



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE  
& CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

**San Antonio Arts Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Culture Commons Exhibit Hall**

**115 Plaza de Armas**

**San Antonio, TX 78205**

**Members Present**

Nettie Hinton – D2  
Yadhira Lozano – D3  
Valeria Hernandez- D5  
Henry Brun – D7  
Freda Facey – D9  
Guillermo Nicolas-Mayoral  
Eduardo Garcia-Mayoral  
Rene Barilleaux-Mayoral  
Suhail Arastu-Mayoral  
Jessica Sanchez - Mayoral

**Members absent**

Susana Segura – D4  
Larry Lapaglia – D6  
Margaret Kanyusik – D8  
Mark Rogers – D10

**Staff**

Debbie Racca-Sittre  
Diana Hidalgo  
James LeFlore  
Sarah Yates  
Lisa Biediger  
Lori Houston  
Rebecca Johnson  
Henry Estrada  
Lauren Faske

**Call to Order / Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Guillermo Nicolas at 9:06 am.  
The roll call was taken by Sarah Yates and a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes**

*Motion:* Henry Brun set forth a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2016. Yadhira Lozano seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* None.

*Vote:* Motion passed.

**Committee Reports**

Henry Brun stated that the Arts Funding Committee met on April 4, 2016 and discussed new DCCD staff introductions as well as an update on the Arts Funding Process.

Eduardo Garcia stated that the Public Art Committee met on April 5, 2016 and discussed new DCCD staff introductions and approved the concept design for Elmendorf Lake. The Public Art Committee also met on May 3, 2016 and approved the concept design for a downtown Sculpture Trail and the approval of artist selection for the Mud Creek project.

#### **FY 2017 Arts Funding Process Update (Briefing)**

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that that eligibility review of arts funding application had been conducted and that 4 applicants were determined to be ineligible including The Tobin Center due to a previous contract with the city, Labor Day Fest which date of event wasn't within the correct time period, NALAC that was encouraged to move into the Artist Re-granting category and SA Youth which did not meet requirements and was encouraged to apply to the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Brun provided an overview of the upcoming panel review meeting schedule as well as an upcoming meeting schedule of the Arts Funding Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission meetings that work cover the preliminary recommendations, appeals and final recommendations on FY 2017 arts funding.

#### **Mud Creek Artist Selection (Action)**

James LeFlore gave an overview of the Mud Creek project that would be located on the Northeast side of San Antonio. Mr. LeFlore gave details on the location, panel review members, budget, related action and recommended scope of the project. He reported that the panel recommended local artist, Leticia Huerta and shared information on her background and previous completed projects.

Freda Facey set forth a motion to approve the panel recommended artist, Leticia Huerta for the Mud Creek Public Art Project. Jessica Sanchez seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* Mr. Garcia commented that he had a positive experience in working with Ms. Huerta on previous public art projects that he had been involved in.

*Vote:* Motion passed.

#### **Oversight of Tricentennial Public Art Process (Action)**

Mr. LeFlore presented information on the process for approval of public art projects to be associated with the Tricentennial Celebration. He went on to say that currently there were two bodies that would be reviewing these projects both the Tricentennial Public Art Subcommittee and the San Antonio Arts Commission Public Art Committee.

Lori Houston stated that additional appointments could be made onto the San Antonio Arts Commission Public Art Committee to review public art projects to be associated with Tricentennial in order to avoid duplication and allow for more collaboration.

Mr. Nicolas added that he thought additional appointments would create a cleaner more streamlined process.

Mr. Garcia added that he thought additional appointments would be more efficient and the best use of volunteered time.

Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that Legacy public art projects would follow the same process as other projects but may be labeled Tricentennial projects and could include projects that have previously been reviewed. Mr. Garcia said that he would like to see any additional projects follow the same review process.

*Motion:* Rene Barilleaux set forth a motion to approve moving forward with appointing new members to the Public Art Committee for the review of Tricentennial public art projects. Ms. Sanchez seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* None.

*Vote:* Motion passed.

### **Announcements and Reports**

Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that the department had conducted a staff retreat and would be undergoing some rebranding in the future. She added that a retreat would be scheduled for the Commission in late July or early August as well and that more information would be provided at a later date.

Nettie Hinton asked on an update on the Houston Street Bridge Public Art Project. Mr. LeFlore responded that a contract had been executed with the artist, Bernice Williams. He added that there was an issue with insurance for the project but that has now been resolved and that the project should be completed by the end of September.

Ms. Hinton also shared a new initiative she was working on which was a project in honor of Ira Aldridge, an African American playwright who started his career in New York and later worked in Europe and was especially known in Shakespearean roles. She stated Myra Davis Hemmings was a San Antonio teacher that taught students about Ira Aldridge at Phyllis Wheatley High School and founder of Delta Sigma Theta. Ms. Hinton shared that there was a street named after Ira Aldridge in the Wheatley Courts area and that due to the redevelopment of the area the street would no longer exist and that an interest in the street sign was coming from a theater organization in Poland where Ira had once lived. Ms. Hinton stated she wanted to explore opportunity for an Ira Aldridge Plaza or Myra Davis Hemmings Walk to be part of the plans of the new development of the area including arts and cultural happenings for the school that would function as a community center in part. Mr. LeFlore stated that the department had received a NEA Our Town Grant and that he would be working closely with United Way, Ella Austin Center to see where this consideration could lead.

Mr. LeFlore shared that the Pearsall Park Public Art Project has been completed and to save the date for a June 6<sup>th</sup> Media Event and June 11<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening of the Pearsall Park. He stated that more details would be sent via email.

Ms. Sanchez shared that the Henry Ford Academy would be having their last show on May 27<sup>th</sup> and that she would send staff an invite to share with the rest of the Commission.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

Heather Eichling & Susan Calkins with Inspire Fine Art Center

Elaine Leahy with Blue Star Contemporary Art

Veronique ZeMelle with Artpace

### **Adjournment:**

*Motion:* Mr. Garcia set forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Facey seconded the motion.

*Discussion:* None.

*Vote:* Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.