



Civic Arts Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library

1901 Russell St, Berkeley, CA 94703

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Chochen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. We acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda)

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a) Welcome back from summer recess

6. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS (All items for presentation, discussion and possible action)

- a) **Action Item:** Approval of mural design by Nigel Sussman for Fire Station #5 Introduced by Matthew Passmore, Public Art Subcommittee Chair, and presented by Nigel Sussman (Attachment 1)
Recommendation: Approve mural design by Nigel Sussman for Fire Station #5.
Public Comment

- b) **Presentation:** Utility Box Mural Program Recommendations Introduced by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer and presented by Andrea Calderon, Civic Arts Intern
Public Comment

- c) **Action Item:** Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Introduced by Matthew Passmore, Public Art Subcommittee Chair, and presented by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer (Attachment 2) Written Public Comment on Aquatic Park Public Art (Attachment 3)
 - i. **Recommendation:** Approve the Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Panel's Recommendation to implement the Aquatic Park Public Art Proposal by Masako Miki for the wall project.
Public Comment

 - ii. **Recommendation:** Approve the Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Panel's Recommendation to reject all proposals for the sculpture opportunity
Public Comment

- d) **Action Item:** Civic Arts Commission stance on the appropriateness and importance of public art at Berkeley's Waterfront and Marina and to recommend integration of public art into the [Waterfront Specific Plan](#), Introduced by Commission Chair Dana Blecher and Commissioner Cameron Woo.
Recommendation: Affirm the appropriateness and importance of public art at Berkeley's Waterfront and Marina and recommend integration of public art into the Waterfront Specific Plan.
Public Comment

- e) **Update:** Queen Shamiram Sculpture

Presented by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer
Public Comment

7. STAFF REPORT

- a) Civic Arts Updates, Jennifer Lovvorn
- b) Grants Program Updates, Hilary Amnah

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Grants
 - Dana Blecher, Chair
 - Liz Ozol
 - Cameron Woo
- b) Policy
 - Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Liz Ozol
 - Cameron Woo
- c) Public Art
 - Matt Passmore, Chair
 - Kim Anno
 - Riti Dhesi
- d) Representatives on Civic Center Project
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Liz Ozol
 - Cameron Woo
- e) Representative on Berkeley Cultural Trust
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
- f) Representatives on Berkeley Arts Education Steering Committee
 - Liz Ozol
- g) Representative on Design Review Committee
 - Cameron Woo

- h) Representative on Ad-Hoc Artists Affordable Housing Committee
 - Kim Anno

9. COMMUNICATION (Received from the Public for Items not on the Agenda)

- a) None

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Draft Minutes of July 19, 2023 Meeting (Attachment 4) From:
Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approval of July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Public Comment

11. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Mural design by Nigel Sussman for Fire Station #5
2. Summary of Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Process
3. Written Public Comment on Aquatic Park Public Art
4. July 19, 2023 Draft Minutes

Staff Contact:

Jennifer Lovvorn
Secretary to the Civic Arts Commission
Berkeley, CA 94704
Telephone (510) 981-7533
TDD (510) 981-6903
jlovvorn@berkeleyca.gov

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.





Civic Arts Program

Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Panel Summary of Round Two Selection Panel Meetings

Selection Panelists

Brennan Cox, Parks Recreation and Waterfront Commissioner
Elena Gross, Arts Professional
Rebecca Grove, Community Representative
Weston Teruya, Arts Professional
Cameron Woo, Civic Arts Commissioner

Selection Criteria

1. **Artistic Merit:** Artistic Merit may be judged by such measures as originality of concept and artistic vision; the mastery of skills, techniques and the quality of craftsmanship; the degree to which the work engages the viewer emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. Artistic merit may also be credited to artwork that reflects a significant or direct relationship between the artist and distinct racial or cultural communities.
2. **Relevant Skills & Experience:** Review Panels and the Civic Arts Commission shall consider the assessed ability of an artist to successfully implement a proposed project; their ability to work constructively with other project stakeholders; willingness to resolve issues as they arise; manage the demands of the project to meet deadlines; cultural competency and/or significant connection between the artist and the project constituency; and experience that may particularly qualify an artist to meet project goals may also be considered.
3. **Meet Project Goals:** The proposed artwork (or the assessed ability of an artist to design a proposal) meets the specific goals of the project as defined in the RFQ:
 - To enhance the visitor's experience of Aquatic Park by beautifying its context, reflecting the multi-layered history of the site, and highlighting its ecological importance.
 - To create a durable artwork that can withstand public interaction and the natural elements.
4. **The Artwork is Appropriate to the Site:** The artwork or proposed artwork is appropriate for its intended display location in terms of scale, media, design or imagery and is judged to be relevant within the context of the surrounding area.
5. **Feasibility, Maintainability:** Proposed objects shall be evaluated relative to their feasibility and evidence of the artist's ability to successfully complete the work as proposed. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to: project budget, timeline, and the artist's experience. Due consideration shall be given to the structural and surface soundness; inherent resistance to theft, vandalism and weathering; and the anticipated costs and amount of ongoing maintenance and/or repair.

