AGENDA
MEETING OF THE
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

September 23, 2019

El Cerrito City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 94530

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 p.m. CONVENE MEETING

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Ruth Cazden; Members Allison Cooper, George Gager, Bill Nichols, Christopher Walsh, Blake Washington

2. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
   Comments are typically limited to three minutes per person and are limited to items not on the meeting agenda. Comments can also be heard at the time the item is discussed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   Consider approval of the minutes of the August 26, 2019 meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CO-CHAIR
   Discuss candidates and possible action regarding selection of a new Co-Chair.

6. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - Presentation by El Cerrito Arts Association regarding the El Cerrito Art Show for discussion and possible action. (Attachment)

7. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - Presentation by Margo Takemiya, J-Sei, regarding the premier East Bay screening of Kikan, The Homecoming for discussion and possible action. (Attachment)

8. EL CERRITO FREE FOLK FESTIVAL – Discussion and possible action regarding Commission table at Festival.

9. ECCRU UPDATE
   Staff report and discussion.

10. ACOUSTIC UPGRADE UPDATE
    Staff report and discussion.
11. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Ad Hoc Townhall subcommittee (Cazden, Gager, Washington)
   b. Performance Space subcommittee (Gager, Walsh, Cazden)
   c. Publicity subcommittee (Walsh, Cooper)

12. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

13. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, 510-215-4318. 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 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530, during normal business hours.
Artists & Culture Commission Support
APPLICATION

Contact/Applicant Name: Eileen Libby

Organization Name (if applicable): El Cerrito Art Association

Contact Phone: (510) 237-8181
Contact Email: eileenlibby@gmail.com

Contact Address/City/Zip: 1740 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Location of proposed event/project: El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito

Anticipated number of attendees? 400

Date(s) & Time(s) of the event: Oct. 4, 7-9pm; Oct. 5, 11-5pm; Oct 6, 11-4

REQUEST: ☐ Publicity ☐ Venue/Space Detail (please include estimate cost)

We request a donation from the Arts and Cultural Commission to recognize one artwork entered in the El Cerrito Art Association’s 2019 Annual Art Show.

☒ Financial support – If applicable, how much are you asking from the ACC?

$ 25.00

What is your basic budget, and how will it be spent? If you’ve received funding from ACC in the past, please indicate the history for how much you were awarded. If you’re requesting more than you were awarded in the past, please provide justification for the increase. From where else will you receive support? You are welcome to include an additional sheet.

Postage and office supplies 200.00
Art show supplies (paint, hardware, labels, name tags) 200.00
Printing costs for cards, posters and show catalogue 500.00
Square and PayPal charges for sales and entry fees 330.00
Hospitality for Artist Reception and Volunteers 850.00
Fees for 6 show judges 900.00
Monetary awards accompanying ribbons 2,450.00
Merchant awards (equal to amount received) 500.00
Ribbons 300.00
Rental costs for EC Community Center 1,975.00

Total budget for this year’s art show $8,205.00.

Please email to mwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or deliver/mail to: Art & Culture Commission, 10890 San Pablo, El Cerrito 94530
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 

Merchant and Local Organization Awards for the ECAA Arty Show.

Established professional artists are engaged to judge entries in the 13 different categories in the show. In addition to awarding 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place and Honorable Mention ribbons and cash awards, we solicit monetary donations and/or gift certificates from local merchants and organizations to accompany merchant award ribbons. These ribbons are given to individual art works selected by the individuals or organization and business representatives who donate money or gift certificates. At a donor’s request, an individual designated by ECAA President will choose the art work to receive a given award.

The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?

All paint and sculptural artists of the San Francisco Bay Area are invited to participate in this non-juried art show. Both members and non-members are welcomed. We reuse stanchons, art bins and other display furniture from year-to-year. This year we put art show entry forms on line eliminating the need for paper and postage from participants.

Have you done a similar event or project before? If yes, 1) what worked well and 2) what

☑ Yes ☐ No would you do differently this time?

We have put on an art show for Bay Area artists annually since 1974. This year we have expanded our advertising for the show to bring in more artists from diverse communities. This year we initiated online entry applications for the show.

