



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

3 p.m.

Remote meeting via video and teleconferencing

Minutes

Commissioner Ferras called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

Jeanne McCoy

Nabiel Musleh

Yiying Lu

Abby Sadin Schnair

Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Mahsa Hakimi

Commissioner Ferras called for changes to the agenda and announced that Item 4, 180 Jones Street – Phillip Hua has been tabled and Item 11 San Francisco International Airport: Harvey Milk Terminal 1: Proposed Artwork Relocations second and third motions have been updated to include the accession numbers of the artworks.

2. General Public Comment

(0:06:06)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(0:06:57)

1. Motion to approve *Paradise, Forest, Jungle, and Wonderland* four mural designs by Amanda Lynn. The murals will be installed on four Bike Hangar structures at two locations: 121 4th St. and 2nd and Howard St. both in District 6. Each mural measures approximately 4.36 ft. tall by 8.36 ft. wide. The artwork is funded by Yerba Buena Community Benefit District and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
2. Motion to approve *Pastor Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani Mural Dedication*, a mural design by Wes Marks Wong. The mural will be installed at 330-331 Ellis St. in District 5 and measures approximately 48 ft. by 36 ft. wide. The artwork is funded by a grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
3. Motion to approve *First Responders "We Can Be Heroes,"* a mural design by Rigel "Crayone" Juratovac. The mural will be installed at 550 Turk St. in District 5 and measures approximately 20 ft. by 80 ft. wide. The artwork is funded by a grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
4. Motion to approve *Leather District Pole Banners Project*, designed by Shannon Leigh Associates. The banners will be installed at 66 locations in the South of Market area in the Leather Cultural District in District 6. Each banner measures 72 in. by 35 in. The artwork is funded by an MOHCD grant and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
5. Motion to approve the temporary installation of an interactive public art installation titled *Middleground*, which is a privately funded project of the Exploratorium which will be installed adjacent

to the Fulton Street façade of the San Francisco Main Public Library. The project will be installed for a period of one year commencing on July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2024.

There was no public comment.

Moved: Schnair/McCoy

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED

4. 180 Jones Street—Philip Hua

Motion: to approve the design of the artwork *Drawn To The Light, We Are Home For A Change* by Phillip Hua to be installed at 180 Jones Street, located at the corner of Turk Street. The artwork is funded by MOHCD. Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC) will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The work will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

5. Treasure Island Waterfront Plaza

(0:09:10)

Public Art Trust and Special Initiative Director Jill Manton stated that the Treasure Island Art Steering Committee wishes to engage artist Kehinde Wiley to create a site-specific proposal for a sculpture to be placed on Waterfront Plaza on Treasure Island.

Kehinde Wiley is well-known for his portrait of President Barack Obama, and has recently started to work in sculpture. His work is currently on view at the de Young Museum. Wiley also has ties to San Francisco. He attended and earned a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. He will be paid an honorarium of \$10,000 for the proposal, which will include a site visit, a preliminary interview with the Steering Committee and the subsequent presentation of his proposal.

Public comment:

Denise Bradley Tyson said she is excited to potentially have a sculpture by Kehinde Wiley permanently installed on Treasure Island.

Motion: to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Kehinde Wiley to develop a site-specific proposal for a sculpture for Waterfront Plaza on Treasure Island for a total amount not to exceed \$10,000 which will cover all costs associated with the proposal, a site visit, a preliminary interview with the Treasure Island Art Steering Committee, and the presentation of the proposal.

Moved: Schnair/Lu

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

6. 49 South Van Ness Video Project

(0:24:03)

Program Associate Craig Corpora introduced artists Selina Trepp and Zeina Barakeh, who discussed their respective art practices and previously approved conceptual proposals for the 49 South Van Ness Video Project.

Selina Trepp presented her project *The Dynamics of Building and Maintaining* with an updated video clip of the project to date. Though the concept was previously approved, Commissioners had some additional questions regarding the narrative concept in relation to the visuals. McCoy enjoyed the energy of the work and thanked the artist for further explaining her video. Commissioner Schnair thought the new version aligned nicely with the written narrative and commended the artist on the playfulness of the work.

