

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

ARTS COMMISSION

The Arts Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 via Zoom. Commissioner Metcalf called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

Roll Call

Present

Commissioner Jacques Lesure, Commissioner at Large
Commissioner Aletha Metcalf, District 1
Commissioner Onna Ehrlich-Bell, District 2
Commissioner Vicki Perryman-Banks, District 4
Sabrina Barnes, Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
Helen Lessick, Public Art Consultant
Stephanie Maldonado, Senior Management Assistant

Absent

Commissioner Phyllis Battle, District 3

Public Comments

None

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Lesure made a motion to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021. Commissioner Perryman-Banks seconded and the minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Lesure, Metcalf, Perryman-Banks and Ehrlich-Bell

Nays: None

Staff Reports

Staff report recommending the Arts Commission recommend the City Manager approve a professional services contract with art conservators Rosa Lowinger and Associates (RLA), in the amount of \$14,600, to clean and repair the public artwork Wiggle Walls, located at the Rogers Park Community Center.

Helen Lessick gave an overview of the scope of work including the cleaning, repairing and conservation of the 2015 artwork Wiggles Walls, original artist Christopher Mercier, located at the Rogers Park Community Center. Ms. Lessick stated at last month's meeting, she reported the artwork was heavily damaged. Due to the community center being closed for the last year and the lack of activity at the center, it has invited unfortunate misuse such as skate boarding and other inappropriate activities. This is an action item to allow us to contract RLA. Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) last month to seven professional firms; two responses were received. RLA was selected unanimously for the winning bid. Commissioner Perryman-Banks asked why are we (the Arts Commission) assuming the cost for the artwork not being maintained and why didn't the city maintain the mural? Director Sabrina Barnes stated the actual maintenance is not performed by city staff. We've always contracted art conservators to maintain

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the public artwork. As it relates to this particular project, city staff can't control the skate boarders who use the rails as a skate bar and consequently damage the paint. Anything pertaining to oil or soil on the ground is something we can power wash. Where there is missing or damaged paint areas because someone may have dug into artwork or tagged the artwork with graffiti, that is not a function of the Parks Department. We bring in the subject matter experts/professionals who specialize in the maintenance of the artwork. Ms. Lessick clarified her statement about the artwork not being maintained, stating this piece is approaching six (6) years old and it was preserved really well for the first four (4) years and really loved by the preschoolers. The artwork is located outside of the Rogers Park Preschool but due to the pandemic restrictions resulting in less traffic and or supervision at all of our city facilities, the site incurred more wear and tear than usual. She also reminded the Commissioners that the point of the Percent for Arts Ordinance is to generate money for maintenance, preservation as well as commissioning new artwork. It is unfortunate that the cost may have exceeded the norm, but this is a project that was initiated by the Arts Commission. Commissioner Perryman-Banks stated she understands and just wants to make sure we're on the right path.

Commissioner Lesure asked if there is a contingency plan once this work is done to alleviate this from happening again. Are there going to be any new security features or other options to make sure the artwork is preserved in the future. Director Barnes stated there are security cameras at the park. They were disabled temporarily due to the construction of the restrooms but are back up and running. Additionally, staff does make rounds at the parks during regular business hours. The cost was higher than expected which happens as a result of working in Public Art and the need to work with professional conservators as opposed to the city's Graffiti team. This is not a job for them (the Graffiti Crew). Commissioner Lesure asked do they (the conservators) have the original plans or sketches available to them to assist in restoring the artwork back to its original order. Director Barnes stated we have a maintenance report from the artist, Mr. Mercier and his group who initially constructed the mural and the wall artwork. It was been made available to the vendor.

Commissioner Metcalf made a motion to approve the staff report. Commissioner Lesure seconded and the staff report was approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Lesure, Ehrlich-Bell, Perryman-Banks and Metcalf
Nays: None

Staff report recommending the Arts Commission receive and file the update on the City's National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) - Arts Engagement in American Communities grant award and Rogers Park Artist in Residence Project.

Helen Lessick gave an overview of the receive and file report for the Rogers Park Artist in Residence (RPAIR) which included the following:

- June 2020: NEA Award to Inglewood announced
- Nov. 2020: Activities permitted to begin (per NEA schedule)
- Winter 2020: Finalist fei hernandez notified, contracted
- December 2020: Community Centers closed through March 5 per LAPHD Safer at Home order
- Feb. 2021: hernandez contract + Notice to Proceed with work offsite
- March 2021: Community Center closures extended through June 15, 2021
- March 31, 2021: hernandez terminated contract for services



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- April 2021: NEA approves Grant extension through February 2022

Ms. Lessick stated Mona Lisa Whitaker, Inglewood artist, is the alternate for this project. Commissioner Ehrlich-Bell was saddened to hear the news as she was looking forward to Féi Hernandez's work. Ms. Lessick stated the artist sent their apologies. Commissioner Lesure asked what concerned the artist with the oversight from the city. Ms. Lessick stated the artist identified a power imbalance. Director Barnes explained the differences between contracts and grants stating a grant provides the artist with a little more flexibility in terms of what the artist is allowed to do, what the art can convey/create as their own personal expression. When the city is contracting for services, there are specific deliverables, timeframe, and associated cost. Once under contracts, changes are limited as they typically have associated costs. Another component is having to submit layers of insurance which some artists may not have knowledge of because they have not worked with a municipality before. Sometimes we have to move on and that is why we always chose an alternate. Ms. Whitaker has worked with the city before and has completed previous projects and is aware of the city's protocol. We don't anticipate Ms. Whitaker having any challenges to complete the contract process. Commissioner Metcalf stated the Commission will receive and file the report.