Summary of Wall Art Selection Process

Wall Art Panel Meeting Date: September 13, 2023, 1:00-5:00 PM
Sculpture: September 15, 2023, 1:00-5:00 PM

The following finalists presented an overview of their practice and proposals for the Aquatic Park Wall Art Project:

- Liz Hernandez
- Phillip Hua
- Masako Miki

The panelists discussed the public comment results from the Berkeley Considers survey and additional public comment received from Aquatic Park stakeholders. Next, they discussed and evaluated each of the proposals based on the selection criteria. The panelist then ranked the artists: 1, 2, or 3 (1=highest rank) accordingly. The panel reviewed the results of the ranking and agreed with the results as the recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission.

Ranking Results

- Highest Rank: Masako Miki (Score of 6)
- Tied for Second: Liz Hernandez (Score of 12) and Phillip Hua (Score of 12)

Panel Recommendation for Wall Art:

The panel selected Masako Miki's proposal for the Aquatic Park Wall Art Public Art Project and recommends this selection to the Civic Arts Commission for approval at their September 27, 2023 meeting.

MASAKO MIKI ART PROPOSAL FOR THE AQUATIC PARK SCULPTURE PROJECT



CONTEMPLATING THE UNIVERSE
The imagery of *Contemplating the Universe* integrates elements of Berkeley's shorefront habitat and the history of the Ohlone tribes with mythological shapeshifters and animistic folklore. This concept illustration represents a ten-foot section of the full wall, finished in 10" x 10" porcelain tiles. The mural will first be painted with watercolor and then printed and baked onto corresponding tiles.



Example of watercolor painting



Sample of 10"x10" tile test print



Summary of Sculpture Selection Process

Sculpture Panel Meeting Date: September 15, 2023, 1:00-5:00 PM

The following finalists presented an overview of their practice and proposals for the Aquatic Park Sculpture Project:

- Jean Shin
- Forma Studio
- Walter Kitundu
- John Roloff

The panelists discussed the public comment results from the Berkeley Considers survey and additional public comment received from Aquatic Park stakeholders. Next, they discussed and evaluated each of the proposals based on the selection criteria. Due to concerns with all the proposals, the panelists declined to rank the proposals and decided unanimously to reject all proposals.

Panel Recommendation for Sculpture:

The Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Panel's Recommendation to reject all proposals for the sculpture opportunity will be presented to the Civic Arts Commission for approval at their September 27, 2023 meeting.

1236 Oxford St.
Berkeley, CA 94709
Sept 9, 2023

Berkeley Civic Arts Commission and Public Art Subcommittee (for Sept. 19 and 27 meetings)
Berkeley Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission (for Sept. 13 meeting)
Cultural Affairs Officer Jennifer Lovvorn; Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Director Scott Ferris; City Clerk

Commissioners and Staff Members:

I strongly urge that the Civic Arts Commission consider carefully whether the large, costly, and highly visible public art works proposed for Aquatic Park meet two of the project's three stated goal: "reflecting the multi-layered history of the site, and highlighting its ecological importance."

While some proposals seem to me to meet these goals, all deserve careful scrutiny. In what ways do they reflect this site's history? Do they highlight actual ecology of these human-made lagoons, or our myths or wishes?

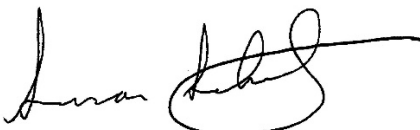
Here are two examples I believe clearly fail to meet these goals:

- Artist Jean Shin's lovely abalone shells tell the sad story of our decimation of these once-plentiful giant snails. Abalone, however, are creatures of the open Pacific Coast, with its reasonably consistent salinity and temperatures, large kelp, and rocky substrate, among other factors. Abalone appear never to have lived in San Francisco Bay, much less in artificial lagoons with limited circulation and massive inflows of freshwater runoff. (See Andrew Cohen, *An Introduction to the San Francisco Estuary*, published by Save the Bay, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and San Francisco Estuary Project.)
- Artist Liz Hernandez proposes a colorful mosaic of California wildflowers used in commercial seed mixes. Except for California poppies, these are not typical of East Bay shorelines. In Aquatic Park, they have been seeded from time to time, such as spring 2023, when seeded goldfields and a few others put on a show in the just-cleared organic-waste dump north of the rowers' boathouse. Based on 25 years of East Bay observations, I feel confident these will not persist. Aquatic Park can and does have beautiful wildflowers. Miniature meadows of jaumea edge the water, backed up by taller bright suns of coastal gumplant. Plantings due to the new lab building will include more species of salt-marsh flowers. Sticky monkeyflower, yellow bush lupine, and beach evening primrose flourished for years following efforts of Aquatic Park EGRET volunteers, the city after costly environmental study, and CalTrans mitigation. All were recently wiped out by close mowing.

