

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 6:06 p.m.), Vice Chair Regina Sakols, and Chair Susi Merhar.

Absent: Committee member Lacy Rathbun.

Staff Present: Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; Amanda Rotella, Acting Economic Vitality Manager; Robert Gonzalez, Principal Civil Engineer; and Theresa Yvonne, Center for the Performing Arts Manager.

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 5-0-2; Rathbun, Thomson absent—To approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting as presented.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.

5. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS—None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

Staff informed the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) that the Castro Street Grade Separation Project is being put on hold at this time due to a significant funding gap;

currently, staff is preparing for interim improvements. The public art components for projects, such as the Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings, Evelyn Park, and Villa-Chiquita Park, are being proposed to be completed off-site and delivered to the City for a contractor to install. Staff is working with Stephen Galloway to finalize a contract for his art to be created off-site and delivered to the Shoreline Boathouse as part of the expansion projects.

Staff informed the Committee that the bollard beautification project and the purchase of the new bench to be painted and placed at Shoreline Sailing Lake are being indefinitely paused. Staff learned that Senate Bill 456, which would exempt muralists from the Contractor State Licensing Board's requirements, was recently proposed and being reviewed at a Senate committee level.

Committee member Bryant asked to discuss public art funds from the bench project at a future date.

Public Comment: Bruce England—Excited about the connection between the Downtown and Moffett Precise Plans and other nearby improvements, like El Camino Real bicycle lanes, Castro Street improvements, and improvements to Evelyn Park near Sunnyvale. Mr. England commented on the Castro Grade Separation Project and asked if there is a way to capture Martha's artwork—it is unfortunate to lose Martha Sakellariou's work and place the art in a different location.

6.2 UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE

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. The ad hoc committee is preparing a design proposal to represent iconic to historic to present-day symbols.

The ad hoc committee requested a connection to the Multicultural Engagement Program Division to receive feedback on diversity elements.

Public Comment: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Theresa Yvonne, Performing Arts Manager, presented on the efforts at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Committee member Bryant asked that staff get a list of the upcoming events or clients to help plan for the Center for the Performing Arts Lobby Exhibits.

Public Comment: None.

7.2 DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Amanda Rotella, Acting Economic Vitality Manager, presented on the efforts of the Downtown Committee.

Public Comment: Bruce England—Requested that the Downtown Committee start later than 8:00 a.m. and asked that a vacancy tax be discussed when the Economic Vitality goals during the presentation to Council in April.

Staff clarified that busking is allowed under a special event permit.

7.3 AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE/DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE/PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE (VAC-DTC-PAC) COLLABORATION

Staff asked the Committee to choose two members to serve on a joint ad hoc committee with the Downtown Committee and the Performing Arts Committee. Committee member Spaid and Vice Chair Sakols offered to serve on the ad hoc committee. Staff will need to verify whether the ad hoc committee is adhering to Brown Act rules.

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Bryant/Merhar—Carried 6-0-1—Rathbun absent—Recommended that Stephanie Spaid and Regina Sakols serve on the VAC-DTC-PAC Ad Hoc Committee.

7.4 ADVISORY BODY INPUT ON FISCAL YEAR 2025-27 COUNCIL STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

Staff presented the information in the attached memorandum. Staff asked that each Committee member list their top three work plan items from the potential projects list in Attachment 2.

Committee members provided their top three potential projects as follows:

Susi Merhar—Project Nos. 10, 12, and 15

Cliff Bryant—Project Nos. 8, 12, and 15

Tootoo Thomson—Project Nos. 11 and 12
Joe Medwid—Project Nos. 10, 12, and 15
Stephanie Spaid—Project Nos. 6, 10, and 15
Regina Sakols—Project Nos. 1, 10, and 15

Public Comment: None.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff informed the Committee that they are working through the contracting process with the consultant, Art Builds Community, who will be helping with the public art strategy; the VAC should expect an update in April.

Chair Merhar informed the Committee to engage with SVCreates and to read their newsletters to learn about their events and activities.

Vice Chair Sakols announced that they went to the California Arts Council and met an aide of a California Senator, who recommended to look at the website to see which committee is reviewing the Senate Bill.

Public Comment: None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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

Approved on _____.

KH/1/CDD
816-03-12-25mn