

**Public Arts Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MINUTES
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, July 9, 2015
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by James Thompson, City Clerk

There being no Chair at today's meeting, James Thompson, City Clerk called for roll call:

ROLL CALL:

	<u>Present This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joshua Edmundson			1	
Mara Gladstone	x	1		
Bonnie Ruttan	x	1		
Amy Sand	x	1		
Ann Sheffer	x	1		
Thomas Yanni	x	1		

There is no Commission Chairman at this time, James Thompson, City Clerk, recommended that the Commission nominate a Chair for this meeting and the start of the next meeting; Staff will Agendize as first order of business on your next meeting the nomination and selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

James Thompson opened nominations for the selection of Temporary Chair; Commissioner Sand has volunteered to do so (she has been past Chair of the Commission); **MOTION:** by Commissioner Ruttan, second by Commissioner Yanni, to select Commissioner Sand as Temporary Chairperson for the July 9 2015 meeting; unanimously carried

ALSO PRESENT: David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager
James Thompson, Chief of Staff, City Clerk
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

MOTION: by Commissioner Yanni, second by Commissioner Sheffer, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for Thursday, July 9, 2015; unanimously carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: by Commissioner Sheffer, second by Commissioner Yanni, to approve Regular meeting Minutes of June 11, 2015; unanimously carried

MOTION: by Commissioner Ruttan, second by Commissioner Yanni, to approve Study Session meeting Minutes of June 11, 2015; unanimously carried

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Ready advised the Commission that John Raymond has left and is now in his new position at the City of Carson, CA; we are currently recruiting for the position of Community & Economic Development Director.

2015/16 budget was distributed to all commissioners; the budget will be agendized for the next regular meeting in September. Mr. Ready briefly discussed the budget for the Rainmaker fountain (Agenda Item C.5); all costs relating to Rainmaker fountain, i.e., water/electricity, including maintenance, will now be moved from the Public Art Fund to the General Fund. Mr. Ready feels that this should now fall under City facility maintenance; Staff has advised that there may be an issue at Frances Stevens Park with the metering of the electric for the fountain and the irrigation in the park as well; Mr. Ready was not aware of this and will be looking at the history of charges. If it is found that this should have been charged to parks rather than public art, there will be a credit to the arts fund. Of course, going forward there will not be an issue.

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. None

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. Temporary Public Art Installation Project
Discuss *Shared Studios* Public Art Project "Portals" and the Possibility of Palm Springs
Becoming a Host City
RECOMMENDATION: Direct Staff as Appropriate

Chair Sand read from Shared Studios website: *"We are a multidisciplinary arts, design and technology collective focused on carving wormholes in the world. We ground the connective potential of new technology in physical spaces to create more accessible, secure, and sacred encounters between diverse populations. Our first three major initiatives are Shared Portals, Shared Channels and Shared Phonos.*

What are Portals? – Portals are gold shipping containers with immersive audio and video technology inside. When you enter one, you come face-to-face with someone in the other container, full-body, and the two of you converse live as if in the same room. Since December 2014, Shared Studios has connected more than two thousand people in Herat, Afghanistan; Tehran, Iran; New York, New Haven and Washington D.C. in private, 20-minute conversations about "What would make today a good day for you?" Participants came out giddy, weeping and everything in between (experiences).

Channels – Channels are large, bi-directional video walls. Passersby in New York can see passersby in Beijing for one month and Buenos Aires the next.

Phonos – Phonos are continuous audio communications spheres. Passersby can talk to those in the distant location or just listen to the sounds that surround them.

To experience a portal you register on-line, go to the portal at your designated time and have a conversation/visit with someone in a different location.

Staff has spoken to the Artist, Amar Bakshi; there are a couple of options Shared Studios offers which is to purchase or to rent the portal for a certain period of time.

Purchase price is \$25,000 + \$3,000 monthly operating cost – the monthly operating cost is strictly to staff the person at the other side of the portal (whatever City that may be in). We would be responsible for staffing the portal at our side.

Rental – the portal can be rented for any duration of time, i.e., one week, three weeks, one month, 6 months or a year; there is a one-time transportation/installation fee of \$1,500, one-time rental fee of \$1,500 dollars and the weekly operating cost is approximately \$2,500. The weekly operating cost includes a person at each portal. The costs would be adjusted according to how many days a week the portal would be open.

Shared Studios handles the hiring of the person at our end (curator) and the second portal and handles all training, etc. – they also take care of all the PR, social media, etc. – the Arts Commission would be responsible for the site, the wi-fi connection and the payment.

If the commission decides to go forward, installation could take place as early as December 1.

Commissioner Sheffer – first reaction is that we should be doing this in partnership with another organization; we don't have the personnel to staff this; we do not have a central space. Modernism had Camp at the empty lot on N. Palm Canyon; could be a shared opportunity with them.

