



Harini Krishnan, District 1
Stephen Seymour, District 1
Kimberly Gordon, District 2
Elizabeth Stone, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
Laura McHugh, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
Edward Sweeney, District 4
Samaruddin Stewart, Dist. 5
Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i, Dist. 5

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 — 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location: ZOOM

MINUTES

1. **RollCall** – Commissioners Sam Stewart, Kimberly Gordon, Harini Krishnan, Laura McHugh, Jeanne Heise, Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i, Elizabeth Stone.
Staff: Commission Director Robin Rodricks, Chief Legislative Aide Juda Tolmasoff, CMO Administrative Aid Rosalinda Jen.
Guests: Patricia Kristoff Moy, Executive Director at Music at Kohl Mansion.
2. **Introduction** of new Commissioners: Chair Stewart introduced Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga representing District 3, and Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i representing District 5. The new Commissioners shared their background. The Commissioners shared their background and experiences on the Commission with the new Commissioners.
3. **Agenda Amendments**: none.
4. **Oral Communications**: none.
5. **Consideration of Minutes** of July 22, 2020 and Sept. 16, 2020 regular meetings: Commissioner McHugh moved to adopt the minutes of the regular July 22 and September 22 meeting; Commissioner Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Reports**
 - A. **STAFF REPORTS**

Robin Rodricks, Commission Director: no report.
Juda Tolmasoff, District 2 Chief Legislative Aid: Ms. Tolmasoff reported the County is likely moving from Red tier to Purple tier. She reminded the Commissioners to follow County safety precautions for COVID-19.
 - B. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: Commissioner Gordon reported she will be discussing the county Celebration of the Arts at the next regular Commission meeting on January 14.

7. Discussion Item(s)

- A. Update/Discussion of *Art & Civil Rights Cohort* project: Commissioner Stone reported that the Arts & Civil Rights project which the Commission voted on at the July 13, 2020 meeting would no longer consist of 3 Community meetings and a trip to Alabama, but consist of 3 Community meetings and 3 virtual tours. For a Cohort participant to apply for grant funding for an arts & civil rights project or program, the nonprofit must attend all 6 sessions. The nonprofits who are accepted into the cohort will be given a weighted score in their grant evaluation for their participation in the program.
- B. Update on 2021 grants program: Commissioner Heise advised that she had researched changing the grants program to collaborative grants to organizations working on equity and social justice via a RFP process. Said research and discussions with arts/culture nonprofits revealed to Commissioner Heise and Director that the COVID-19 pandemic makes collaborations very difficult – both financially and programmatically – as the organizations are stilling struggling to survive. Commissioner Heise advises that the 2021 grant program will return to our regular two portfolios – Organizational Support and Project/Program grants – with scores being weighted towards applicants serving the underserved populations, and/or working on equity and social justice.
- C. Update on prioritization of 1st year work plan initiatives and continuation of the Commission’s work on Equity/Social Justice: the Director briefly recapped the year-one workplan, included in the agenda packet, as prioritized by the Director, Chair and Vice Chair.
- D. Discussion of length of time for regular Commission meetings: The Commission Director queried the Commissioners as to their preference of meeting monthly with a goal of finishing meetings in 90 minutes, or meeting bi-monthly for 2 to 2.5 hours. The consensus of the Commissioners was to continue meeting bi-monthly, with the Director reminding the Commissioners that some meetings may be slightly longer than 2 hours.

8. Adjournment: the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 P.M.