

Public Arts Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

APPROVED



MINUTES  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2016  
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 Chair Sheffer

**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		8	3	
Mara Gladstone		9	2	
Alfonso Murray	x	2		
Bonnie Ruttan	x	9	2	
Amy Sand	x	10	1	
Ann Sheffer, Chair	x	11		
Thomas Yanni, Vice Chair	x	11		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lauri Aylaian, Director of Community & Economic Development  
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Ruttan, second by Commissioner Sand, to approve Public Arts Commission Regular Meeting Agenda for Thursday, May 12, 2016; unanimously carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Murray, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2016; unanimously carried

**A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Project Update  
Public Art Sculpture and Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, November 20, 2016 Updates.  
Presentation: Thomi Clinton, CEO Transgender Community Coalition (TCC); Jan David and Bill Gonzales, Board Members, Transgender Community Coalition  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive verbal report and staff update

Thomi Clinton was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Henning briefly updated the Commission on this project. Thomi Clinton has been working with artist Heath Satow; the piece should be completed by November 20. The Transgender Community Coalition will still need to come before the Commission to formally make a proposal to donate the sculpture.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. None.

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2016 Programming
  - 1) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show: Review 2017 show and possible theme ideas; 2) Youth Photography Class: Discuss new summer/fall educational programming possibilities**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive verbal subcommittee report and staff update

- 1) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show: Review 2017 show and possible theme ideas

Commissioner Ruttan – still interested in working the title/show off of Desert X; likes the theme Desert A-Z; would like to have A-Z word prompts in the prospectus to give artists something to work with, i.e., A-Z in different fonts, different sizes; Artists would choose a one word theme; The Arts Commission's participation in Desert X will be mentioned in the prospectus.

Desert X subcommittee – Vice Chair Yanni reported that Desert X is seeking funding directly from the City of Palm Springs, not the Public Arts Commission; subcommittee thought it might be best to wait and see what the City decides. Should the City decide not to fund the project, would like to still go forward in conjunction/partnership with Desert X. Chair Sheffer would like to invite Susan Davis from Desert X back to report on project progress.

- 2) Youth Photography Class: Discuss new summer/fall educational programming possibilities

Ms. Henning and Commissioner Murray met with Chari Godakanda of The Studio. Mr. Godakanda had volunteered to teach a youth photography class; Commissioner Murray reported that there is an opportunity for us to "carry the torch" as related to education and public art; there is a need in our community that relates to young people; photography is a medium to get their stories out, bringing family together; when Commissioner Murray teaches photography to children he always involves their parents.

Ms. Henning – has spoken to the Leisure Center about offering this program during summer programming. Chair Sheffer has also spoken with the museum regarding their summer camp, it will not be held in Palm Springs, and the museum's summer camp will only be available in Palm Desert. The Commission should also think about incorporating public art as the inspiration into the photography classes.

Chair Sand – Would like to consider the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center; could work this into archiving the artwork at the center; there is a very integral story and a lineage in the families that worked on the mural.

4. **Public Art Collection Inventory and Assessment**  
Discuss and review the current collection and inventory status  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive Verbal Subcommittee Report and Staff Update

Ms. Henning – one of the additional artistic bike racks has been delivered and is currently in storage; there are also two additional bike racks currently in fabrication. The Spider by Heath Satow will be installed at Demuth Park; Palm Springs Modern House by Michael Lytar will be installed in the uptown area (still deciding location), and; The PalmSPRING will be placed at the south end of town (still determining location). There will still be a dedication (at The Spider) for former Commissioner Buddy West who passed away suddenly last year.

Staff is working on obtaining quotes on plaques for all the bike racks (and other pieces needing plaques); costs have gone up significantly but will report back with findings.

5. **Public Art Sculpture Restoration and Conservation**  
Discuss Shade Structure Opportunities for Victoria Park Totem Pole by First Nation Hunt Family located at Victoria Park, 2744 N. Via Miraleste  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Review past proposals for shade structures and discuss opportunities for Hunt Family Totem Pole site in Victoria Park, direct Staff as appropriate location.

The totem pole should be reinstalled in 4-6 weeks at the Victoria Park site.

Chair Sheffer – there should be an announcement regarding the installation date, rather than installing the totem pole and have the neighborhood be surprised by it, they should be involved. Also, want to make sure the sprinklers in that area are off prior to reinstallation.

Commissioner Ruttan – Anything Commissioner Ruttan has ever read or researched on totems they are meant to deteriorate; spoke regarding a totem that was placed in Stockton, when it deteriorated and they contacted the indigenous people that created the totem to ask them what to do they said to let it go, that is what they are supposed to do, they are ceremonial and not expected to last forever; Sunnylands is not building a cover for their Hunt Totem Pole.

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Ruttan, to proceed with the installation of the restored Victoria Park Totem Pole as soon as the positioning is ready and assuming the sprinklers have been turned off; motion carried 4/1 – Commissioner Sand Opposed

**D. LEGISLATIVE:**

6. **ADOPT RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, REVISING THE CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT.**  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Continue item to the June 9, 2016 meeting.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sand, second by Vice Chair Yanni, to move Item D.6 [adopting a resolution of the Public Arts Commission of the City of Palm Springs, California, revising the current mission statement] to the June 9, 2016 regular meeting; unanimously carried

7. **ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE DESIGN AESTHETICS FOR THE SOUTH PALM CANYON BRIDGE AT TAHQUITZ CREEK CHANNEL.**  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ “A RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE DESIGN AESTHETICS FOR

THE SOUTH PALM CANYON BRIDGE AT TAHQUITZ CREEK CHANNEL CREATED BY SEAN LOCKYER, STUDIO AR&D ARCHITECTS, INC.”

