate the funds for the Bike Boulevards / Art Crosswalks pilot project in the amount not to exceed \$80,000. **Second:** Commissioner Taylor. **All in Favor.**
3. **Collection Maintenance** - Staff provided an overview and shared images of the current condition of *Albuquerque* by Gale Wagner, a permanently sited artwork located on Embarcadero Rd near the Palo Alto Art Center. The artwork was last recoated in 2011 and is in need of maintenance. Staff recommended the allocation of funds for the recoating of *Albuquerque* by Gale Wagner in the amount of \$10,000. The maintenance project to be carried out in July 2017. The sculpture to be cleaned and recoated with special paint and anti-graffiti coat designed for outdoor steel objects by Precision Coatings. **Moved:** Chair Migdal moved to allocate the funds for the maintenance of the artwork. **Second:** Vice Chair Miyaji.

NON- ACTION:

4. **Teen Arts Council Mural** – Community Services Department Assistant Director Rhyena Halpern presented an informational update on the teen mural at the Mitchell Park Community Center. The project is supported by the Palo Alto Think Fund and Community Services Department, led by participants from the Teen Arts Council, an initiative of the Palo Alto Children’s Theatre, and the Palo Alto Art Center. Professional muralist Megan Stevens is working with the teens to design the mural that will be painted in June 2017 outside the Teen Center and basketball court. Over the course of six design meetings, Stevens worked with the teens to develop the mural design. The mural is split in representative of both tech and nature in positive and innovative ways. The mural is considered a temporary project and will not be accessioned into the City collection of public art.

5. **Collection Maintenance/Deaccession** – Staff led a discussion regarding the seven artworks identified by ARG Conservation Report as most in need of restoration or de-accession. Staff provided a detailed update on the current condition of each artwork including Digital DNA, Go Mama, California Avenue, California Native, Greg Brown’s murals Lady Watering and Boy Fishing, and a mural by Christopher Johanson. Staff will return to the Commission later in 2017 with specific de-accession or conservation recommendations for each artwork.

6. **Code:ART Updates** – Staff briefed the Public Art Commission on the events timeline, volunteer needs, and status updates for the anchor installation and seven urban interventions. Staff provided images of the final renderings of the installations, shared printed collateral materials, and encouraged the Commissioners to share the word about the upcoming festivities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Next PAC Regular Meeting – 7 PM, June 20, 2017

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:04 PM by Chair Migdal.