Chair Sand – there is another way for this experience without the portal; being done in hotel lobbies and art galleries. Would like to see us partner with another organization; particularly contact PS Resorts. Would like to see this downtown, but there are numerous options.

Commissioner Gladstone – this is a shipping container, a familiar form to us with the trains going by on Highway 111; as pretty as it is gilded, it is a large block; unclear if this will be available 24 hours a day or if it will be closed. If it is closed, perhaps there are opportunities to repurpose the exterior of the shipping container for screenings, etc., that could leverage and draw attention to this gold block wherever in Palm Springs it might be; this is both a concern and a possibility. Another concern would be security and defacing; needs to be in a public spot where we won't have that issue. Also, climate control, how do we control the climate inside the portal? And, the historical context of possibility is the idea of what City we would partner with. This region is known for its history of dates that come from Iraq and Iran; it would be interesting to have a city not just randomly selected, but one that would have roots here.

Commissioner Yanni – I like the idea of it, but likes the idea that someone can just walk up and use it [without a reservation].

Staff advised that she has spoken to the Artist regarding the hours the portal would be open; Shared Studios does provide security; the hours are dependent on what we work out and what would be best for our location; they discussed the best time of year (possibly between December and May). The Portal is climate controlled. We can decide what partner City would be the best fit for us.

Commissioner Sheffer – would like to ask Staff to put this information into a proposal that could go to PS Resorts or other community group(s). Staff or Commissioner could set up a meeting with them. To make this appealing it should have answers to these questions so they don't have to ask them. Need to think of an accessible site. Also, there is the Chalk Festival, sponsored by Rotary (the only non-governmental organization with a seat at the UN).

Commissioner Ruttan – It's an interesting idea; the cost is the biggest concern with our budget.

Chair Sand – addressing Commissioner Gladstone: the use of space has been different at the various installation sites; artists in other cities have created individual spaces; there have been large and small concerts with the portal cities; varying performance artists. Would like for commissioners to have the opportunity to look online and view some of the opportunities that something like this has to offer. This is more about culture and lifestyle; Palm Springs has a very multi-cultured background, yet so isolated from the rest of the world about who we are; we have a very unique population that is not accepted in the rest of the world; there are men and women having conversations in countries that are not allowed to be in the same room with each other.

David Ready – the hoteliers (PS Resorts) meet every Wednesday; Mr. Ready asked staff to advise him on the costs of this potential project and he will be happy to propose this to them. This is intriguing; figure out the cost and partnership(s); should start with PS Resorts; Mr. Ready also suggested that a commissioner attend a PS Resorts meeting with him to talk about this project.

3. Assignment of Subcommittees and Members
RECOMMENDATION: Direct Staff as Appropriate

Chair Sand – would like to move this item to the September meeting (when all Commissioners are present); we will also be completing the selection of Chair and Vice Chair at that time.

Mr. Ready recommended adding a budget subcommittee to the subcommittee roster; they would participate in budget preparation; as we move through the year they would check on revenue and expenditures.

Ms. Henning gave a brief explanation of the current Bridge Projects (subcommittee); Chair Sand and Ms. Henning gave brief descriptions of the subcommittees for new Commissioners; some suggestions and changes were made to the various subcommittee responsibilities.

Commissioner Sheffer – is it ever on the Agenda to have just updates from subcommittees? Chair Sand advised that "Subcommittee Reports" is on the Agenda every month.

It was suggested to have a Special Projects subcommittee.

If there is a particular subcommittee that any commissioner would like to volunteer for, please email Ms. Henning prior to Agenda publication (1-1/2 weeks prior to meeting); this item will be on the September Agenda.

MOTION: by Chair Sand, second by Commissioner Yanni; Commissioner Ruttan will continue as Chair of the Community Art Exhibitions subcommittee and she will also remain a subcommittee member on the Bridge Project subcommittee. All other commissioners will email their individual subcommittee request(s) to Ms. Henning and subcommittees will be finalized at the September meeting; unanimously carried

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Public Art Proposal for Ruth Hardy Park
Discuss Public Art Proposal made by Thomi Clinton, President/Founder of Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Palm Springs and Transgender Community Coalition; Review Project Details and Provide Recommendations.
RECOMMENDATION: Direct Staff as Appropriate

Ms. Henning gave a brief summation of this project for new Commissioner Gladstone.

Chair Sand – when we left off there was concern in terms of fabrication of this piece and also concern regarding the maintenance of the piece for the City.

Commissioner Gladstone – the renderings show a marble pedestal – does not think that the \$10,000 estimated budget will include the pedestal, nor does it probably include the base requirements we might have to have to install it in the park. Wants to draw attention to the estimated cost; does not feel that the piece can be fabricated for \$10,000; the material/the piece itself will be difficult to clean/maintain. Not sure how this piece will be read by the public.