I write as a longtime resident who has enjoyed Aquatic Park from the time my children were small. As part of Berkeley Partners for Parks, I helped build the Dreamland for Kids playground. As head of Friends of Five Creeks, I have removed invasives and encouraged natives at Aquatic Park for more than 20 years. Now in my 80s, I am part of an informal group seeking to revive community stewardship.

Please choose art that is at least congruent with the reality of this lovely, beloved, but troubled finger of artificially enclosed bay: The near-miracle year when the park's eucalyptus trees were festooned with thousands of monarch butterflies. The great egrets that roosted in other eucalyptus, now too thinned. The smaller snowy egrets that use the dense evergreens on the west shore. (Should these be pruned to frame a fantasy ship?) The dwindled flocks of migrant shorebirds loafing on the shoals of the southwest shore. The hope that black-necked stilts now stay year-round. The thrill of bat rays "flying" through the water -- not seen since February's massive die-off, attributed to massive inflows of storm water and lack of circulation, problems pointed out in studies since at least 1990.

Sincerely,



Susan Schwartz



Civic Arts Commission

Draft Minutes
Civic Arts Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library
1901 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94703

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:04 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi (Arrived 6:07 PM, Left meeting 7:35 PM), Ibarra, Ozol, Passmore, Woo.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Andrea Calderon, Civic Arts Intern; Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead; Jennifer Lovvorn, Commission Secretary/Chief Cultural Affairs Officer.

Members of the public in attendance: 6

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda)

1

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Draft Minutes of June 21, 2023 Meeting

Action: M/S/C (Woo/Ibarra) to approve the June 21, 2023 Draft Minutes with edit to Policy Committee report to note their June 20 meeting.

Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — Ozol; Absent — Dhesi.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a) FY24 Budget Recap

7. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

- a) Presentation: CA Theater Consortium plans for ground floor theater space at 2113 Kittredge Street, Presented by Glen Epperson and Jennifer Boesing
Public Comment: 0
- b) Presentation: Utility Box Mural Program inventory and assessment, Presented by Andrea Calderon, Civic Arts Intern, Introduced by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer
Public Comment: 1
- c) Action: M/S/C (Passmore/Anno) to approve the FY24 Civic Arts Commission Annual Work Plan with change to wording of second item listed under Public Art Subcommittee to: "Complete backlog of public art projects identified in previous fiscal years (Attachment 1) and the Public Art Master Plan before initiating new public art projects for implementation by Civic Arts staff."
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ibarra, Ozol, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — None.
Public Comment: 0
- d) Discussion: Public Comment Guidelines from Commissioner Manual Introduced by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer
Public Comment: 1
- e) Presentation: Public Art on Private Development Quarterly Report
From: Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer
Public Comment: 0
- f) Presentation: FY24 Civic Arts Grant-Funded Festivals and Civic Arts Grant-Funded Festivals Quarterly Report
From: Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead
Public Comment: 1

8. STAFF REPORTS

- a) Civic Arts Updates, Jennifer Lovvorn
- b) Grants Program Updates, Hilary Amnah

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Grants – Met on June 30, 2023 to discuss Grants Work Plan.
 - Dana Blecher, Chair
 - Liz Ozol
 - Cameron Woo

- b) Policy – Commissioner Anno attended the Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) on July 17 to request establishing a joint subcommittee to work on Affordable Housing for Artists and Cultural Workers. At that meeting HAC established members to participate on this joint subcommittee. Those members will meet regularly with the members of the Policy Subcommittee over the next 12 months to work on policies to support Affordable Housing for Artists and Cultural Workers.
 - Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Modesto Covarrubias, Stepped off subcommittee
 - Liz Ozol, Joined subcommittee
 - Cameron Woo

- c) Public Art – No meeting.
 - Matt Passmore, Chair
 - Kim Anno
 - Riti Dhesi

- d) Representatives on Civic Center Project – No meeting.
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Liz Ozol
 - Cameron Woo

- e) Representative on Berkeley Cultural Trust – No report.
 - Lisa Bullwinkel

- f) Representatives on Berkeley Arts Education Steering Committee – No meeting.
 - Liz Ozol

- g) Representative on Design Review Committee – Design Review Committee will be meeting on July 20.
 - Cameron Woo

- h) Representative on Ad-Hoc Artists Affordable Housing Committee – No report.
 - Kim Anno

10. COMMUNICATION (Received from the Public for Items not on the Agenda)

- a) Communication from Wyndy Knox Carr

11. ADJOURNMENT 8:08 PM

Action: M/S/C (Anno/Bullwinkel) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Ibarra, Ozol, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Dhesi.

Staff Contact:

Jennifer Lovvorn



Secretary to the Civic Arts Commission

Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone (510) 981-7533

TDD (510) 981-6903

jlovvorn@berkeleyca.gov

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.