



# Memorandum

**TO:** ARTS COMMISSION  
**SUBJECT:** (SEE BELOW)

**FROM:** KERRY ADAMS HAPNER  
**DATE:** MARCH 6, 2020

Approved

Date

3/6/20

**SUBJECT: CITY HALL EXHIBITS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

## RECOMMENDATION

Appoint Maryela Perez to serve on the City Hall Exhibits Committee, and reappoint Lindsey Kouvaris, and Charlene Duval to the Committee.

## BACKGROUND

In 2008, City Council adopted Policy #7-11 "City Hall Exhibits Policy." The purpose of the policy is "to establish a City Hall Exhibit Program to provide for temporary display of artwork and artifacts in City Hall to help enliven the City Hall and to celebrate the creative and diverse community of San José."

The policy states that, while several locations have been identified for ongoing and rotating Exhibits, neither City Hall nor these exhibit spaces are public forums. The policy identifies both the goals and objectives of exhibits in City Hall, and how the policy will be administered.

Exhibits are to align with one or more the following topic areas:

- Our History
- Our Community
- Our Creativity
- Our Government

All proposed Exhibits for City Hall are to be reviewed by the Exhibits Committee. This Committee is appointed by the Arts Commission. Per the policy, the Exhibits Committee shall be comprised of up to seven voting members, which may include representatives from the City Manager's Office, Vice Mayor's Office and Public Works Department, a member of the Arts Commission, and visual arts professionals which may include an artist and curatorial and exhibition specialists, none of whom should have a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict. The Exhibits Program and Exhibits Committee are supported by the Office of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program. Recommendations made by the Exhibits Committee are submitted to

the Public Art Director and, as necessary, the City Manager or his designee, for final approval and administration of the Exhibits.

The Exhibits Committee meets on as-needed basis which is determined by the number and frequency of proposed and implemented exhibits. In recent years it has typically met one to three times per year to approve proposed exhibits and provide input on ideas for possible new exhibits. In general, most exhibits are installed for a period of six months.

### ANALYSIS

The appointment of Maryela Perez is recommended to fill the seat on the Exhibits Committee recently vacated by Joey Reyes, former Curator of Engagement and Dialogue at MACLA. Maryela Perez, a practicing visual artist and curator joined MACLA in 2019 as the Visual Arts Engagement Coordinator and presently serves as the lead for Exhibits and related programming. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Santa Cruz and is active in the local arts community. Maryela has five years of experience in planning, organizing, and hosting local arts events in San José and curating both visual and performing arts shows in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Ms Perez replaces Joey Reyes at MACLA and it is felt that it is valuable to continue to have MACLA's perspective represented in the work of the Exhibits Committee.

Lindsay Kouvaris and Charlene Duval are both curatorial professionals who have served since 2015 and brought their considerable expertise to the Committee. Former Assistant Director of Exhibits and Programs at the de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Lindsey Kouvaris curated a broad range of exhibits and shows highlighting diverse themes, media, and artists. She presently works as an independent curator and brings a high level of art curatorial expertise to the Committee. Since 1999 Charlene Duval has been the historian and Executive Secretary of the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History at San Jose State University. Charlene has a wide range of experience in history, architecture and archeology and is co-author of several publications including *Reflections of the Past, An Anthology of San Jose*. Charlene provides a valued link with the SJSU community. The continued participation of both Lindsey and Charlene is valuable to the work of the Exhibit Committee

The following is an overview of the Exhibits Committee:

#### Current Exhibit Committee – appointed members:

- Arts Commission: Mazyar Lotfalian, District 4 Arts Commissioner
- Exhibits Specialist: Lindsey Kouvaris, Assistant Director, Exhibits and Programs, de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University
- Exhibits Specialist: Charlene Duval, Executive Secretary, Sourisseau Academy of State and Local History, San José State University
- Artist/curatorial Specialist: vacant

#### Current Exhibit Committee – designated members

- City Hall Facilities (Public Works): Walter Lin, City Hall Facilities Manager
- Vice Mayor's Office: David Gomez, representing Vice Mayor Chappie Jones

ARTS COMMISSION

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**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

As a standing committee of the Arts Commission, the Exhibits Committee complies with the requirements of the Brown Act and the City's Sunshine Policy in conducting its meetings.



KERRY ADAMS HAPNER  
Director of Cultural Affairs

