

1 **MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

2 **Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California**  
3 **Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

4 **ROLE CALL**

5 **PRESENT:** Chair Lauren Howard, Commissioners Marge Bartolini, Ann Dickson, Ernie  
6 Bergman, Helen Willms, Jennifer Wechsler. Director Gabriella Calicchio,  
7 Marketing Manager Libby Garrison, Admin Assistant Elisa Seppa

8 **ABSENT:** Commissioners Al Boro, Madeline Nieto Hope, Chris Owen

9 **CALL TO ORDER**

10 The Cultural Services Commission convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:38 am.

11 **REVIEW AGENDA**

12 The agenda was approved with no additions or changes.

13 AYES: ALL

14 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

15 The minutes of the January 27, 2021 Commission Meeting were approved.

16 AYES: ALL

17 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

18 Member of the public (Mark Shankel, IATSE Technician) in attendance for observation  
19 purposes only.

20 **CHAIR’S REPORT**

21 No Chair’s report.

22 **DIRECTORS REPORT**

23 **SWEARING IN OF RETURNING COMMISSIONERS**

- 24 • Returning Commissioner Bergman was sworn in.
- 25 • Returning Commissioner Howard was sworn in.

26 **21/22 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

- 27 • Commissioner Howard was appointed Chair.
- 28 • Commissioner Dickson was appointed Vice Chair.
- 29 • Commissioner Weschler was appointed Second Vice Chair.

30 AYES: ALL

31 **STATE OF THE ARTS IN MARIN**

- 32 • No report as Commissioner Owen was not present.

33 **MARIN CENTER CAMPUS**

- 34 • Director Calicchio reported her role as interim Director of Libraries for the past few  
35 weeks while maintaining the roles of Director of Cultural Services and Executive  
36 Director of the Marin Cultural Association has been a great learning experience.
- 37 • The entirety of the Exhibit Hall building continues to be utilized as the main hub for  
38 COVID 19 vaccination distribution.
- 39 • The Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium remains setup as an ACS (Alternative Care Site).
- 40 • Marin Center indoor spaces will be utilized exclusively for emergency services through at  
41 least June 2021.
- 42 • It is anticipated events may resume in the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium Winter 2021.

- Seismic retrofitting of the entirety of the Exhibit Hall building is scheduled for August 2021 – May 2022; alternate options and locations on Marin Center campus are being explored for 2021 non-profit fundraising events that typically take place in the Exhibit Hall.
- The County has yet to determine how evacuation resources will be utilized should the need arise for the 2021 fire season.
- The San Francisco Opera drive-in event for Spring 2021 has been approved by Marin County's Public Health department. This will be one of the first live performances in the County since COVID 19. Preparation and safety procedures have been impressively detailed.
- Drive-in graduations for multiple schools are planned for early June 2021.

**2021 MARIN COUNTY FAIR**

- The focus of the 2021 Marin County Fair will be a fair food drive through engaging as many fair food vendors as possible and to be produced by Extreme Food & Beverage.
- Virtual elements and participation will be highlighted.
- Discussion ongoing regarding the possibility of fireworks or a drone light show on July 4. Discussion ensued regarding fireworks / drone shows at future Fairs – impact on the environment, community, neighborhood, financials.
- It is anticipated the 2022 Fair will occur as scheduled.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXHIBITS / PROGRAMS – LIBBY GARRISON**

- The art exhibit by Jeff Downing scheduled for installation in the Marin Center Lagoon has been postponed due to structural adjustments.
- An interactive art piece by Paz de la Calzada will be installed at the entrance of the Marin Center Box Office Plaza in April, coinciding with Earth Awareness Month and Earth Day.
- Per public health mandates and use of the Marin Center facilities for emergency needs, it is anticipated the Marin Center galleries will not reopen until 2022.
- Stephanie Troyon has been approved for a County employee stretch assignment and will be assisting in the ongoing effort to animate the Marin Center campus.
- County Supervisors have approved an avenue for people to propose art installations on County buildings. County Council and Risk Management to advise on artist insurance requirements.

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS REPORT – ERNIE BERGMAN**

- Nothing to report.

**POET LAUREATE / POETRY OUT LOUD – LAUREN HOWARD**

- Director Calicchio and Commissioner Howard commented on the passing and immense influence of renowned poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.
- The position of Poet Laureate remains vacant. The committee is rethinking the future process and criteria for selection of the position, as well as adding a youth position.
- The virtual Poetry OutLoud competition was very successful.

**OTHER**

- Commissioner Bartolini gave remarks on Commissioner Willms late husband who recently passed. Commissioner Willms expressed her appreciation for the support from the Commission and Marin Center staff.

- Commissioner Wexler to assist with and coordinate MCA's next round of COVID 19 relief grants specifically for individual artists.

**IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Commissioner Chris Owen to report on Marin based arts organizations
- Swearing in of returning Commissioners (Dickson, Willms)

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

**The next Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 24 via Zoom, beginning at 9:30 am.**



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Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director