Mr. James Lu from CNS Engineers, Inc. presented; Mr. Lu spoke briefly regarding the current south Palm Canyon bridge, including load capacity; when the bridge is replaced it will be able to withstand the expected travel capacity; the bridge will be widened from 2-lane to 4-lane. The environmental plan should be approved by Cal Trans by the end of the year. 5% of construction costs can be used for architectural treatment. The project is expected to be in construction until sometime during 2019-2020.

The design team has previously met with the PAC Bridge Subcommittee and is seeking approval for the design aesthetics. (Copy of materials submitted are attached hereto and made a part of the record of these minutes). Staff explained that after PAC approval the design will be presented at an informational meeting, which will include the general public and surrounding neighborhood groups, including Tahquitz Creek neighborhood. There is a plan for this area and it is being taken into consideration during design review.

Mr. Sean Lockyer of Studio AR&D Architects, Inc., presented – Hired to develop the aesthetic design of the bridge, particularly the guardrails and medians (two design proposals are attached for review). In previous meetings AR&D had worked through four design concepts and they have now been narrowed down to the two that are being presented today. Mr. Lockyer spoke regarding the two designs, Desiccation and Drape and Flow. Design concepts attached may be referenced for information pertaining to elements, concept, materials, and landscaping.

Commissioner Ruttan – some concerns regarding the changes to the design that the subcommittee had favored; feels that design changes have changed the form of the design that was preferred by the subcommittee.

Chair Sheffer – would like the two designs presented to go back to subcommittee for further review and report back at the next regular meeting with their final choice.

Ms. Henning – staff recommended that each commissioner give their input to Mr. Lockyer so there is a solid direction to go forward in subcommittee; there will be clear guidance and direction for the architects in order to get this completed. The subcommittee had originally been presented with four designs; the designs at subcommittee were narrowed down to two, Desiccation and Drape and Flow. We did give Mr. Lockyer and the design team the latitude to go forward and come up with something based on our two favorites.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Sand – both are excellent designs; would be torn between the two, do not have a concept of materials or maintenance costs to the City. Feels Drape and Flow, in the long-term, would be something where the patina would age well, would be natural and not a big concern; thinks it would weather the best. Either one is fabulous. Thanked the design team.

Commissioner Murray – would like to know about lighting. Mr. Lockyer explained that there are ideas still in process and would bring those back to the PAC; currently working on ideas for very subtle lighting from underneath and behind these structures.

Commissioner Ruttan – of the two designs, Drape and Flow would be my choice.

Vice Chair Gianni – There are differences between the original and the current presentation of Drape and Flow; there appears to be a tunnel. Mr. Lockyer explained that originally there were three elements to the design, guardrails, medians and a pod. Now there are only two elements (guardrails and medians); would like to see a place close to the bridge where someone can sit, view the trail, etc.

Chair Sheffer – in favor of Drape and Flow; with the corten steel feels that Drape and Flow is getting very close to a work of art instead of something that is only functional. Appreciates that this is a functional bridge, but is also aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. Lu explained that the pod or a place to sit or stay on the bridge presented safety issues; the bridge does include an 8' wide sidewalk (sidewalk is 100' long).

This item will be continued to the June 9, 2016, meeting; if additional time is needed for design team and subcommittee meetings, the item will be discussed at the July 14, 2016, meeting.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Sand, second by Vice Chair Gianni, to continue discussion of adoption of a resolution of the Public Arts Commission of the City of Palm Springs for the design aesthetics for the South Palm Canyon bridge at Tahquitz Creek Channel to the next meeting on June 9, 2016; unanimously carried

#### **E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **8. Special Projects Report by Chair Sheffer and Vice Chair Gianni**

Vice Chair Gianni has spoken with Susan Davis, Chairperson, at Desert X; they are beginning fundraising efforts which they hope will go well. Events will be held in Los Angeles in the summer; they are looking at numerous sites in Palm Springs, there is nothing definite at this time. They are still in planning mode. They have structured their request to the City of Palm Springs in two parts; one is that the City supports the piece and pays for the installation in Palm Springs, or the City support a public event.

**REPORTS OF DIRECTOR/STAFF:** There is nothing new to report on the budget process.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Murray – complimented Vice Chair Gianni on representing the Commission at the All-Valley Arts Commission meeting in Cathedral City and the dedication of X Marks the Spot by Simi Dabah; several of us attended and Vice Chair Gianni did a great job.

Commissioner Ruttan – agrees with Commissioner Sand, the South Palm Canyon bridge is going to be a stellar project. Thank you for all the support on the art show.

Vice Chair Gianni – thanked AR&D for presenting the beautiful bridge design concept(s); thank you for mentioning the All-Valley Arts Commission; there was an interesting presentation by a couple of artists who formed a project called Coachella Walls; 10 murals have been completed in the last couple of years, the first series is focused on farm workers, the second series is focused on women; highly recommend taking time to see this project. Also, Palm Desert has hosted an all-valley arts commission meeting as well as Cathedral City, would like to propose that Palm Springs host a future meeting; Vice Chair Gianni will act as liaison.

Commissioner Sand – Appreciates the design team from Studio AR&D working with the subcommittee and coming today and presenting the bridge designs, it is very exciting and unique.

Chair Sheffer – it is amazing how far we have come; thankful that we have prioritized Commission projects. When someone now comes with a new idea it falls into a prioritized category. Thanked the commissioners for attending additional meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:36 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 9, 2016, 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 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2016; unanimously carried.



Paula Jean Sweat  
Economic Development Program Assistant