Commissioner Yanni – we spoke quite extensively about materials at the last meeting; those concerns still remain. We still don't know who the Artist is that will be creating the piece. Would like the piece closer to the corner rather than the rose garden; the piece would be more visible.

Commissioner Sheffer – Concerned about the timing; Transgender Day of Remembrance is in November (we do not meet again until September); they have raised \$8,000; we are not being asked to fabricate the piece, we are being asked to accept it. Perhaps we should encourage them to go ahead, this is an important project. Feels it should exist first.

Commissioner Ruttan – Concern is still vandalism; the butterflies could be an issue; does not disagree with the maintenance issues. We were very encouraging at the last meeting; there was some implicit acceptance of the work. The concept and the recognition are very important, especially for our community.

Chair Sand – this could go to the Special Projects subcommittee; Staff will be meeting with the Transgender Community Coalition and will discuss fabrication details further. Would like for us to be as encouraging as possible, and offer our assistance as much as we can. Maybe we can think about partnering with the Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Ready – requested that Staff have this item put on the next Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda so they may also have a discussion on this project.

5. Rainmaker Fountain Assessment
Discuss Water Usage Issues and Potential Options.
RECOMMENDATION: City Manager Update

Mr. Ready addressed this item during City Manager's Comments. Mr. Ready advised the Commission that the City fountains do not run 24 hours a day.

6. Public Art Sculpture Restoration and Relocation
Discuss 1) Restoration of James O. Jessie Desert Highland Mural by Richard Wyatt, and 2) Relocation Option for the Sculpture "Frank Bogert on Horseback" by Raymundo Kobo

RECOMMENDATION: Subcommittee Report on Relocation Option for "Frank Bogert on Horseback"

- 1) Restoration of James O. Jessie Desert Highland Mural by Richard Wyatt

Chair Sand would like to speak to the Desert Highland Community about how strongly they feel about the restoration of this mural.

Commissioner Yanni – Supports the idea of having a community meeting.

Commissioner Ruttan – also feels it is important to honor the community; seems disrespectful to just let it go.

Staff will speak to Jarvis Crawford, Manager, to arrange a meeting regarding the mural restoration.

- 2) Relocation Option for the Sculpture "Frank Bogert on Horseback" by Raymundo Kobo

Commissioner Edmundson submitted a subcommittee report to Staff – he has been looking at possible sites for relocation of this piece.

Possible sites include:

SE corner of Vista Chino and Farrell (this is a high priority site for the Commission); this site is elevated and very visible, busy intersection, turf could be removed and desert landscape installed; would bring more attention to the sculpture.

NE corner of Kirk Douglas Way and El Cielo – open area, busy intersection and good exposure.

Mr. Ready also advised that Council is in favor of placement at the entrance to the Airport at Tahquitz Canyon Way and El Cielo (opposite the Charlie Farrell sculpture).

The Commission is in favor of recommending to Council, the three sites discussed.

Mr. Ready advised that this may not be a public art expense since Council requested the relocation of the sculpture.

Commissioner Sheffer – will need to discuss plaque/signage.

MOTION: by Commissioner Sheffer, second by Commissioner Gladstone that the following three sites be proposed to City Council as a place to move the Frank Bogert on Horseback sculpture, 1) Entrance to the airport at Tahquitz Canyon Way and El Cielo; 2) SE corner of Vista Chino and Farrell, and 3) NE corner of Kirk Douglas Way and El Cielo; Chair Sand also added, that if this sculpture is moved to the entrance of the airport she would like to see the turf removed and desert landscaping installed at both the Frank Bogert on Horseback site and for the Charlie Farrell sculpture so they complement one another; unanimously carried

7. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2015-16 Programming
 - 1) 17th Annual Juried Art Show, February 2016; 2) Fall Art Exhibition, Palm Springs Public Library**RECOMMENDATION:** Subcommittee Report and Staff Update

Commissioner Ruttan reported – we will be able to partner with the Desert Arts Center as the venue for the 2016 Art Show; we now need to select a theme; lead time is important due to Ms. Henning’s schedule to prepare the prospectus/Call to Artists.

The Commission discussed possible themes, including:

“Water, Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink”: Open to any original artwork in which water is clearly depicted as the primary force, object, or consequence.

"Climate Change": Artwork will recognize the beauty, diversity and effects of climate change. Artists are being asked to interpret the effects on our local environment and the changes that are occurring in a vast number of ecosystems. Artwork can recognize these changes at the local, regional, national or global levels.

