

MARIN COUNTY CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION
Via Zoom, Marin Center, San Rafael, California
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday, March 23, 2022

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chair Ann Dickson, Commissioners Helen Willms, Chris Owen, Oshalla Dee Marcus, Ernie Bergman, Lauren Howard, Al Boro; Director Gabriella Calicchio; Deputy Director Kyle Clausen; Media Manager Libby Garrison

ABSENT: Marge Bartolini, Madeleine Nieto Hope, Jennifer Wechsler

CALL TO ORDER:

The Cultural Services Commission Meeting convened via Zoom Videoconference at 9:34 a.m.

REVIEW AGENDA:

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 23, 2022 Commission Meeting were approved.

- AYES: ALL

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- Community member Bill Hale reported that at the September meeting he made a comment regarding the Cultural Commission's role in setting policy; He asked for more clarification around the Commission's role.
- Hale also commented about the food options at the Marin County Fair. He would like to see a reduction in the number of "unhealthy" food vendors and would like the department to bring in "good" food. He will communicate with Chris Owen from District 1 to make suggestions for better food options at the Fair.

CHAIR REPORT – ANN DICKSON:

- Ann welcomed everyone, hopes to meet in person after COVID dies down potentially by end of summer.
- Ann thanked Gabriella, Libby and Kyle for their hard work, professionalism and service to the County during COVID.

Public Comment – no public comment

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GABRIELLA CALICCHIO:

Update on 2022 Marin County Fair – we are well underway in planning.

- Fair will be outdoor only with some elements virtual/online.
- Sponsorships \$45,000 raised already, goal is \$50,000; we are still reaching out to Clover and some of the regular sponsors for donations.
- Headliners are booked; some nights will have opening bands
- Tickets go on sale April 20 with a tiered strategy starting with 500 tickets at \$5, then 1000 at \$10, then 1000 at \$15 and so on.
- Grounds acts – regulars are all back except for Mark Wilder from Something Ridiculous.
- John McLeod and Webstars are creating a huge maker space on the fairgrounds and are partnering with architect Daniel Castor for a life-sized Camera Obscura.
- Global Marketplace – we are on par with the numbers from 2018 and 2019 – we anticipate will be full by fair time.
- Community Stage – almost all booked with the community groups.

- Ag area – not full-scale but will have some competitions and exhibits and shows in the barnyard and arena.
- Food – most food vendors are coming back; trying to bring in new vendors from community including Jim’s BBQ.
- Competitive Exhibits – will be virtual with expanded categories including jewelry, wine label design, and more. Anticipate 3000 entries compared to 1000 in 2021. Libby reported that the 2021 Virtual Fair won 1st place at the Western Fairs Association conference.

Questions:

- Ann – asked about the Fair covid policy. Gabriella reported as of yesterday Drs. Willis and Santora do not want to change protocol. By summer we will likely not have to check vaccine status at gates, but we will evaluate closer to fair time. Masks will likely not be required. We have hand sanitizer stations with EO Products hand sanitizer throughout the fairgrounds.
- Al – what about the new variant and any impact it might have in Marin. Gabriella responded that Drs. Willis and Santora feel that if we have a surge, it will be over and done with before the Fair; outdoor events will remain relatively safe.
- Lauren – will we have ribbons for competitive exhibit winners? Libby reported that yes, we will have actual (not virtual) ribbons for the winners of the competitive exhibit categories.

BCP (Budget Change Proposal) Requests:

- Five proposals were submitted Gabriella discussed three of them:
 - Transformation of the Exhibit Hall to a performance space for VMA clients (Aug 2022 to May 2023) with the purchase of a stage, drape, chairs, etc. to set up as theater space
 - Library Art Lending Program – a partnership with the Marin County Free Library where patrons can check out original works of art by artists from the community. Libby is working on this program with the Library staff.
 - Cultural Arts Equity Network – completed two sessions of training for arts leaders on social justice and equity; continue to meet quarterly with cohort; the network wants the boards of their organizations to go through the training as well

Questions:

- Ann – commented that the Cultural Equity training was a great training; we need to remain dedicated to making change for equity and diversity; need to bring in more diverse arts boards county wide
- Oshalla – commented that MC Arts & Culture was formed because of her experience as a black artist in the community; she wants to be involved in the Cultural Arts Equity network.

Public Comment – no public comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Exhibits & Programs (L. Garrison)
 - Exhibit overview – Dickens 44 is currently on view in the Civic Center galleries; Fair poster exhibit is on view in the Redwood Foyer Gallery; working on Marin City 80 campus wide exhibit for fall.
 - Frank Lloyd Wright – attended Wright Public Sites Directors Conference; many sites are still on hold for docent tours
 - Public Art – William Wiley sculpture will not be presented for installation on the Marin Center campus; we are still reviewing the public art process and policies for County of Marin buildings and unincorporated areas; met with City of San Rafael to collaborate on creating process and policies moving forward
- Poet Laureate / Poetry Out Loud (L. Howard)
 - Poet Laureate is on hold for now but will be bringing it back in the future.
 - POL winner was announced; Sofia Story didn’t win the state but was mentioned in the top 10 with the most votes.
- Veterans’ Affairs (E. Bergman)
 - Ernie reported that the high schools want him to come in and speak but this was postponed due to him getting COVID.

- Vietnam Veterans monthly event has resumed
- Ernie will help promote ticket sales to the veteran's networks

Public Comment – no public comment

IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Mary Jane Burke and SchoolsRule presentation
- Marketing presentation Fair

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

The next Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 27th, 2022, beginning at 9:30am.

Gabriella C. Calicchio, Director