

## **MINUTES**

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REGULAR MEETING—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025  
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM—500 CASTRO STREET  
6:00 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Susi Merhar.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Committee members Cliff Bryant, Joe Medwid, Lacy Rathbun, Stephanie Spaid, Tootoo Thomson (arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Vice Chair Regina Sakols, and Chair Susi Merhar.

**Staff Present:** Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist.

**3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

The minutes from the December 11, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

**Motion—M/S** Bryant/Sakols—Carried 6-0-1; Thomson absent—To approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting as presented.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

John Lang, Former Economic Vitality Manager, gave thanks to the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) for the time he worked with them.

**5. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS**

The VAC requested the following to be on an upcoming agenda:

- Discuss an artist studio.
- Painted bollards in downtown Castro Street.

- Modifications to the Call for Artists for the Center for the Performing Arts exhibits, including adding a preference to Mountain View or hyper-local-based artists, and doing more outreach to student artists (example included was “Freestyle”).

Public Comment: None.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

Staff provided an update on the Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings, the Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center, and the Shoreline Boathouse Expansion projects.

Public Comment: None.

### 6.2 2025-26 CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS JURY

Staff provided an overview of the top 11 scoring applications to exhibit at the Center for the Performing Arts, as shown in the staff report. The Committee deliberated the artist proposals to select eight artists and two alternates, in case there are any scheduling or other conflicts, to exhibit at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Public Comment: None.

**Motion—M/S** Sakols/Bryant—Carried 7-0—To approve artist exhibit proposals by Tom Stahl, Jaya Griscom, Redacted Name, Ronit Shalem, Guillermo Navarrete Davis, Nata Drachinskaya, and Manuel Sanchez.

**Motion—M/S** Merhar/Bryant—Carried 7-0—To approve artist exhibit proposal by Donald Hershman as the eighth exhibitor.

**Motion—M/S** Medwid/Thomson—Carried 7-0—To approve two alternate artists to exhibit in case of any conflicts with other selections, including Stanislava Chening and Robin Bernstein.

### 6.3 UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE (Discussed ahead of schedule)

Ad hoc committee members, Chair Merhar and Committee member Bryant, and Arts Mountain View representative, Anita Rosen, provided an update on the ad hoc committee’s efforts working with Arts Mountain View related to a public art project at the Train Depot Building. Arts Mountain View, with support from the ad hoc committee, released a Call for Artists to receive proposals of art to be installed on

metal frames on the Train Depot Building. The call required inclusivity, diversity, and vibrancy, and to represent Mountain View. Arts Mountain View and the ad hoc committee selected artist John Patrick Thomas, and their next step is to work with the Mountain View Historical Association to receive input on historical elements to incorporate into the public art piece.

Public Comment: Gina Hainey asked the Committee whether they have considered how to handle graffiti and impacts of sun and weather on the proposed artwork.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 ELECTION PROCESS FOR 2025 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Staff informed the Committee of the annual process to select a Chair and Vice Chair to preside over the Visual Arts Committee. The Committee discussed maintaining the existing status of the Chair and Vice Chair for continuity.

Public Comment: None.

**Motion—M/S** Bryant/Merhar—Carried 7-0—To approve Regina Sakols as Vice Chair.

**Motion—M/S** Sakols/Bryant—Carried 7-0—To approve Susi Merhar as Chair.

### 7.2 SANTA CLARA COUNTY WOMANHOOD PROJECT

Staff presented on the Santa Clara County Womanhood project and asked the VAC to make a request to the Center for the Performing Arts to host a special exhibit and accompanying reception in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy's Womanhood project during March 2026. Committee member Bryant asked if the VAC can be notified of the Womanhood event in San Jose.

Public Comment: None.

**Motion—M/S** Bryant/Merhar—Carried 7-0—To request to the Center for the Performing Arts to host a special exhibit and accompanying reception in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy's Womanhood project during March 2026.

**8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Staff provided the following updates:

- The City will be contracting with Arts Builds Community to move forward with community outreach and finalizing a public art strategy.
- The Downtown and Performing Arts Committees will be presenting to the Visual Arts Committee in March. Staff presented to the Downtown Committee and will be presenting to the Performing Arts Committee in February, sharing information on the work plan and the public art strategy efforts. This is in anticipation for a future co-committee meeting.
- The Bollard Beautification project, approved by the Visual Arts Committee in 2024, will be moving forward at one-half capacity, and the artists who were selected to paint two bollards will paint one.

Chair Merhar commented that the Magical Bridge Playground is done, and given the proximity to the Rengstorff Park maintenance buildings, asked if the artists who were selected to paint on the maintenance buildings could align the color scheme.

Staff provided information on general advisory body meeting procedure.

Public Comment: None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by  
Kirstin Hinds, Recording Secretary.

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

KH/1/CDD  
816-02-12-25mn