
Office of Cultural Affairs
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CITY HALL EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Charlene Duval
Mary Anne
Groen

Robert Jamieson
Lindsey Kouvaris
Joey Reyes

Richard James

MEETING NOTES

Friday, February 19, 2016

Meeting Location

San José City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.
Room T-1446

Meeting Time

12:00 p.m.

Committee Attendees: Charlene Duval (CD), Mary Anne Groen (MAG), Richard James (RJ), Robert Jamieson (RJM), and Lindsey Kouvaris (LK).

Absent: Joey Reyes (JR)

Staff: Jennifer Easton (JE)

Other Attendees: Robin Treen (RT), Jeanette Lowe (JL), Fernando Fonseca (FF), Mauricio Villanueva (MV), Adrienne Eacrett (AE)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm. by JE

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Introductions

JE asked all committee members to give a brief introduction of themselves and their backgrounds.

B. Overview of committee responsibilities

JE gave an overview of the committee, its role, membership, and responsibilities. Points covered included:

- *Members: drawn from civics and arts communities;*
- *Role of members: to bring professional viewpoints to potential exhibitions and assess feasibility;*
- *Budget: program is currently not funded so exhibitions are self-funded;*
- *Types of exhibitions: spelled out in policy with exhibitions running for longer periods of time;*
- *Source of exhibitions: anyone can propose an exhibition idea using the application process;*
- *Sales of artwork: City will not facilitate sales but does not discourage or impede either.*

RT gave a brief history of the program and past exhibitions.

C. Review of Sister Cities Exhibition

JE gave a brief overview of the Sister Cities program, including our newest Sister City, Guadalajara, Mexico.

RT introduced the exhibition concept, which will focus on three of San Jose's Sister Cities: Dublin, Ireland, Guadalajara, Mexico, and Okayama, Japan. The exhibition will open in early October 2015 and run through March of 2016.

1. *Fernando Fonseca (FF), president of the Guadalajara committee, and colleague Mauricio Villanueva (MV), presented a slide show highlighting the kinds of art and cultural expressions they would like to showcase on behalf of Guadalajara. This portion of the exhibition will be housed in the Tower lobby cases.*
2. *Dublin photographer Jeanette Lowe (JL) gave a brief presentation of the project she began in Dublin in 2009. Through the lens of her camera she began looking at Pearse House, a 1930s-era social housing project and the generations that have grown up in this "hidden village within a city." Encompassing social media, contemporary photography, personal and community history, and video, the project has continued to grow and evolve into an inclusive cultural conversation. This portion of the exhibition will be housed in the Wing niches.*
3. *RT shared a few examples of a cache of old drawings, paintings, and woodblock prints created by students in Okayama, Japan, around 1960. Apparently part of an exchange program intended to celebrate the Okayama-San Jose relationship, which was formed in 1957, the artwork was found in the basement of a house in the Rose Garden neighborhood. In addition to the approximately 300 pieces of artwork, about a dozen old Polaroids of students holding their artwork were also found. This portion of the exhibition will be housed in the Mayor's Lobby on the 18th floor.*

Committee comments:

- *CD and LK both expressed concern regarding the conservation of the Okayama student artwork and the safety of exhibiting the originals.*

- *RJ liked the combination of contemporary and historical encompassed in the objects proposed for exhibition by the Guadalajara committee.*
- *He also liked the universal themes and potential for urban engagement in JL's work but felt that the exhibition would need strong supporting text and educational materials.*
- *BJ commented that a new security gate is being considered for the Mayor's lobby on the 18th floor, which would impact any future exhibitions.*
- *JE liked the juxtaposition of universal and specific themes expressed in the Dublin show. She also felt that the Guadalajara committee would need to find a focus for their show and suggested the exhibition could coalesce around mariachi.*

D. GAS Exhibits

Founded in 1971, the Glass Art Society (GAS) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the worldwide appreciation and development of glass arts. In June 2015 they will hold their annual conference in San Jose, utilizing various venues throughout the city. City Hall will host a two-part exhibition focusing on glass art and technology, housed in the Tower lobby cases and the Wing niches. A second exhibition of work by students graduating from the masters program at CCA will be housed in the TMC windows on 5th Street. Both exhibitions will be on view through Labor Day weekend.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications

5. COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

No communications or correspondence

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.