

MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION
Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, May 26, 2021

ROLE CALL

PRESENT: Chair Lauren Howard, Commissioners Marge Bartolini, Ann Dickson, Ernie Bergman, Helen Willms, Chris Owen, Oshalla Marcus, Jennifer Wechsler.
Director Gabriella Calicchio, Marketing Manager Libby Garrison, Rental Client Coordinator Sarah Tipple

ABSENT: Commissioners Al Boro, Madeline Nieto Hope

CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Services Commission convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:32 am.

REVIEW AGENDA

The agenda was approved with one change of moving Stephanie Troyan's presentation from Public Comment to the Chair Report.

AYES: ALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 28, 2021 Commission Meeting were approved.

AYES: ALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Member of the public (Bill Hale) in attendance and suggested that the Commission meets during the long break to discuss and resolve the list of suggestions that he previously emailed.
- Member of the public (Aurora Mahassine of the Galinas Watershed Project) in attendance. She shared information about the floating island biofilters to prevent algae blooms in the Lagoon. She wants to work with the Commission to put in the full-scale bioremediation alongside the Indigenous Youth Foundation and other Native American Artist groups.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Stephanie Troyon gave a presentation Opportunities for Public Art and Placemaking at the Marin Center.
- Members of the commission found the presentation to be fantastic and exciting and would like to bring her back to complete the presentation at the next meeting. The first opportunity to implement some of Stephanie's ideas could be with the parking lot renovation scheduled for 2022. The biggest barrier is finding the funds to implement. Commissioner Dickson will connect with Libby Garrison to research grants and other funding sources.. There will be a committee comprised of commissioners and members of the public to approve the art installations. Commissioners suggested incorporating nature and functionality in the art installations.

1 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

2 **APPROVE FAIR BUDGET**

3 Director Calicchio presented the 2021 Fair budget. Since there will only be a virtual Fair
4 this year the budget had very few line items and was unanimously approved. AYES:
5 ALL

6 **APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT 2021 FUND ALLOCATION FROM CDFA**

- 7 • Director Calicchio read the resolution to the Commission and asked for a motion to
8 approve. The resolution to accept 2021 fund allocation from CDFA was approved.
9 AYES: ALL

10 **MC ART & CULTURE – OSHALLA MARCUS**

- 11 • Commissioner Oshalla spoke about her organization “MC Art & Culture”, and the
12 Gallery run by a collective of Marin City artists.
13 • Juneteenth Celebration supporting and collaborating with local artists and vendors will be
14 held on June 19th.
15 • Oshalla was recognized and applauded for being the cover story for Marin Living
16 Magazine.
17 • The gallery is inspiring youth through the arts. A 10-year-old will have his first exhibit
18 on June 13th called “Through the Eyes of a Child.”

19 **CULTURAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS TRAINING – GABRIELLA CALICCHIO**

- 20 • One of the main goals of the Arts & Culture Action Plan, was to create art “by and for the
21 community”. The challenge is that many art organizations are marred by institutionalized
22 racism. Many BIPOC artists have had negative experiences when working at or with
23 these organizations.
24 • Gabriella will send an invitation to the information session scheduled for June 15th at
25 1:00pm. At the end of the informational session, participants will be encouraged to apply
for a spot in the first Cohort. The Community Benefits training is scheduled for July 7-
13. The commission was encouraged to forward to anyone in the arts community.

16 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

17 **EXHIBITS / PROGRAMS – LIBBY GARRISON**

- 18 • The Marin Center’s Galleries are still on hold. But plans are being made for the Civic
19 Center Galleries and the Redwood Foyer. In recognition of Mental Health month,
20 applications are currently being accepted for a youth exhibit called, “What Helps Me”.
21 The slideshow of accepted submissions will be posted online at the end of May.
22 • The Virtual Fair will launch June 1st showcasing our community’s broad array of
23 competitive exhibits, among other things.
24 • Frank Lloyd Wright Docent Tours are not open yet, still waiting for the go ahead from
25 Public Health. The tours will likely commence late summer or early fall.

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

- 23 • Lauren attended a Zoom meeting of High School Students reading their poetry at the
24 Marin Poetry Center. She identified several amazing and talented youth who could serve
25 as the Youth Poet Laureate once that program commences.

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

- 25 • The county is restricting what the United Veterans Council can do for their annual
Memorial Day event, it will most likely be a minimal drop in event at 10 Avenue of the
Flags with taps playing at 11:00am.

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars in Novato is inviting all veterans to their new facility at 10am on Memorial Day.
- Still no decisions made if the 2021 Wheelchair Regatta will take place or not. The free annual event – an appreciation/celebration ‘day on the bay’ for veterans – typically hosts 300 veterans and involves 300 volunteers.

IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- San Rafael Public Arts Projects (Ann Dickson)
- Public Art & Placemaking at the Marin Center Presentation Part 2 (Stephanie Troyan)

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

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



Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director