

**MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

**ROLE CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Al Boro, Marge Bartolini, Oshalla Marcus, Jennifer Wechsler, Madeline Nieto Hope

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Cultural Services Commission convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:36 am.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with the addition of a report on the Cultural Community Benefits Training for arts leaders held in July and the Terra Linda arts mural project item under the Director's Report.

AYES: ALL

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

AYES: ALL

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Member of the public (Bill Hale) was in attendance to express concerns about access to and egress from Lagoon Park during events at Marin Center. He expressed the need for better signage and a review of outdoor event policies. He requested a committee be formed to create a relationship between Cultural Services and the Terra Linda neighborhoods.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**INTRODUCTION OF KYLE CLAUSEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

- Director Calicchio reported her role as interim Director of Library Services will finish at the end of the month. The new director of the Marin County Library, Lana Adlawan, has been onboard since the beginning of September and the transition is now complete.
- After a national search, Kyle Clausen was selected as the new Deputy Director of Cultural Services. Deputy Director Clausen worked in the arts and culture sector for the past 20 years, most recently with UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture, and previously with the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

**UPDATE ON PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING**

- Stephanie Troyon who previously gave a presentation "Opportunities for Public Art and Placemaking at the Marin Center" is on leave with the County.
- Renovation of the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium Parking Lot may be able to coincide with the seismic retrofit of the building.

- Fletcher Design, hired by 405 Architects, is an innovative design group who will integrate artistic elements to the parking lot design.

#### **CULTURAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS TRAINING – ANN DICKSON**

- 20 arts leaders met in early July for a virtual equity training with ArtChangeUS. The guiding principles of building inclusivity in organizations by means of ideas, trainings, equity, etc were discussed.
- Tammy Edmonson with the MCA Board created a draft of a Cultural Equity pact for arts leaders in Marin County to sign on to and support.
- The Terra Linda Public Art Project has been in process over the past year / implemented by the San Rafael public arts committee in response to the vandalization of a Breonna Taylor mural in Terra Linda.
- \$22k in funding has been raised, an additional \$15k is needed to complete the project. Youth in Arts is supporting the project and serving as the Fiscal Sponsor.
- Orin Carpenter, an artist and art teacher, was selected to create the mural. The artwork will ultimately serve as inspiration and motivation for people to address social justice and equity issues. / The mural installation and celebration will be in Arbor Park in late October.

#### **FAIR 2022**

- Staff are hopeful the 2022 Fair will be able to occur at full capacity but are preparing contingency plans as well. Decisions will be based on public health approval of mega events (+10k attendance/per day) in place at time of event. Dates would be June 30 – July 4, 2022.
- Director and Deputy Director would take lead, and likely hire additional contractors to distribute duties including retired Fair Manager Charlie Barboni.
- The theme has yet to be determined – discussion ensued, and ideas included “so happy together”, “fair skies ahead”, “phoenix rising”, “fresh start”, “DIY”, “resilience”, and ‘marinoculation.’

#### **FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE & SVOG FUNDING**

- The \$2.261m in funding received from the SBA’s Shuttered Venues Operator Grant (SVOG) is to cover expenses and lost revenue due to COVID. There may be some opportunity to use funding for capital projects such as replacing the seats in the Showcase Theater and renovating the adjacent restrooms with HVAC / air circulation systems and touchless appliances. The Department has been invited to submit a request for additional funding from SVOG.
- Planning for renovation of the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium (VMA) building is ongoing. It is unlikely funds can be raised or approved of by the scheduled seismic retrofitting of the VMA in 2022.
- Marin Center is budgeted for 15.5 hire regular hire positions; the staff count is currently at 7; when Director Calicchio started there were 18.
- The recruitment for a full-time regular hire Event Operations Manager will begin in October with the hope of having someone onboard before the end of the calendar year.
- TreasureFest sold over 12,000 tickets for their two-day event. The event brought in a younger demographic and those who attended had positive things to say.
- Upcoming events include Bank of Marin’s Spirit of Marin Awards on the Island, Sunset Picnic in Lagoon Park, and Bill Maher in the Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium.
- Bill Maher will be the first event in the VMA since the beginning of the pandemic. It is a fully vaccinated event. Extra security guards have been hired to check vaccination status before patrons can enter the venue.

- Dance companies who typically fill the calendar in December have yet to confirm if they will be returning. The companies have reported enrollment is down by 1/3 to 1/2 due to COVID. Producers are also concerned about the State and County policy requiring all “eligible” people to be vaccinated before entering the venue.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **EXHIBITS / PROGRAMS – LIBBY GARRISON**

- The current art exhibit in the Civic Center gallery is entitled *A decade of Watercolor Inspiration* by artist and instructor Cara Brown and her watercolor group.
- Marin County Fair posters and awards from 1973-2019 are on display in the Redwood Foyer Gallery.
- All other art exhibits continue to be showcased online, including a youth art and film showcase on suicide prevention presented in partnership with Marin HHS.
- In recognition of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marinship and the formation of Marin City, Performing Stars of Marin and Microphone Mechanics will present a historical showcase, visual celebrations, and performances in the Bartolini Gallery and Showcase Theater in August 2022.
- Marin County Board of Supervisors Instagram intern team is presenting ‘Art Showcase Saturdays’ and ‘Sustainable Sundays’ campaigns.
- The next art exhibit in the Bartolini Gallery will be following the 2022 Marin County Fair.
- Work is ongoing for the public art database, expected to be online by 2022.
- Frank Lloyd Wright docent tours remain on-hold through at least the end of 2021.

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

- The new Marin County Free Library Director will lead the Poet Laureate committee.
- MCA and the County will once again participate in Poetry Out Loud sponsored by the California Arts Council and the NEA.

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

- The Novato Veterans of Foreign Wars organization will be hosting happy hour on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3p-7p.
- The 2021 Wheelchair Regatta (a free annual appreciation/celebration ‘day on the bay’ for veterans) has been cancelled.

### **IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Marinship 80 Project
- Marin Center facilities
- 2022 Marin County Fair

### **ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

**The next Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27th via Zoom, beginning at 9:30 am.**



Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director