



## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Staff Liaison**

Alexandra Orologas | 510-215-4302  
[aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea9c4d1ea71c15d1291e13d21a06505fe>

**Event ID:** 187 655 4896

**Event Password:** ACCMeeting

**Join by Phone:** (408) 418-9388

**Access code:** 187 655 4896

Pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, and in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Teleconference Restrictions of the Brown Act Have Been Suspended, as Well as the Requirement to Provide a Physical Location for Members of the Public to Participate in the Meeting.

Any person wishing to speak to the Arts and Culture Commission on any of these matters is invited to participate via teleconference as described above.

The City encourages submission of written comments in advance to the Arts and Culture Commission via email to [aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) prior to the meeting or by contacting the staff liaison listed above.

---

#### **7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Allison Cooper; Vice-Chair Blake Washington; Members: Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens
- 2. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
*Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person, and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first; remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.*
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Consider approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. (Attachment)
- 5. PARKS AND RECREATION COLLABORATION**  
Discussion regarding work of the Recreation Liaison Subcommittee.
- 6. WORKPLAN DISCUSSION**  
Discussion about the 2021 Workplan and ongoing projects. (Attachments)

**7. UPCOMING ACC-SPONSORED EVENTS**

None

**8. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. Community Outreach Subcommittee (Cazden, Gager, Washington)
- b. Recreation Liaison Subcommittee (Cazden, Cooper, Helion)
- c. Visual Arts Subcommittee (Cooper, Helion, Nichols)

**9. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, (510) 215-4302. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at [www.el-cerrito.org/acc](http://www.el-cerrito.org/acc).



## DRAFT MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE Arts and Culture Commission

**Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**  
This meeting was held via teleconference.

**Staff Liaison**

Alexandra Orologas | 510-215-4302  
aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

**This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible**

---

**CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington. Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Absent:** None

- 2. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

Chair Cooper announced an opportunity to join the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and the Contra Costa Civic Theatre in a roundtable discussion of the arts in El Cerrito.

City Councilmember Tessa Rudnick introduced herself as the new Council Liaison to the ACC.

Staff Liaison Alex Orologas reported on upcoming City staff transitions.

- 3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved/Second:** Member (Cazden/Washington) **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting with one amendment. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

- 5. BUDGET UPDATE**

Staff Liaison Orologas provided current information on the balance in and possible expenditures from the Public Art Fund.

- 6. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – MINI GRANT PROGRAM**

Erin Merritt made a presentation on her proposed “Neighborhood Stories” project, in request for financial support by the ACC. Discussion followed.

**Moved/Second:** Member (Nichols/Cooper) **Action:** Passed a motion to support the “Neighborhood Stories” project in an amount of \$1000. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 7. APPROVAL OF POET LAUREATE

Member Helion presented information on the Poet Laureate selection process. The selection panel recommended 2 Poets Laureate. Discussion followed.

**Moved/Second:** Member (Cooper/Washington) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Evelyn Mitchell and Brandon Brown as the next El Cerrito Poets Laureate. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Member Courtney Helion. **Noes:** Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. Motion failed.

**Moved/Second:** Member (Cooper/Cazden) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Evelyn Mitchell as the next El Cerrito Poet Laureate. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 8. PUBLIC UTILITY ART BOX PILOT PROGRAM

Member Nichols presented information on the Utility Box artist selection process. The selection panel recommended one design from each of 3 artists. Discussion followed.

**Moved/Second:** Member (Wiens/Cooper) **Action:** Made a motion to approve Richard Cerezo, Martial, and Jesse White as the artists in the Utility Box Pilot Program. **Ayes:** Chair Allison Cooper; Vice Chair Blake Washington; Members Ruth Cazden, George Gager, Courtney Helion, Bill Nichols, Ann Wiens. **Noes:** None. Passed unanimously.

## 9. PARKS AND RECREATION COLLABORATION

Discussion regarding work of the Recreation Liaison Subcommittee was deferred to the next meeting.

## 10. WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

Discussion about the 2020 Workplan and ongoing projects was deferred to the next meeting.

## 11. UPCOMING ACC-SPONSORED EVENTS

No immediate events. Chair Cooper suggested that the commissioners begin thinking of possible ideas for celebrating Arts Month in October.

