



San Mateo County Arts Commission

Cindy Zheng, 1st District
Dildar Gill Pisani, 2nd District
Sherrill Swan, 3rd District
Karen Chew, 4th District
Lisa Steel, 5th District

Department of Parks
455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
David G. Holland, Director
(650) 599-1393

**Regular Meeting of the Arts Commission
Monday, July 20, 2009, 12 (noon) to 1:30 p.m.
455 County Center, Room 401, 4th Floor*
Redwood City, CA 94063**

Minutes

Vice Chair Gill Pisani called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Commission: Chew, Gill Pisani (Vice Chair), Steel, Swan (Chair) (Absent), Zheng
(Arrived at 12:25 p.m.)

Staff: Bennett, Holland

Peninsula Arts Council: Ruth Waters

2. Oral Communications

None

3. Agenda Amendments

None

4. Consideration of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of June 15, 2009

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Steel to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioners Swan and Zheng not in attendance.

5. Discussion

A. Working with Youth Commissioners

- Ms. Huong Nguyen with Youth and Family Enrichment Services will be available to discuss accommodations and potential projects for youth to serve as commissioners on the Arts Commission

Ms. Huong Nguyen, Adult Ally Coordinator, Youth Development Initiative, provided an overview of the Youth Commission. She said differently from the past when youth served on the Youth Commission, another Board or Commission and did a group project, that this year youth would be given a choice to serve on the Youth Commission

and do a group project or serve on one of the County's Boards or Commission's and do an individual project.

Vice Chair Gill Pisani said that the Commission had been considering the youth commission since reading in a survey of youth needs that youth wanted art to be more accessible. She said that one idea of the Networking and Support Committee was to have youth performances in the County's History Museum plaza. Ms. Nguyen said that a Youth Commissioner could work on a project that the Arts Commission has already identified. Director Holland said that youth service on Commissions was better for the youth if there was actual participation, and our challenge was to connect with youth. Commissioner Chew asked about liability such as driving or accompanying youth commissioners to events. Director Holland said staff would check with County Risk Management.

Ms. Nguyen said that March traditionally was Youth Development Month and asked if the Commission might have ideas on activities that would tie in with that. Vice Chair Gill Pisani noted that March was Women's History Month and the County had hosted a Women's Art Exhibit for the past six years. Ms. Waters agreed with Vice Chair Gill Pisani's idea that the exhibit could be modified to have entries by young women. Vice Chair Gill Pisani said that perhaps a youth string quartet might perform at the art opening.

(Commissioner Zheng arrived at 12:25 p.m.)

The Commission's consensus was to have the Commission's subcommittees consider project ideas for a Youth Commissioner and present those to Ms. Nguyen at the September Arts Commission meeting.

B. County Arts Needs Assessment and Development of County Arts Alliance
- Director Holland will report on his activities and next steps

Director Holland said that he wanted to update the Commission on his activities to talk to other major cities with arts commissions on their cultural needs and what they might want or need from the County's Arts Commission. He said he broached meeting with his counterparts at the monthly Parks and Recreation Directors meeting, noting that many of the arts and cultural commissions are supported by parks and recreation. He said he would be meeting with the directors individually for the cities of San Mateo, Burlingame, Foster City, Redwood City and South San Francisco and would report back in September to the Commission.

Vice Chair Gill Pisani asked about the Commissioner associated with the district of those cities accompanying Director Holland for the meetings. Director Holland said he would arrange to have the particular Commissioner join him in the meetings.

Ms. Waters asked about some cities such as Belmont that do not have a city arts commission but have strong independent arts organizations. Director Holland said that

essentially he would begin with the governmental and city tier of arts organizations before assessing the needs of other organizations and non-profits. Ms. Waters said there were 14 arts organizations in Belmont alone. Vice Chair Gill Pisani noted that the Commission had a list of all of the arts organizations in the County that was daunting in size. Director Holland said that the list could be stratified and simplified. He said he would get the meetings listed with the name of the corresponding Commissioner, email it to the Commissioners and then get meeting dates. Vice Chair Gill Pisani asked if questions would be formulated so that the meetings would gather comparable information. Director Holland said he would develop a list of five or so questions.

6. Action Items

A. Approval of www.discoverSMC.com as the Preferred Name for County's Arts Website (Artsopolis)

Commission Action: M/S Chew/Steel to approve www.discoverSMC.com as the preferred name for the County's arts website through Artsopolis.

Motion carried 4-0 with Chair Swan not in attendance.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Chew, Networking and Support Subcommittee, said it was a good direction that Director Holland was taking to create networking with the other government level arts organizations.

Vice Chair Gill Pisani said she would like the Commission to consider the process for selecting arts educator of the year to include what other honoring could occur beyond the Board recognition and the gift certificate. She said that the selection committee might be expanded to include past honorees. She said they could also talk to the past honorees about other ways to honor arts education efforts. Director Holland said that could be wrapped into policy as award guidelines.

Commissioner Zheng, Arts Education Subcommittee, said she had approached Supervisor Church about support to establish a program for high school Chinese art students to attend school in San Mateo County and have reciprocal educational credits. Vice Chair Gill Pisani said she was not sure the County educational system had comparable schools for high school art programs. Commissioner Chew said it was a great idea but would take time to build. She said her District included Redwood City, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park and was inclined to make arts education efforts locally. She said it was very common for cities, however, to have sister cities in the world for cultural exchange, but she did not know about the funding to do an international program like Commissioner Zheng was describing. Commissioner Zheng said that it was the policy that needed to be set in place as there was an organization established to enact such a program. Director Holland suggested that Commissioners Zheng and Swan, the Arts Education Subcommittee, develop a list of possible ideas for projects they would like to be supported.

Ms. Waters said she saw a San Francisco Chronicle article about the distribution of stimulus funds for the arts and was discouraged to see that San Mateo County was not on the list and other neighboring counties were.

Commissioner Steel noted the email from Mr. Boris Koodrin about the Peninsula Festival, the renamed San Mateo County Fair, and asked if the Commission would be sponsoring awards. Ms. Bennett noted that the Commission had indicated a desire to examine policy and guidelines related to funding requests and that the Fair sponsorship program materials were most likely already printed.

8. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Chew said that Redwood City had some type of cultural activity just about every evening of the week. She said PAL's annual comedy show was in the planning stage.

Vice Chair Gill Pisani said that there is a "wine walk" on the fourth Thursday of the month in San Mateo. She said the idea originated with one business owner on B Street and became so popular that other businesses clamored to become part of the walk. She said artist Ray Beldner would be presenting a lecture on Marcel Duchamp at the Smithsonian.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.