

**MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021  
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Public Art Committee meeting was called to order virtually using Zoom at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Council Members Mary-Lynne Bernald, Kookie Fitzsimmons  
Advisory Members Judy Dennis, Maggie Tsai  
ABSENT: Advisory Member Cristina Meiser  
ALSO PRESENT: Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager  
Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

None

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Public Art Committee Minutes

**Recommended Action:**

Review and approve the Public Art Committee minutes from January 19, 2021.

FITZSIMMONS/BERNALD MOVED TO **APPROVE THE PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 19, 2021.** MOTION PASSED. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

2. Paint the City 2021

**Recommended Action:**

Review Top 3 recommendations for Paint the City from the Library & Community Engagement Commission and finalize the Top 3 for public voting.

Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst, provided a report on Paint the City 2021 and shared the Top 3 recommendations from the Library & Community Engagement Commission.

FITZSIMMONS/BERNALD MOVED TO **ACCEPT THE PAINT THE CITY 2021 TOP 3 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LIBRARY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION AND REQUESTED STAFF PROCEED WITH THE PUBLIC VOTING PROCESS FOR PAINT THE CITY.** MOTION PASSED. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

3. Public Art Policy Amendment

**Recommended Action:**

Consider draft change to the Public Art Policy and make a recommendation to the City Council.

Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager, shared the report on proposed changes to the Public Art Policy to allow Public Art Committee to authorize placement of artwork valued at \$25,000 or less and meets other criteria outlined in the policy.

Council Member Bernald requested that the word "is" be revised to "are" to be grammatically correct in bullet 6 of the criteria on the ability of outdoor installations to withstand an outdoor environment for an extended period.

FITZSIMMONS/BERNALD MOVED TO **RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE REVISED PUBLIC ART POLICY WITH THE CORRECTION TO BULLET 6 OF THE CRITERIA AND THE ADDITION OF A NEW CRITERIA THAT WOULD ALLOW PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF ARTWORK VALUED AT \$25,000 OR LESS AND MEETS OTHER CRITERIA OUTLINED IN THE POLICY.** MOTION PASSED. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

4. Nuts About Saratoga Acorn Replacement

**Recommended Action:**

Authorize replacement of one of size bronze acorns used as part of the Nuts About Saratoga program.

Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst, provided an overview of the item.

FITZSIMMONS/BERNALD MOVED TO **AUTHORIZE REPLACEMENT THE MISSING BRONZE ACORN AT THE CORNER OF 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND BIG BASIN WAY.** MOTION PASSED. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

5. Gateway Sculpture

**Recommended Action:**

Consider and provide direction on options for a sculpture at Saratoga Gateway (Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and Prospect Road).

Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager, introduced the item.

Council Member Mary-Lynne Bernald shared information about a community art project called *Rainbow Flower* done by artist Susan Burton in Allen Park in Ottawa, Illinois. Community members at several different events placed hand cut mosaic tiles on a flower-shaped sculpture created through fiberglass and cement over a Styrofoam base. The Public Art Committee previously explored the possibility of doing a similar project and could look at again as an option for the Gateway location.

Council Member Fitzsimmons stated support for the concept, noting the joy and hopefulness of the work.

Advisory Member Maggie Tsai also expressed support for the concept and shared that she is familiar with an artist in Campbell that does mosaic work.

Council Member Bernald added that she also is familiar with an artist that does mosaics and could provide insights on pursuing the project.

Advisory Member Judy Dennis discussed the need for artwork that compliments the Gateway location in terms of size and scale, as well as provides the desired first impression as people drive into the City of Saratoga from that location. She noted options for artwork could include landscape artwork and the landscaping could be enhanced to compliment future artwork.

The Committee considered brainstorming questions provided in the agenda packet.

1. Should the artwork reflect a core value of the Saratoga community?

The Committee discussed how a project could represent core values of the community and agreed that the artwork should include community involvement and support, provide a sense of fun and discovery. It could also offer a sense of history.

2. Should the artwork reflect a value that the City wishes to promote?

The Committee considered values that it may wish to promote through the artwork, agreeing that it should reflect the values that Saratoga is inclusive community, friendly, rural yet urban, a place to gather, and cozy place to live.

3. Should the artwork reflect a characteristic of Saratoga or the artwork location?

The Committee considered some of the characteristics of the Gateway location, noting some of the limitations and challenges. The Committee agreed that artwork should be easily viewed from a vehicle, should not draw attention to the gas station, and should be strong enough to stand on its own. The Committee discussed the possibility of incorporating art that reflects the physical characteristic of Saratoga, such as an oak or something organic. The Committee also discussed how the surrounding landscaping could be enhanced to support the artwork.

4. Should the artwork be approachable and widely accepted or should the artwork challenge viewers?

The Committee agreed that the artwork should be approachable, inspirational, and thought provoking without creating discomfort.

5. What are the unique attributes of the artwork location? What type of artwork best compliments those attributes?  
The Committee discussed how enhancements of the surrounding landscaping could help compliment future artwork.
6. Should the artist be local? What is the definition of local?  
The Committee agreed that ideally the artist would be from Saratoga or Santa Clara County, but that shouldn't be a limiting factor.
7. Does the Committee want to approach specific artists or invite interested artists to submit artwork proposals?  
The Committee discussed how they can help engage artists.
8. What is the ideal budget?  
The Committee did not set a specific budget but agreed it should align with the budget.
9. What is the ideal amount of time that artwork will be on display?  
The Committee agreed the artwork should be displayed for at least 3 years.
10. Does the Committee want to lease or purchase artwork?  
The Committee expressed no preference to lease or purchase artwork and agreed it would depend on costs.

The Committee expressed a desire for community-involvement in the art selection or production.

The Committee agreed to connect with artists or art organizations that they are familiar with to explore options for artwork at the Gateway and to return with further discussion. The Committee asked staff to provide a summary of the goals and values for the Gateway location and to bring back research on artists/art groups in April.

#### 6. Courtyard Sculpture

**Recommended Action:**

Receive update on placement of sculptures by Colleen Wilcox in the City Hall Courtyard.

Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager, provided an update on the City Hal Courtyard sculpture project.

Council Member Bernaled asked if there might be an opportunity to place artwork at the corner of Fruitvale and Allendale or in/near Susie's Garden.

7. Public Art Budget

**Recommended Action:**

Receive status update on the Public Art Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget.

Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst, provided an update on the 2020/21 budget.

8. Updates on Existing Projects

**Recommended Action:**

Receive updates on existing projects and programs.

Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst, provided an update on existing projects and programs.

9. Future Meetings

**Recommended Action:**

Discuss agenda topics for the next meeting on March 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

The Committee agreed to include the Gateway Sculpture Goals and Values and additional wall mural locations on the agenda for March.

**ADJOURNMENT**

FITZSIMMONS/BERNALD MOVED TO **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:39 P.M.** MOTION PASSED.  
AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager  
City of Saratoga