## **12. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. Community Outreach Subcommittee (Cazden, Gager, Washington): no update
- b. Recreation Liaison subcommittee (Cazden, Helion, Cooper): awaiting feedback from most recent meeting with Rec staff.
- c. Visual Arts Subcommittee (Cooper, Helion, Nichols): The library signage project is moving forward slowly; Heidi Goldstein presented at the City Council.

## **13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

See items #9 and #10 above.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

---

Allison Cooper, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Arts and Culture Commission meeting of January 25, 2021 as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

---

Alexandra Orologas, Staff Liaison

## **ART & CULTURE COMMISSION**

### **2.04.310 Art and Culture Commission**

A. There shall be an arts and culture commission consisting of seven members. These members shall demonstrate a commitment to the various arts disciplines, including but not limited to: fine arts, visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, art history and arts education.

B. The commission shall have the following powers and duties as stated below, and such others as assigned from time to time by the city council:

1. To act in an advisory capacity to the city council in all matters pertaining to arts in the community;

2. Make recommendations to the city council concerning the resources and needs of the community on the subject of the arts, opportunities for participation of artists and performers in city-sponsored activities, and ways to encourage community involvement in the arts;

3. Work cooperatively with city boards and commissions and other public and private organizations in creating and promoting art and cultural programs and activities within the city;

4. Coordinate and strengthen existing organizations in the arts and develop cooperation with regional organizations;

5. Make recommendations to the city council regarding the funding of community art projects, including the search for private and public grants, and regarding the disbursement of revenues consistent with the needs of the community;

6. Review and make recommendations to the city council upon all works of art to be acquired by the city, either by purchase, gift or otherwise and exterior works of art installed in the city on public property;

7. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of such ordinances or policies as it may deem necessary for the administration and preservation of the arts and cultural development of the city.(Ord. 2003-1 Div. 1, 2003.)

| <b>Goal A: Increase access to public art in the community</b> | <b>Goal B: Support the local artistic and cultural community</b> | <b>Goal C: Promote excellence in the arts</b> | <b>Goal D: Beautify El Cerrito</b> | <b>Timeframe Focus</b>                       |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Public Utility Box Pilot Program                              | Public Utility Box Pilot Program                                 | Public Utility Box Pilot Program              | Public Utility Box Pilot Program   | First Half of 2021                           |
| Poet Laureate Program   | Poet Laureate Program  | Poet Laureate Program                         |                                    | First Half of 2021                           |
| Library Signage Project                                       | Library Signage Project  |   | Library Signage Project            | First Half of 2021                           |
| Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events                            | Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events                               | Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events            | Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events | First Half of 2021                           |
| ECCRU Artist in Residence                                     | ECCRU Artist in Residence  | ECCRU Artist in Residence                     |                                    | Possible Second Half of 2021, or early 2022? |
| City Hall Gallery   | City Hall Gallery  | City Hall Gallery                             |                                    | 2022   |
| Community Orchestra Program                                   | Community Orchestra Program                                      | Community Orchestra Program                   |                                    | 2022   |
| Event Tabling   | Event Tabling  |   |                                    | 2022   |
| Art Acquisition   |  |   |                                    | 2022   |

1. What is the ACC NOT doing?
2. What in the Master Plan needs to be modified?

**Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events**

|                                  | <b>Music</b> | <b>Literary</b> | <b>Visual Art</b> | <b>Dance</b> | <b>Children</b> | <b>Youth</b> | <b>Adult</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| ECHS Jazz Festival               | ●            |                 |                   |              |                 | ●            | ●            |
| Messy Art Day                    |              |                 | ●                 |              | ●               |              |              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Festival | ●            |                 |                   | ●            | ●               | ●            | ●            |
| Music of El Cerrito              | ●            |                 |                   |              | ●               | ●            | ●            |
| One City One Book                |              | ●               |                   |              |                 | ●            | ●            |
| Free Folk Festival               | ●            |                 |                   |              | ●               | ●            | ●            |
| Restaurant Week Music            | ●            |                 |                   |              |                 |              |              |
|                                  |              |                 |                   |              |                 |              |              |

\* Mini-Grant Applications not included in list above, however is included in category of Grants/Sponsorship of Art & Events.