Ms. Barakeh provided more context about her artwork and highlighted works that she completed in public spaces like Salesforce Tower and Times Square. She explained that her practice is layered, researched-based, and iterative, coming from a unique Middle Eastern immigrant experience. Ms. Barakeh explained that this is a fictionalized narrative, suggesting a colonization, only this time the colonizers are being

vanquished by a heroic mythological female. She pulled the characters from paintings found in the collections of the de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor to establish a connection between art and history that is found locally.

Commissioner Lu expressed concern over the large figure in the second scene of Ms. Barakeh's images, which she interpreted as female, and that the form was being subjected to bodily trauma. Ms. Barakeh stated that the form is meant to be androgynous and will morph and change over the course of the animation. The artist confirmed that she is a feminist and that the scene was meant to caution against cyborg technologies.

Commissioner Lu recommended including more diversity in the figures, which Commissioner McCoy agreed with. Commissioner Musleh expressed his support of the artist's vision and the work as a representation of her specific experience with colonization, which is unique and different from the experience of others. Ms. Chou cautioned against Commissioners telling artists how to address issues that they see in the artist's work and to provide space for the artist to further develop her work based on the narrative she described. Commissioner Schnair commented that the video's concept and visuals are overly complicated and proposed a more simplified approach.

There was no public comment.

7. Monuments and Memorials Advisory Committee (1:12:23)

Senior Registrar Allison Cummings presented the final report of the Monuments and Memorials Advisory Committee (MMAC), a multi-year effort between the Arts Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Recreation and Parks Department, and community members following a directive issued by Mayor London Breed to evaluate the City's monuments and memorial to reflect the values of the City. This process consisted of seven MMAC meetings and community engagement opportunities including two public feedback sessions, dedicated phone and email lines for public comments, and a community wide survey conducted in English,

Spanish, Filipino, and Chinese. The findings of the Committee resulted in suggested changes to the Policies and Guidelines that SFAC utilizes to manage the Civic Art Collection in regard to deaccession, removal, alteration, relocation, and destruction of artworks in the Collection, as well as recommendations that were developed into an action plan to guide future work, pending funding.

Public Art and Civic Art Collection Director Mary Chou thanked the co-chairs of the Committee, MMAC members, consultants, and staff for all their hard work.

Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington commented on the challenging and rewarding work of the Committee.

Public Comment

Denise Bradley Tyson commended the leadership of the committee and the SFAC team along with the fellow committee members for their participation. She stated that there was a lot of hard work completed and more work to be done.

Motion: to approve the recommended edits to the Policies and Guidelines for the Civic Art Collection of the City and County of San Francisco Under the Jurisdiction of the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Motion: to approve the findings and recommendations in the San Francisco Monuments and Memorials Advisory Committee Final Report, May 2023.

Moved: Schnair/McCoy

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

**8. Central Subway: Yerba Buena/Moscone Station – Roxy Paine
(1:39:13)**

Senior Program Manager Jackie von Treskow presented Roxy Paine's sculpture *Node* as-installed, which is located in the public plaza in front of the Yerba Buena/Moscone Station at 4th and Clementina Street. The

sculpture stands approximately 103 feet tall and tapers from a diameter of 70 inches at the base to ½ inch at its peak, establishing a connection of earth to sky, people to station, and sculpture to city. It is now the tallest freestanding sculpture in San Francisco.

Motion: to approve as installed *Node* (2023) a stainless steel sculpture by Roxy Paine for the Central Subway: Yerba Buena/Moscone Station. The artwork, installed at the station's main entrance plaza, measures 103 ft. tall, 70 in. at the base, and ½ in. at its peak.

Moved: Schnair/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

9. Mission Creek Park Extension

(1:46:05)

Ms. von Treskow presented the final design for Rigo 23's artwork for the Mission Creek Park Extension public art project. Rigo 23's *Mission Creek Grizzlies* is a sculptural tribute to the original wildlife that was present in the area known today as Mission Creek Park. The artist's anthropomorphic, larger-than-life Grizzlies prompt us to contemplate the kind of proximity the animal world shared with the human world before there was a California.

The mother bear, measuring 13 ft. 6 in. in height, and the individual cub, measuring 5 ft. 6 in. tall will be installed at the same elevation and placed approximately 19 ft. apart from one another. The mother bear will be oriented towards downtown, and the standalone cub with its gaze towards the traffic circle. The tile types will be the same between both sculptures, just produced at a smaller scale for the cub sculpture. The tiles used on the final sculpture will be machine-pressed into custom molds with the glazes carefully hand-applied. Some of the terracotta tiles will be left unglazed, some partially glazed, and others will be fully glazed using both clear and color glazes. Along with the color brought about by the application of these glazes, the terracotta itself will provide tone and color variation, from golden light brown to black.

