MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, January 27, 2021

ROLE CALL

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PRESENT: Vice Chair Lauren Howard, Commissioners Marge Bartolini, Ann Dickson, Ernie Bergman, Chris Owen, Jennifer Wechsler. Director Gabriella Calicchio, Marketing Manager Libby Garrison, Admin Assistant Elisa Seppa

ABSENT: Commissioners Al Boro, Helen Willms, Madeline Nieto Hope

CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Services Commission convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:34 am.

REVIEW AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the addition of an update on the San Rafael Public Arts Committee by Commissioner Dickson.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 21, 2020 Commission Meeting were approved.

AYES: ALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public (Jo Prabhu) in attendance for observation purposes only.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No Chair's report.

DIRECTORS REPORT

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

• Commissioners Bartolini and Owens to prepare and present the slate for officer nominations at the next meeting.

STATE OF THE ARTS IN MARIN

- Commissioners Dickson and Howard reported on the state of the arts in Marin County. Organizations they approached included DrawBridge, Mill Valley Philharmonic, Marin Shakespeare Company, Marin Art & Garden Center, MSA, and Marin Ballet. They discussed how each organization is coping through the COVID 19 crisis, the facility's future views, and how the Cultural Services Commission could be of assistance.
- Commissioner Owen to report on other organizations at the next commission meeting.
- Possibility of inviting art organizations to personally present / report to the Commission in future meetings was discussed.

MCA ART & CULTURE RECOVERY FUND

- \$51k from the MCA Art & Culture Recovery Fund has been distributed to nonprofit Arts organizations in the first round of grants.
- The next round of fund distribution will be in late Spring. It will be focused on individual artists of all disciplines. The grant amount will be \$1,000 per grantee.

MARIN CENTER CAMPUS

• The entirety of the Exhibit Hall building is being utilized for COVID 19 vaccination distribution.

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- The Veterans' Memorial Auditorium remains setup as an ACS (Alternative Care Site).
- Drive-thru COVID 19 testing in the Jury Lot of the Marin Center is ongoing and is being run by Curative.
- Marin Center indoor spaces will likely be utilized exclusively for emergency services through at least June 2021. Rentals / reopening for regular use of Marin Center campus will be upon approval of the public health department and on a case by case basis.
- The San Francisco Opera has expressed interest in producing a drive-in event in Spring of 2021 / pending public health department's approval.
- Drive-in graduations for multiple schools are planned for early June 2021.
- Some Marin Center staff are being pulled back from DSW assignments to assist with upcoming rental programming.
- Director Calicchio commended Cultural Services staff for exhibiting great work ethic in fluctuating roles and assignments during the Pandemic.
- As of February 1, Director Calicchio will be taking the role of interim Director for the Marin County Free Library in addition to her roles as Director of Cultural Services and Marin Cultural Association.

2021 MARIN COUNTY FAIR

- The focus of the 2021 Marin County Fair will be a fair food drive through.
- There will likely be virtual elements/participation; no large-scale events will take place.
- It is anticipated the 2022 Fair will be able to occur as scheduled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ART IN THE PARKS – LIBBY GARRISON

• An art installation by artist Jeff Downing based on sea level rise will be installed in the Lagoon at Marin Center February - August, 2021.

EXHIBITS / PROGRAMMING – LIBBY GARRISON

• 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.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT UPDATE – LIBBY GARRISON

• Frank Lloyd Wright docent program continues to offer short engagement / informational videos weekly on their website and linking to public FLW websites. Staff and Docents are hopeful tours will be able to restart once restrictions are lifted.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS REPORT – ERNIE BERGMAN

- All Marin County veterans' meetings have been on hold or occurring online.
- COVID 19 vaccinations are being offered at the VA hospital locations in San Francisco and Santa Rosa for Marin veterans.
- Longtime president of the Marin County United Veterans' Council, Ray Mullin has retired and Bill McNicholas has been appointed as the new President.

POET LAUREATE / POETRY OUT LOUD – LAUREN HOWARD

- Marin Poetry Center High School Anthology has created a digital platform for underserved students to digitally submit and share poetry.
- Poetry OutLoud will be held virtually this year.

OTHER

- Commissioner Dickson reported the San Rafael Public Arts Committee is in process of searching for a BIPOC artist from Marin to produce a public art installation pertaining to social injustice and equality.
- Commissioners offered congratulations to the Marin County Fair staff for 2020 WFA awards received.

IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Vote on Slate of Officers
- Commissioner Chris Owen Report on Marin Based Arts Organizations

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

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

Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director