STAFF/PERSONNEL: # paid staff _____0_____ # volunteers _____25_____

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Please email to rwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or deliver/mail to: Art & Culture Commission, 10890 San Pablo, El Cerrito 94530
# Arts & Culture Commission Support
## APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact/Applicant Name:</th>
<th>Jill Šhirakì and Margo Takemiya</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization Name (if applicable):</td>
<td>J-Sei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Phone:</td>
<td>510-654-4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jill@j-sei.org">jill@j-sei.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Address/City/Zip:</td>
<td>1285 66th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of proposed event/project:</th>
<th>Rialto Cinemas CerriTo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated number of attendees?</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date(s) &amp; Time(s) of the event:</td>
<td>Proposed: Sat, Nov 16 or Sun, Nov 17</td>
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### REQUEST:
- [ ] Publicity
  - Requesting community use day at Rialto Cinemas CerriTo

- [x] Venue/Space Detail (please include the estimate cost)

- [ ] Financial support – *If applicable, how much are you asking from the ACC?*

\$ 0

What is your basic budget, and how will it be spent? If you’ve received funding from ACC in the past, please indicate the history for how much you were awarded. If you’re requesting more than you were awarded in the past, please provide justification for the increase. From where else will you receive support? You are welcome to include an additional sheet.


PLEASE COMPLETE PAGE 2

Please email to mwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or
deliver/mail to: Art & Culture Commission, 10890 San Pablo, El Cerrito 94530
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

We are proposing a premier East Bay screening of Kikan, The Homecoming, the newest creative work by local filmmaker Kerwin Berk (Infinity & Chashu Ramen, 2013, Virtues of Corned Beef Hash 2010). Set in the 1940s, Kikan, The Homecoming follows Japanese American soldier Jimmy Iba of the 442nd RCT as he makes a life-changing journey from the battlefields of Europe to San Francisco to fulfill a wartime promise. The film stars Ryan Takemiya (Valley of the Heart), Anna Sun, Ken Takeda, Chizu Omori (Rabbit in the Moon) and Hiroshi Kashiwagi (Hilo Hata, Black Rain). [https://www.ikeibifilms.com/kikan-about](https://www.ikeibifilms.com/kikan-about)

Local filmmaker Kerwin Berk continues to develop original works on the Japanese American community experience exploring the transmission of culture and identity, the impact of the legacy and trauma of WWII and family history, and its relevance to current generations. He incorporates a sense of place (SF Japantown) by shooting his film locally using local cast of professional actors and artists. His lead actor Ryan Takemiya has grown up in El Cerrito. Following the screening, will be a panel with filmmaker & cast members.

The Arts & Culture Commission cares about diverse audiences and environmental sustainability. Can you tell us how you will address those concerns?

J-Sei is a community non-profit social service organization in the East Bay region, primarily serving seniors and serving as a cultural and community center for multigenerational families. Several of our board, staff, and volunteers reside in El Cerrito. We outreach to a broad multi-ethnic community serving both Contra Costa County and Alameda County.

Have you done a similar event or project before? Yes [ ] No [ ]

J-Sei has hosted film screenings at our facility in Emeryville, but are limited in the size of audience, and DVD or blu-ray projection. We would like to hold this screening at a movie theater to provide the best production value for this premier East Bay screening. We will be outreaching to community partners: Contra Costa JACL, Berkeley JACL, Sakura Kai Senior Center, and other community organizations.

STAFF/PERSOENNEL: 

# paid staff ______ # volunteers ______

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Please email to mwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or deliver/mail to: Art & Culture Commission, 10890 San Pablo, El Cerrito 94530
“COMMUNITY USE DAY” REQUEST FORM FOR FILM EVENT AT RIALTO CINEMAS CERRITO

Please submit form to Maya Williams, Assistant to the City Manager at mwilliams@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 510-215-4318. Ideally, requests should be received at least 8-12 weeks prior to event.

Organization’s Name: J-Sei

Is your organization:
☐ City Department or Advisory Body/Commission (please specify):
☐ WCCUSD School/PTA located in El Cerrito
☐ Private/Parochial School/PTA located in El Cerrito
☐ On City’s “Co-Sponsored List”
☐ Other: non-profit social svc org

Contact Name: Jill Shiraki

Contact Email: jill@j-sei.org

Contact Phone: (510) 654-4000

Desired event date (or range) in priority order: Community use day events are typically on a weekend morning, ending before 12:30pm.

1st) 11/16/2019

2nd) 11/17/2019

3rd) 11/24/2019

Film Details:
• Film Title: Kikan, The Homecoming
• Year: 2019
• Rating: 39 mins
• Runtime: 39 mins
• Website: https://ikeibifilms.com/ (provide either official website for film, or link on www.imdb.com)

-continued on next page-
Describe the purpose of sponsoring the film event. Include the main messages of the film(s); how these messages relate to your group's goals.


Local filmmaker Kerwin Berk continues to develop original works on the Japanese American experience, exploring the transmission of culture and identity, the impact of trauma of WWII on family dynamics and communication, and its relevancy to current generations. He incorporates a sense of place (SF Japantown, SF Bay Area) by filming locally and hiring a local cast of professional actors and artists. His lead actor is Ryan Takemiya who has grown up in El Cerrito.

