



Harini Krishnan, District 1  
Stephen Seymour, District 1  
Kimberly Gordon, District 2  
Elizabeth Stone, District 2  
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3  
Laura McHugh, District 3  
Jeanne Heise, District 4  
Edward Sweeney, District 4  
VACANT Dist. 5  
VACANT Dist. 5

County Manager's Office  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 599-1005  
[www.smcgov.org/smcac](http://www.smcgov.org/smcac)



## INITIAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR COUNTYWIDE CLEBRATION OF THE ARTS EVENT OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Zoom

### MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** – Chair Stephen Seymour called the meeting to order at 3:02 with roll call
2. In Attendance: Commissioners Gordon, Krishnan, McHugh, Heise, Seymour, Stone, Hernandez Arriaga, Heise  
Absent: Commissioner Sweeney,  
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Juda Tolmasoff
3. **Action Item**
  - A. AB361 Remote Meeting Requirements: in keeping with the recently enacted California AB361 and Governor Newsom's suspension of Brown Act Open Meetings law, vote to approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner Gordon made a motion that we approve continuation of virtual Commission meetings. Commissioner McHugh seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
4. **Oral Communications**

To allow the public to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda  
No oral communications received.
4. **Discussion Item**
  - A. Discussion and follow-up for the Countywide Celebration of the Arts  
Commissioner Gordon noted that the Director has done good follow up work with the Municipal Colleagues after our last meeting on March 9, 2022, including a survey, and that we have some information about their interest in participating. Director advised that we are waiting to hear back from San Mateo; San Bruno, Belmont, and Menlo Park are maybes; and Redwood City, Half Moon Bay and So. San Francisco are all yeses.

Commissioner Gordon remarked that we did give them a deadline of May 4<sup>th</sup> to let us know about their programming when we last met. She stated that we need to define what the Arts Commission will bring to this event, what is the value-add the Commission can provide. She also reminded the group that we have a budget of \$2,500 for this event. The Director added that since we do not currently have any Commissioners representing D5, she would contact the Daly City Manager who

*Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Arts Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the Board of Supervisors Office, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by e-mailing [jtomasoff@smcgov.org](mailto:jtomasoff@smcgov.org). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days notice. Please call (650)599-1005 (voice) or e-mail [jtomasoff@smcgov.org](mailto:jtomasoff@smcgov.org). For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.*

oversees their Arts Commission. She went on to suggest that maybe one of our nonprofit arts organizations would be interested in performing there.

The Director stated that she spoke with Dana Stoehr, the Director of the Event Center and she offered the use of their facility, either indoors or outdoors, on August 5-7, or August 27. Commissioner Stone asked if there were specific dates for the event to which Commissioner Gordon responded that she was waiting to hear from the Municipalities on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Juda Tolmasoff advised that the Commission on Disabilities is bringing back the Inclusion Festival and that maybe they could hold it in August as part of the Countywide Celebration. Commissioner Gordon agreed and mentioned that their participation would certainly speak to accessibility. She went on to suggest that at each event we could provide collateral such as banners, takeaways, and Commissioners could attend events in their districts.

Commissioner Seymour arrived late and asked to what cities were participating. Commissioner Gordon provided a quick overview of all the material that had been covered so far and reiterated that the theme was "Building Community Through Art." Commissioner Seymour asked who we had been working with in San Bruno and was told Tim Wallace of the San Bruno Libraries. The Director explained that each city has their own representation of the arts through a multitude of ways including libraries, parks and rec departments, and arts commissions/councils. Commissioner Seymour stated that he would speak with Tim Wallace and that he was also considering an activity at Tanforan.

Commissioner Gordon suggested that a calendar of events would be helpful. Commissioner Krishnan said that we needed to think about the Commission's capacity to carry out this plan. After May 4<sup>th</sup> we will know what the cities will commit to and how we should use the \$2,500. She went on to ask, what the goals are for this event: are we sending a message that the arts are relevant and inclusive in San Mateo County; are we informing county residents about the Commission; are we giving a platform to showcase what's available in our County; or all of the above. She suggested possibly using the \$2,500 to make a promotional video showing what is happening in the County.

The Director agreed and shared that this could be an opportunity to showcase the work our grantees provide to the community. Commissioner Krishnan added that we could create postcards featuring artists' works and have people fill them out at the events and send them to others to share how they felt about the arts. Commissioner Seymour stated that Tanforan would be willing to put artworks in store front window, as well as allow for pop-ups in the hallways including dancers, musicians, and murals. He suggested that since he oversees the arts for the County Fair in June, the Commission could have a booth and we could promote the Celebration then.

Commissioner Hernandez Arriaga declared that she would love to be able to include dancers from Half Moon Bay, and perhaps ask grantees for free tickets to their events that could be given out or raffled off. She also suggested that having a traveling participatory piece of artwork that people could add to at each site such as a mural, quilt, or collage would add a feeling of community. To this the Director added that she could ask the County for more funds and she could look for sponsors.

The topic of making a video was revisited and Commissioner Seymour said that we could start by videoing people's reactions to the art at the County Fair. He named Oscar Guerra as a possible videographer. Admin-Manager reminded the group that two of our grantees were filmmakers and we might want to contact them. Commissioner Heise recommended that we start developing a video now that could be used next year. Commissioner Gordon suggested that our grantees could

also submit short videos to be part of the project and wondered if we are looking for local artists to design a piece of collateral for us. The Director added that we could do something like the Art Takes a Bus Ride Competition and have students submit artwork in future years. Commissioner Stone commented that these all sound like great ideas but that we should wait and see what the cities come up with and where the venues are.

Commissioner McHugh volunteered to be in charge of the moveable art piece and would get people to participate at the County Fair where we could also take some video. She noted that it would be good to have a calendar of events, a Google document even. The Director stated that we could have a takeaway printed in a menu style to promote the many events. Arts Commissioners could attend events in their districts and others if interested. Commissioner Seymour noted that the County Fair would be a good place to launch the event and to have the collateral there to pass out which could include a QR code linking to the list on the printed materials. The Director stated that the Administrator-Manager would contact our grantees to include their events.

The Director advised that Commissioner Krishnan has set up virtual meetings with the legislators in our area to advocate for funding for the arts next week in conjunction with Arts, Culture and Creativity Month. All are welcome to attend, and she will send information soon. The Director also indicated that she wanted to take a straw poll to plan for the future when the Governor's stay of emergency is lifted, and asked the Commissioners if they wanted to meet in-person, virtually, or use a hybrid model.

In-person: Commissioners Seymour and Krishnan

Virtual: Commissioners Gordon, Seymour, and Hernandez Arriaga

Hybrid: Commissioners Hernandez Arriaga, Heise, Krishnan, Stone, Seymour, and McHugh

## **5. Adjournment**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: May 18, 2022 – 3:00-5:00 PM**