Motion: to approve Final Design and Construction Document Phase deliverables by Rigo 23 for the Mission Creek Park Extension public art project.

Moved: Schnair/Lu

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

10. 2024 Art on Market Street Poster Series

(2:05:15)

Mr. Corpora presented the project plan and theme for the 2024 Art on Market Street Poster Series. Next year's poster series will be devoted to San Francisco Bay Area Native Peoples. Artists will have the opportunity to create original artwork recognizing the history, culture, and legacy of Bay Area Indigenous peoples.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the project plan and theme for the 2024 Art on Market Street Poster Series.

Moved: Schnair/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair

11. San Francisco International Airport: Harvey Milk Terminal 1:

Proposed Artwork Relocations

(2:09:52)

Project Manager Aleta Lee presented updates to the proposed Artwork Relocation Plan for Harvey Milk Terminal 1, Boarding Area C at SFO.

Ala Ebtekar's *Zenith* will now be installed adjacent to the Manuel Neri sculpture *Mujer Pegada No. 4* in Boarding Area C, North Transition Hall. SFO Museum preferred this relocation as there are good site lines to the large Ebtekar painting and felt that the two works complemented each other well.

In the North Inglenook, *Martha H.* by Richard Shaw, *Cardboard Kore* by Michael Stutz, and *Untitled* by Dewey Crumpler will join *Figure* by Isamu Noguchi. Again, SFO Museum thought that these artworks works would complement each other well and that they worked well in the space with the unique variegated carpet.

All these revisions have been confirmed by SFO Design Review Committee and there should be no more changes to the plan as we work towards Spring 2024 install with the completion of the Terminal 1 construction.

Motion: to approve the revised relocation of the painting *Zenith (VII)* by Ala Ektekar to Departures Level, Terminal 1, Boarding Area C, North Transition Hall, pre-security.

Motion: to approve the revised relocation of two sculptures: 2007.3 *Martha H.* by Richard Shaw and 2005.8 *Cardboard Kore* by Michael Stutz to Departures Level, Terminal 1, Boarding Area C, North Inglenook, pre-security.

Motion: to approve the relocation of 1977.37 *Untitled* by Dewey Crumpler to Departures Level, Terminal 1, Boarding Area C, North Inglenook, pre-

Moved: Schnair/Lu

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, McCoy, Musleh, Lu, Schnair security.

12. Staff Report

(2:18:44)

Ms. Chou announced that final interviews have been completed for the 1842 Temporary Art Project Manager position and hopes to have that person on board in time for the June VAC meeting.

Ms. Chou shared that on May 11th, Senior Program Manager Jackie von Treskow participated in a panel about public art for the Public Space Summit held at the Southeast Community Center and sponsored by the San Francisco Parks Alliance.

Tuesday, May 23rd, Ms. Chou will co-host a lunch time presentation with SFO Museum Director & Chief Curator Timothy O'Brien, highlighting a selection of artworks by AAPI artist in the Civic Art Collection at SFO. Ranu Mukherjee and Lordy Rodriguez will be on the call to talk about their respective works installed at SFO.

On June 15th, Project Manager Marcus Davies and City Attorney Lauren Curry will be giving a tour of pre-security artwork at SFO for an art law symposium that is hosted by the BAR Association of San Francisco.

Finally, Ms. Chou stated that the first permanent public artwork on Yerba Buena Island, a sculpture by Hiroshi Sugimoto, will be completed in early June. The artwork will become part of the collection of the Treasure Island Development Authority and there will be a public dedication as soon as the park is transferred from the developer to the City.

There was no public comment.

13. New Business and Announcements (2:22:28)

Commissioner Lu stated that Richard Rothman will be giving a tour of the Mothers' Building at the San Francisco Zoo on Wednesday, May 24th at 2:30pm and invited all who would like to attend.

Commissioner Ferras announced the next ArtWalkSF would be in the Balboa Village on June 6th at 12:00 to 5:00pm.

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm.

Posted 5/30/2023, 4:25pm CC
Approved 6/5/2023

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address:

Language Accessibility

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