

MINUTES
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
MEETING
Thursday, November 19, 2020
Virtual teleconference via Zoom
7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Ben Miyaji, Loren Gordon, Nia Taylor, Ian Klaus joined the meeting at 7:15 pm, Hsinya Shen joined the meeting at 7:23 pm

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Program Director
Nadya Chuprina, Public Art Program Coordinator
Kristen O’Kane, CSD Director

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Miyaji called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 24, 2020 PAC Special Meeting Minutes **Moved:** Commissioner Taylor; **Second:** Vice Chair Gordon. **All in Favor.**

STAFF COMMENTS: Staff reported to the Commissioners about the kick off of the *ArtLift* Microgrant project. Applications from local artists and creatives are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Staff asked for any commissioners interested in serving on the selection panel. Staff also reported on the completed maintenance treatments for *Confluence* and *Arch-Cradle* by artist Mike Szabo and shared images of the artworks before and after treatments.

ACTION:

1. **New Acquisition of Artwork** –Staff presented the information and image of the artwork titled *Unapproachable Landscapes I* by former CASP artist Yishu Wang offered for donation into the City’s public art collection. The screen print offered for donation was created by the artist during her residency at Cubberley. **Moved:** Vice Chair Gordon moved to accept the donation of artwork into the City’s collection of public art. **Second:** Chair Miyaji. Commissioner Taylor – aye. **All in Favor.**

NON-ACTION:

2. **Race and Equity Public Art** – Commissioners discussed the City Council referral to the PAC to develop a permanent artwork on King Plaza to recognize the City’s priorities to advance cultural,

racial and social equity. Staff presented images of the plaza and talked the commissioners through challenges and opportunities of the site. Due to allowable weight restrictions and inability to permanently bolt into the plaza, staff listed alternative opportunities for integration of artwork, including utilizing the fountain planter, or the façade of the City Hall building for ongoing public art programming featuring rotating artworks in a banner format. Commissioners noted the importance of a broader public and stakeholder input and the need for a bigger conversation as the PAC works on preparing the recommendations for City Council. Commissioners discussed the need to conduct further research to understand pros and cons, and cost implications of permanent vs. temporary artwork and consider the process further to ensure the commissioned artwork(s) are relevant to the community, impactful and meaningful. Staff will provide interim information reports to City Council, continue the discussion at the next PAC meeting and potentially conduct a special PAC meeting dedicated to the item of Race and Equity Public Art at King Plaza.

3. **Temporary Murals Update** – Staff updated the PAC on the artist selection panel that identified 8 local artists to create original site-specific artworks to be digitally printed and temporarily places across 8 various locations in downtown and California Ave district in Palo Alto. Artists Robin Apple, Damon Belanger, Liz Hickok, Lauren Berger, Jorge Camacho, Katharine Lui, Carrie Lederer and art duo t.w.five were awarded the commissions. Staff shared examples of the artists’ previous artworks with the PAC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CALENDAR: Next PAC Regular Meeting – December 17, 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:01 pm by Chair Miyaji.