Verbal Reports

Director Sabrina Barnes facilitated a discussion regarding the Hollywood Park/Sofi Stadium Public Art Plan and the collaboration with the Arts Commission discussing opportunities for collaborating with the Inglewood Arts Commission. The following timeline was presented:

- 2014: Hollywood Park 20-year program begins with Casino demolition
- 2015 - 20: Five years of continuous construction with public art plans
- 2020: NFL games start in stadium with COVID-19 restrictions
- 2020: Inglewood Artists' commissions to start; \$2M deferred by pandemic
- 2021: HP staff to contract Inglewood artists (Pending)
- 2022: Super Bowl at Sofi Stadium on Feb. 12
- 2028: Olympics and Special Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- 2035: Scheduled end of 20 years of continuous site construction
- 2036 - beyond: Developers may extend public art timelines at will

Director Barnes stated although the Sofi Stadium/Hollywood Park project doesn't grant Commissioners their traditional rights, you are still obligated to bear witness to the process and make sure it is moving forward and that the Arts Commission help, suggest and collaborate with Hollywood Park such that their commitments regarding Inglewood artist are carried out. She went on to share the following list of suggested IAC projects:

- 2015 – 2021: Six years of LASED planning; \$33,500 encumbered for Inglewood Artists' Projects
- 2022: Inglewood Growing Artists Projects @ Hollywood Park kick off
- 2022 – 2028: Seven years of annual programs at \$100,000 per year (\$700K)
- 2029: Evaluation Year: assess impacts, goals (\$30,000 for art assessment)
- 2030 – 2035: Six years of annual programs at \$120,000 per year (\$720K)

Director Barnes introduced Christopher Jackson, city's Economic and Community Development Director who is leading the overall global project for the entire Sofi Stadium. Mr. Jackson thanked the Commissioners for their



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dedication to the City and all of their hard work. He and Director Barnes have spoken about the issues with Hollywood Park and how to activate her concerns which are his concerns and how to hold Hollywood Park accountable by making sure they follow through with all their responsibilities by being proactive. Discussion continued to ensure the Commission had an opportunity to hear, chime in and make recommendations regarding opportunities for collaboration. Mr. Jackson stated a secondary part to the project includes the entire Hollywood Park site, half of the park is currently still under construction (the retail and residential portions). 95% of those areas will be publicly accessible. Mr. Jackson stated the Commissioners involvement and participation is critical. Director Barnes will be speaking to them about things in the queue and how we move forward as a city stating the Commission's role is only going to get bigger.

Helen Lessick shared the following list of Public Art ideas/suggestions for collaboration with Hollywood Park, noting some of the projects can be done during construction of the site while others when the work is complete:

1. IGAP@HP: Open call for Inglewood artist's proposals to be realized in HP public spaces; 3 - 4 projects over 12 months funded at \$30,000 each.
2. Buoyant: temporary exhibit of inflatable or floating art on the Lake
3. Projectables: Original film shorts projected at night on screens on bridge or anchored on the lake or in unticketed HP venues.
4. AR Festival: What Lies Beneath the Berm: Ongoing walking tours of berm perimeter with commissioned AR accessed through smart phones; themes of local history, ecology or landscape
5. Movement Festival: Site-related performed public art: performance art, walking tours, public dance or motorized sculpture.
6. Inglewood is a Verb: Design and publish three books by Inglewood writers; fiction, non-fiction, graphic novel; host readings and receptions.
7. Spoken Word: Daylong series of local poets and spoken word artists.
8. Dramatic Readings: Professional voice artists' dramatic readings of classic writers such as James Baldwin; Octavia Butler; Amanda Gorman; Octavio Paz; Paid voice artists, with permissions to perform texts.
9. Mighty Voices: curated outdoor performances by local choirs.
10. Public Art in Concert: free musical festival with 3 – 5 local groups.

Helen Lessick shared the following notional funding portion of the project and recommended spending approach:

\$33,500: Reported expenditures for 2015- 2021 Planning Phase
\$700,000: Phase One: Annual Public Art Commissions
\$30,000: Public Art Evaluation report
\$720,000: Phase Two: Annual Public Art Commissions
\$1,483,500 (\$516,500 contingency - 25% of commitment remaining)

Commissioner Metcalf stated she is very impressed with the list and blueprint Ms. Lessick provided with her spectacular ideas. She appreciates the professionalism of staff and is 100% on board with everything discussed. Commissioner Lesure thanked Ms. Lessick for the blueprint she provided on the project. He believes Hollywood Park has good intention and is willing to work with the Commission, but they have yet to share a definite plan on spending two million dollars (\$2,000,000). Despite the Commission not being in a traditional role, we should hold their hand to

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help spend the money wisely and not exclude Inglewood residents; ensuring all this information is getting to who needs it and as a Commission. He also thanked Mr. Jackson. Commissioners Ehrlich-Bell and Perryman-Banks agreed with Commissioner Lesure's comments. Commissioner Metcalf stated the Commissioners are all on the same page and asked staff to move forward with the proposal of the potential projects with the goal of presenting it to Hollywood Park's Jason Witt.

Public Comments

None

Commissioners' Comments/Initiatives/Art Calendar

Helen Lessick stated we are currently working on updating public art maps, walking tours and social media campaigns with Stuart Allen Art Services with a goal of completion by January 2022, in time for the 2022 Super Bowl in February.

Helen Lessick shared information about the Americans for the Arts Convention being held online on June 8 through June 11, 2021.

Next meeting scheduled for May 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.