

Arts Commission Retreat Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2021

**I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day**

**Call to Order**

Chair Garg called the virtual meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

**Roll Call**

PRESENT: Commissioners Smita Garg, Juan Carlos Araujo, Lynne Brown, Charlie McCollum, Lynne Rosenthal, Trami Cron, Richard James, Audrey Rumsby, and Elizabeth Alvarez.

ABSENT: Commissioner Bryce Lynch.

STAFF: Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of Public Art Michael Ogilvie, Director of Special Events Tammy Turinipseed, Sr. Arts Program Coordinator Arlene Biala, Sr. Arts Program Coordinator Karen Park, Sr. Art Program Emily Sevier, Sr. Project Manager Lynn Rogers, Policy Aides Christian Sanchez (D5) and Brisa Rojas (D5), and Arts Program Coordinator Tina Iv.

**II. Public Comment**

Paul Soto provided comments regarding to the *Thomas Fallon* statue. He thanked Kerry Adams Hapner for extending the time for the Public Art forum on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**III. Consent Calendar**

A. Approval of the meeting minutes for the regular meeting on November 16, 2020.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the meeting minutes for the regular meeting on November 16, 2020 were approved. (8-0-2). (Commissioner Lynch was absent). (Commissioner Rosenthal abstained.)

Commission discussion ensued.

B. Public Record

There was no public record filed.

**IV. Reports and Information Only.**

A. Welcome and Agenda Review

- Introduction of new Arts Commissioner Lynne Rosenthal

Chair Garg introduced Commissioner Rosenthal to the full Commission. Commissioner Rosenthal provided a brief background about herself.

- Introduction of facilitator David Plettner-Saunders  
Chair Garg in introduced facilitator David Plettner-Saunders to the full Commission. David Plettner-Saunders provided a brief background about himself.
- Goals  
Chair Garg noted that the goal of the retreat is to understand grantmaking and the context of San Jose, the diverse community, and the unique character that we call home. She briefly went over the agenda and noted that there will be a panel discussion about grantmaking. She hopes that the panel discussion will help change and transform the existing OCA grant program.

B. Update/report from Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco

Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco thanked the Commission for inviting her to speak at the retreat. She noted that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone due to the pandemic - especially for those who have lost their loved ones from the Coronavirus. As her district has been hit hard with Coronavirus, her team has been working hard to assist everyone who are still struggling. Councilmember Carrasco expressed that is it good time to support the arts as it allows people to express their anxiety, stress, and it will help them to slowly heal from losing family members from the disease. In addition, art helps with allowing different voices be heard and shared throughout the community as there is a need to help each other to finish the story.

**V. Business**

A. Update on Public Art

Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner briefly introduced several of the OCA staff members – Director of Public Art Michael Ogilvie, Sr. Project Manager Lynn Rogers, Sr. Arts Coordinator Karen Park, Sr. Arts Coordinator Arlene Biala, Sr. Arts Coordinator Emily Sevier, Arts Coordinator Tina Iv, and Special Events Director Tammy Turnipseed. She provided a brief update regarding to the current issues of the *Thomas Fallon* statue and *AMERICANA* artwork. She announced that a Public Art Forum will be taking place on Friday, January 25, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The forum will be hosted by several offices at City Hall, including the Mayor’s Office, City Manager’s Office, the Office of Cultural Affairs, the San Jose Arts Commission. Also, the forum will be facilitated by San Jose-based TEDX and Keynote Speaker Chandra Brooks.

Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner noted that the forum is an opportunity for the community to be engaged, share their opinions, and views about public art and the City public art process. Several of the City offices who are hosting the forum will be providing brief comments, but it is mainly an opportunity to talk about competitive public art process and to hear from the community on what they would like to see in the City’s public art collection.

Director of Public Art Michael Ogilvie provided additional comments regarding to the Public Art Forum. He noted that this forum will help get a wide perspective from the community, especially from those who cannot attend the Arts Commission regularly. In addition, he will be providing a brief presentation on the outline of the public art process as it was approved in the 2007 Public Art Master Plan.

Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner and Director of Public Art Michael Ogilvie were available for questions and comments from the Commission and public.

Commission discussion ensued.

**B. Presentation: History of Grantmaking in the Office of Cultural Affairs**

Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner, Sr. Arts Coordinator Karen Park, Sr. Arts Coordinator Arlene Biala, and Sr. Arts Coordinator Emily Sevier all presented with a Power Point Presentation. They were all available for questions and comments from the Commission.

Commission discussion ensued.

**C. Panel Discussion: Funding Practices in the Arts; What are some best practices in arts and cultural grantmaking?**

Panelists City of Sacramento, Director of Cultural and Convention Services Jody Ulich, Program Director of Performing Arts of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Emiko Ono, and Associate Director of Arts Strategy & Ventures of the Kenneth Rainin Foundation provided brief backgrounds on their organizations' programs and services that they offered before the pandemic, during the pandemic, and how they have incorporated cultural equity into their workplan. In addition, they provided information on how they have allocated funding during the pandemic to continue to provide old and new grant programs to arts organizations.

**D. Wrap-up: What are the next steps after the retreat? What can the Arts Commission do to take action from the discussions?**

Facilitator David Plettner-Saunders suggested that he will connect with Kerry Adams Hapner and Tina Iv to put together a follow-up list for the Commission. Director of Cultural Affairs Kerry Adams Hapner provided additional comments. She noted that there is a lot of collectives and changes to think through for the next 12 to 18 months for the grant programs and the Office of Cultural Affairs.

**VII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**

*The next regular meeting will be held virtually on February 22, 2021 at 5:30 PM.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

Chair Garg adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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SMITA GARG, CHAIR

ATTEST:  
ARTS COMMISSION SECRETARY

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TINA IV, ARTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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