J-Sei is a community non-profit social service organization serving the East Bay region, primarily focusing on senior services, but also offering a cultural and community center for multigenerational families. We outreach to a broad multi-ethnic community that spans both Contra Costa and Alameda County.

Event Details - describe what will happen at the event. Include if there will be any speakers, reception, other short film(s) etc either in the auditorium or off-site that are part of the event. Include the order in which these things will take place. Specify if you need a microphone, etc. Supporters, speakers, partners shall not utilize events as a platform for political advocacy or a political position; unless otherwise authorized, events shall be educational and inclusive of ideas and positions.

Admission: Describe cost for attendees. Include if event will be free or if admission will be charged. Is this event a fundraiser? Is this event open to the general public? The community event will be open to the general public. Advance reservations will be requested. A suggestion donation of $10-$20 will be asked.

Describe the outreach strategy for this event. Include all outreach partners being considered. I understand the organization must secure the screening rights to show the film in a movie theatre and will provide the film on either BluRay or DVD disc 10-14 days prior to the event.

We will outreach using postcard, posters, eBlast, social media posting. We will also outreach to our community partner orgs such as Contra Costa JACL, Berkeley JACL, Sakura Kai Senior Center, local churches and other community organizations.

I/We understand this event shall not be used as a platform for political advocacy or a political position.

I/We understand no outside food or drink is allowed.
THE HOMECOMING

THE STORY

A wartime promise takes Pvt. Jimmy Ibata of the 442nd RCT on a life-changing journey from the battlefields of Europe to San Francisco as he tries to complete his final mission of the war.

“KIKAN” spans 60 years in the lives of Japanese Americans - from their unjust imprisonment during WWII to modern-day San Francisco.

The cast and crew runs the gamut of the Nikkei experience, with Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, Shin Issei, Shin Nisei and Hapa actors, musicians and filmmakers all participating in the project.
THE HOMECOMING

THE CAST

RYAN TAKEMIYA as Jimmy Ibata

HIROSHI KASHIWAGI as Old Jimmy

KEN TAKEDA as Ken Ito

ANNA SUN as Wendy Ito

MIYOKO SAKATANI as Mrs. Ito

KEALOHA NAKAMURA as K.O. Tanaka

CHIZU OMORI as Obaachan

ROJI OYAMA as Mr. Ito

CONNIE RUTHERFORD as The Granddaughter
SPECIAL THANKS

Chidori Band of San Jose
Cooper Chow
Allyson Hu
Nan Kitaura & Dave Kawakita
Saki Kono
Mark Levitt
Louise & Johnny Miller
Nichi Bei Foundation
Valerie & Buddy Saleman
Kiki Spaulding
Lea Suzuki
Duane Takahashi
Kiyomi & Ken Takeda
Tiny Rabbit Productions
Michael Yoshihara
Sandra Young

and

San Francisco’s Japantown
KERWIN BERK writer/director

Kerwin was born and raised in San Francisco's Japantown and still calls The City his home. He is an award-winning journalist who worked at newspapers and wire services in Asia and the United States for more than 20 years. His last stop was at his hometown newspaper - The Chronicle.

Today, he is a freelance writer and independent filmmaker. He has written, produced and directed award-winning films and web series such as “The Virtues of Corned Beef Hash,” “Infinity & Chashu Ramen” and “Gold Mountain.”

Ikeibi Films is dedicated to the idea that Asian Americans need to tell their own stories in their own voice using our own talent both in front of and behind the camera.

More information is available at ikeibifilms.com and you can contact Kerwin at ikeibifilms@aol.com.

KEALANI KITAURA producer

Kealani was born and raised in Redwood City. She grew up participating in Palo Alto Buddhist Temple's Young Buddhist Association and continued involvement in the JA community through the Japanese American Student Society at UC Davis where she served as a cabinet member for 3 years. Her background includes a BA from UC Davis in Art Studio with a minor in Film Studies as well as an ongoing study of acting at First Take Acting School.

Upon graduating, she was hired by the JET Programme, and she lived in Sapporo for two years teaching English and cultivating a new appreciation for her Japanese heritage.

Inspired to tell stories and help others find a voice, she took to producing in 2017 and runs Tiny Rabbit Productions.

BEN ARIKAWA director of photography

Ben is a 50-something Sansei who grew up on a small family farm in rural California. In elementary school, he began taking photos with his mother's 1940s-era camera, teaching himself how to develop film and prints in the hall bathroom. Decades later, his interest in video was sparked when he borrowed his father-in-law's camcorder.

Ben recently found his voice in writing stories and he has come to understand the importance of stories as therapy and as a way of passing “wisdom” onto the next generation.

He will be eternally grateful to Ikeibi Films for the opportunity to act in “Infinity & Chashu Ramen” and to be the director of photography on “Gold Mountain” and “KIKAN - The Homecoming.”