"Black and White and Red All Over": The judges will be looking for artwork where the artist's interpretation of the subject may be through the use of the colors: black, white, red or a combination of the three or reference to the classic newspaper riddle. The theme leaves the field open for a broad array of artistic interpretations.

Chair Sand – gave a brief overview of the Annual Art Show.

Commissioner Sheffer – concerned that there are so many juried art shows in the City; Museum Artists’ Council, one for high school kids; also next year is the 30th anniversary of the City’s public art program; would like to do something that relates to public art and is in some way celebrating the 30 years. Concerned that it does not stand out and it’s a lot of effort. Also, does not feel it is a juried show, discussion followed regarding the “definition” of a “juried” show.

Chair Sand – it is a very valid idea; our last show (two years ago) was the 75th anniversary of Palm Springs; it was the theme that year. Also, we have the public art related artwork done by students that replicate artwork from the public art collection; currently there are two pieces created by students.

Commissioner Gladstone – feels themes should be broad and not literal. Would like to propose that the commission have this show every other year, rather than annually.

Commissioner Gladstone has the following questions:

1. Who selects the artworks?
2. How many submissions were received at the last show and how many pieces were selected to be in the show?
3. How many people attended the opening?

Chair Sand explained that there is an opening – approximately 500 people attended the last two years as we partnered with Desert Art Center. Numbers in prior years were about the same. The number of submissions varies; however, there are usually about 100 submissions.

Commissioner Ruttan – This has been the City’s art show for many years; the community looks forward to it; we try to be as inclusive as we can. This is an opportunity for the entire community to bring in their art. To enter the Museum’s show you must be a member of the museum and the Artist’s Council.

Commissioner Yanni – likes the idea of the theme incorporating public art, i.e., “Out in Public”, etc. Speaking to the other themes, likes Climate Change.

Chair Sand – likes the theme “Out in Public”; also likes the other suggestions. Would like to reuse the title Reuse, Rethink... if we can reuse the artwork.

MOTION: by Chair Sand, second by Commissioner Yanni, to “recycle” the art show theme Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, if we can reuse the graphic artwork materials from that show for the upcoming 2016 show; unanimously carried

Fall Art Exhibition

The Library would like to continue with this program in the fall.

Commissioner Gladstone – likes the idea of having the program; also, in the future would like to combine the two shows so the commission does not need to manage two shows a year.

Commissioner Yanni – likes the idea of it; does not feel there are enough resources given the changes in the arts commission and staffing.

Commissioner Sheffer – would like to prioritize; how many directions can we go at once? Asked if in September priorities could be set for the year. Need to think about the things that are the most important. Commissioner Sand advised Commissioner Sheffer if she would like certain priorities discussed she is welcome to email staff 1-1/2 weeks prior to a meeting – or advise those priorities during commissioner comments.

Mr. Ready – spoke briefly regarding resources and how to use them wisely; there are other resources available to the commission.

Commissioner Gladstone – we should anticipate what is coming up in the future, and not only look at what we have done; there are a lot of things changing in the City in terms of development and new opportunities for us. We need to have a balance. We need to think about the next three years, and priorities in a slightly different way.

Commissioner Ruttan – Does not feel the venue at the Library is very inviting for projects; who benefits more from the exhibit, the Library or public art?

Chair Sand – the item on the table right now is to make a determination to proceed with a fall exhibit at the Library.

MOTION: by Commissioner Sheffer, second by Commissioner Ruttan to not schedule a fall art exhibit at the Library this year; motion carried, 4 yea/1 abstain (Sand)

D. LEGISLATIVE

8. None.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

9. None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Commissioner Gladstone – would like a printed map of current public art.

Commissioner Ruttan – No Comments.

Commissioner Sheffer – spoke regarding apps and digital technology that she has seen on various city phone apps; feels in today’s world we should be connected and our art easy to find. Would like to talk about this at a future meeting.

Commissioner Sand – Welcome to Commissioner Gladstone; looking forward to talking about the art space downtown; there are great ways to manipulate small spaces. We do need new digital technologies. Would like an artist to be included in the development of spaces so they can be included in the process and not just installing artwork at the end, in and around a property after completion. Thanked City Manager, David Ready, for being at the meeting and all the great input.

Commissioner Yanni – priorities and thinking long-term; want to make sure that the art commission “gets some good real estate” downtown at the new Museum Market Place. Also would like to talk about “grouping” sculptures; maybe using something that is in storage; maybe a sculpture garden; rotating exhibitions of the public art that brings attention to the Commission’s work (long-term priorities)

REPORTS OF STAFF: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 4:21 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

Adjournment unanimously approved by a Motion of the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission this 9th Day of July; unanimously carried.

Approved by a Motion of the Public Arts Commission this 9th Day of July, 2015.

Paula Jean Sweat
Economic Development Program Assistant