

MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, March 24, 2021

ROLE CALL

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Al Boro, Madeline Nieto Hope, Jennifer Wechsler

CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Services Commission convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:37 am.

REVIEW AGENDA

The agenda was approved with no additions or changes.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 24, 2021 Commission Meeting were approved.

AYES: ALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public (Aurora Mahassine, Gallinas Watershed Council) in attendance to speak about the floating island bio-filtration project in the Lagoon, as well as show support for a drone / laser show in place of fireworks for future Marin County Fair celebrations.

DIRECTORS REPORT

SWEARING IN OF RETURNING COMMISSIONERS

- Returning Commissioner Dickson was sworn in.
- Returning Commissioner Willms was sworn in.
- Returning Commissioner Owen was sworn in.

MARIN CENTER CAMPUS

- The San Francisco Opera has begun load-in for their drive-in event. The Opera will present 14 live performances – 11 operas and 3 concerts – between April 23 and May 15.
- Marin Center is working with producers to book events within pandemic parameters and seismic retrofitting scheduling. Affiliated production costs and capacity limitations are lead concerns.
- Interest for outdoor events in the Fall include – Mill Valley Film Festival, and TreasureFest.
- With anticipated tier shifts and lifting of restrictions, schools may host normal / distanced graduations at their campuses rather than drive-in graduations at Marin Center.
- Seismic retrofitting of the Exhibit Hall building is scheduled for August 2021 – May 2022 – the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium for August 2022 – May 2023.
- The MCA Board is working closely with Marin DPW, County Planning, and Marin CAO regarding renovations for the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium. The Board to receive proposals from 5 architectural firms – approached for RFP for conceptual design / cost estimates. Polling for community interest, opinions, and possible funding to occur. Discussion ongoing regarding need to first find funding or create design concepts.

1 **2021 & 2022 MARIN COUNTY FAIR**

- 2 • The 2021 Virtual Fair is being developed by Marin Center and County IT Staff.
- 3 • Possibility of adding walk-up options and grounds acts in addition to the fair food drive-through if Covid 19 restrictions continue to lift.
- 4 • Decision has yet to be made to provide or postpone entertainment options for 2021, especially with regard to safely gathering – including fireworks or a drone light show on July 4. Bid for fireworks - \$25k, drone show - \$100k, laser show – TBD.
- 5 • The Marin County Fair reserve fund is currently at \$800k. This is up from \$150K in 2015.
- 6 • The theme for the 2022 Fair will be ‘So Happy Together’ celebrating inclusive community spirit. An inclusive Marin artist has been approached to produce the creative.

7 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8 **EXHIBITS / PROGRAMS – LIBBY GARRISON**

- 9 • Reopening of the Marin Center gallery in the Civic Center is estimated for January 2022.
- 10 • Youth in Arts ‘Rising Stars’ high school art exhibit was produced virtually.
- 11 • Marin HHS and Marin Youth Commission partnered to produce an exhibit entitled ‘What Helps Me?’ by middle and high schoolers showcasing mental health awareness and the exponential increase in suicide of high school youth over the past year.

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

- 13 • Commissioner Howard hopes to integrate poetry programming with the ‘What Helps Me?’ mental health awareness showcase.
- 14 • The Marin Poetry Center is working with youth poetry organizations and has begun discussion with Cruyz regarding future adult and youth Poet Laureate positions.

15 **VETERANS’ AFFAIRS REPORT – ERNIE BERGMAN**

- 16 • United Veterans Council may host a Memorial Day event pending Covid 19 restrictions.
- 17 • ‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’ gathering to take place March 29 in Novato.


18 **IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- 19 • Community arts representative presentation (Marin Ballet – Lawrence Ewing)
- 20 • Finalize July 4 celebration (Director’s Report)
- 21 • SF Opera overview (For May Commission Meeting. Possible Opera representative.)
- 22 • Community organizations to approach for presenting at future meetings (Pandemic Grant recipients, smaller / BIPOC groups, etc)

23 **ADJOURN:**

24 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

25 **The next Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 28 via Zoom, beginning at 9:30 am.**



 Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director