

**Office of Cultural Affairs**  
**200 East Santa Clara Street**  
**San Jose, CA 95113**  
**Telephone: (408) 793-4338**

**CITY HALL EXHIBITS COMMITTEE**

Charlene Duval  
Mazyar Lotfalian  
Lindsey Kouvaris

Walter Lin  
David Gomez  
Joey Reyes

**MEETING NOTES**

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

**Meeting Location**

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

**Meeting Time**

12:00 p.m.

Committee Attendees: Lindsey Kouvaris, Charlene Duval, Walter Lin, and Mazyar Lotfalian

Absent: David Gomez, Joey Reyes

Staff: Lynn Rogers, Robin Treen, Michael Ogilvie

Other Attendees: Trami Cron, Chopsticks Alley with Alex Nguyen; Rose Herrera; Kenn Christie; Paul Pereira, Mayor's Office; Kristina Newton, City Hall Facilities; Jose Salcido

1. CALL TO ORDER  
Meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM
2. OPEN FORUM – PUBLIC COMMENT  
None.
3. MINUTES
  - A. ACTION: Approved minutes for the regular meeting on August 29, 2018.  
Mvd/2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Kouvaris/W. Lin. Passed: 3 yes; 0 no; 1 Abstention (C. Duval was not present at that meeting.)
4. STAFF REPORT  
L. Rogers
  - a. Provided update on status of program and related matters.

5. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. ACTION: Approved the proposed exhibit to be created around and including the USS San José Bell (working title), an exhibit under development that is to be centered around the bell from the Navy ship USS San José which will highlight the bell's connection to the community and related aspects of San José's armed services veterans.

Presented by Kenn Christie and Rose Herrera.

Mvd/2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Duval/L. Kouvaris. Passed: 4 yes; 0 no.

The proposed non-permanent display of the bell was discussed in detail. While there was interest by the presenter K. Christie in displaying the bell on its own, it was recognized by all others in the discussion that it would be more aligned to the CH Exhibits approach to presenting exhibits if items that also demonstrated its importance, such as photos, memorabilia, other object and text panels, were part of the exhibition, adding greater context to the bell itself. Possible inclusion of a sound element to capture the shipboard context for the bell was suggested. The presenters agreed. Concerns about how to best display it, security and related matters were discussed. The proposal was approved contingent on the presenters working up a fully-developed exhibit plan, and on meeting installation, security and related City Hall Facilities concerns.

- B. ACTION: Approved the proposed exhibit called "Breaking the Mold" developed and displayed by History San José at their own facility.

Presented by Robin Treen with Ken Middlebrook of History San José.

Mvd/2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Kouvaris/C. Duval. Passed: 4 yes; 0 no.

Details about this exhibit proposed for the Council Wing Niches were discussed and how it reflects the region's shift over time from journeyman workers to tech industry workers. Background on the property where this foundry existed for more than 100 years before being sold to Google was discussed. All recognized that this exhibit shows a significant piece of San Jose history.

- C. ACTION: Approved the Hidden Heritages – Viet Nam, an exhibit developed as a collaboration between Chopsticks Alley and San José Museum of Art.

Presented by Trami Cron and Robin Treen.

Mvd/2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Lotfalian/W. Lin. Passed: 4 yes; 0 no.

The plan for the proposed next exhibit in the Hidden Heritages series in the City Hall Tower Lobby was presented in detail, to include a mix of artists, poetry, music/performance as part of the larger context of the exhibit. In response to questions, T. Cron explained the in-depth Viet community engagement process for obtaining artifacts, stories and much more, through the Vien Danh artist workshops and more. Discussion touched on how to theme the different display cases in the exhibit, and the work to stay non-political, focusing on shared these of food, work, survival and culture. Exhibit may include video if that can be arranged in the Tower Lobby.

A. DISCUSSION:

Discussion about upcoming call for exhibit proposals was postponed due to lack of time.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. Update on current "Hidden Heritages" history exhibit (Tower Lobby Gallery)

R. Treen provided an update on the installation of the exhibit.

B. Update on current Pune India Sister City Exhibit (Rotunda Foyer Gallery)

R. Treen provided an update on the status of the current exhibit.

7. COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:40p.m.

Recorded by: *Lynn Rogers*  
Lynn Rogers, Sr. Program Officer

Approved by Committee:

*Lynn Rogers*