AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86306050606?pwd=aXJzdEhxZ3VRMVVIU1ZxTVFJVVVg0QT09

Webinar ID: 863 0605 0606
Webinar Password: 052322

Join by Phone: (408) 638-0968
Passcode: 052322

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 prior to the meeting or by contacting the staff liaison listed above.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Courtney Helion; Vice Chair Alan Pavlosky; Members: Allison Cooper, George Gager, 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 April 25, 2022 meeting. (Attachment)

5. PUBLIC UTILITY ART BOX PROGRAM
Discussion and possible action on to approve the recommended finalists for the Public Utility Art Box Program. (Attachment)
6. PEACE CRANES FOR UKRAINE ART PROJECT RECEPTION
Discussion and possible action regarding a reception for Monday, June 6 or Wednesday, June 8 at City Hall for the Peace Cranes for Ukraine Art Project by Fairmont Elementary School students.

7. CENTENNIAL PARK MURAL PROJECT
Receive update on potential Centennital Park Mural Project.

8. RECRUITMENT EFFORTS
Discussion and possible action regarding Arts & Culture Commission’s efforts to recruit additional commissioners.

9. AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
Discussion and possible action:
   a. Workplan & Mini Grant Subcommittee (Cooper, Helion)
   b. Community Outreach & Marketing Subcommittee (Gager, Wiens)
   c. Centennial Park Mural Project Subcommittee (Weins, Helion)

10. UPCOMING ACC-SPONSORED EVENTS
Discussion and possible action on upcoming ACC-sponsored events.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

12. 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.
ROLL CALL – Chair Helion called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Chair Courtney Helion; Vice Chair Alan Pavlosky; Members: Allison Cooper, George Gager, Ann Wiens.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS
Chair Helion announced that agenda item number 6 would take place before agenda item number 5 so the students from Fairmont Elementary School could present their agenda item earlier.

Vice Chair Pavlosky reported that many excellent Utility Box Art proposals were received and expected to provide a full report after the interview process.

Member Cooper reported that July 4th Festival has reached its fully funding goal.

Staff Liaison Orologas reported that Utility Box Art interviews would take place in two weeks and the selected candidates would be invited for the interviews. She also announced her upcoming maternal leave in September and expected to be away for four months. She also confirmed that with the help of additional sponsorships from local businesses, the July 4th Festival was able to reach its funding goal.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
Buddy Akacić – shared the news of a sculpture that he had observed in the community and invited everyone to join an upcoming community mural stroll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved/Second: Vice Chair Pavlosky/Member Gager Action: Motion to approve March 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Ayes: Chair Helion; Vice Chair Pavlosky; Members Cooper, Gager and Wiens Noes: None. Minutes approved.

601 LEXINGTON AVENUE DEVELOPMENT ARTWORK PRESENTATION
Presentation received from Owner/Developer Erica Meeks, Vice President of the Dischnica Company, LLC and Artist Ron Holthuysen, Scientific Art Studio.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – MINI GRANT PROGRAM
Presentation received on Peace Cranes for Ukraine Art Project from Fairmont Elementary School Angela Brandt and a group of her students. **Moved/Second:** Chair Helion/Member Wiens **Action:** Motion to approve the mini grant in the amount of $200. **Ayes:** Chair Helion; Vice Chair Pavlosky; Members Cooper, Gager and Wiens **Noes:** None. Mini grant approved.

7. **REQUEST FOR SUPPORT – STORYWALK INSTALLATION**

Presentation received from Julia Dragolovich & Katy Buder from the Contra Costa County El Cerrito Library regarding the installation of a StoryWalk along the Ohlone Greenway.

Suggestions were provided to presenters and invited to return on a later date with more information. No action taken.

8. **AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

Discussion and possible action:

a. Workplan & Mini Grant Subcommittee (Cooper, Helion) – No action
b. Community Outreach & Marketing Subcommittee (Gager, Wiens) – No action
c. Centennial Park Mural Project Subcommittee (Weins, Helion) – No action

9. **UPCOMING ACC-SPONSORED EVENTS**

None.

10. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Centennial Park Mural Project, grass roots recruitment, opening reception for Peace Cranes for Ukraine Art Project, Utility Box Art.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

__________________________
Courtney Helion, 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 April 25, 2022, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

__________________________
Alexandra Orologas, Staff Liaison
RECOMMENDED ARTISTS FOR 2022 UTILITY BOX ART

Box 1 - Carlson Blvd./Central Ave.
Box 9 - Colusa Ave./Fairmount Ave.
Box 11 - Moeser Ln./Navallier St.

1. Kristen Kong and Della Watson (Box 9, 11)
2. Shanna Strauss and Jessica Sabogal (Box 1)
UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM - CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application Deadline: The application is due 4 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022. For questions, contact Lina Huang at (510) 215-4371 or lhuang@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Lead Artist First Name and Last Name*
Kristen Kong

Home Address (Street #, Street Name)*

You must reside in either Contra Costa or Alameda County (East San Francisco Bay Area). Proof of residency may be requested.

City*
El Cerrito

Zip*
94530

Phone:* [Redacted]

Contact Email:* [Redacted]

Assistant Artist(s) First Name(s) and Last Name(s) -
Della.pdf
If artists enlist assistants, all assistants must be named here. Please attach here.

Title of Artwork(s)*
BOX 9 - The Diverse History of El Cerrito
BOX 1 - Go Green
Box 11 - Still We Rise

If submitting designs for more than one utility box, include all the artwork titles here and list the utility box # that corresponds to each artwork title.

Name of community group or organization - if applicable*
n/a

If none, type "n/a"

Lead Artist Biography/Qualifications (up to 300 words):*
Kristen Kong is an illustrator and muralist based in El Cerrito whose style blends whimsy with the modern era. She graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California with a BFA in Illustration.

Her work has been featured at Public Works, the Little Lodge Galleries in San Francisco, and Gallery 50 in Toronto. Her clients include the California Academy of Sciences Museum, Zillow, and the Sierra Club.

This body of work reflects her long held intention to bring people who are often overlooked to the forefront of visual storytelling. Whether it’s short comics, murals, infographics or book illustration, she strives to capture a story with a knack for leaving you with a warm fuzzy feeling.

Visit kristenkong.com to see her work.
Examples of previous work that are relevant to this Call for Artists

No more than five examples of previous work should be Artists need not have painted utility or signal boxes before. Each example should include information such as descriptions of the work, location, type of surface, materials used, and who the work was commissioned by or created. Electronic files should be at a resolution appropriate for.

#1 - Example of previous work*
UTILITY BOX.pdf

#2 - Example of previous work*
UTILITY BOX.pdf

#3 - Example of previous work
UTILITY BOX.pdf

#4 - Example of previous work
Choose File | No file chosen

#5 - Example of previous work
Choose File | No file chosen

Design Rendering(s)

Provide color renderings of your proposed design for the box(es), showing all four sides and the top of each box. Artists may submit up to three designs. However, each proposed design must have its own separate page. If you wish to be considered for a specific box location or locations, please label the rendering with the utility box number. If you have no preference, label the rendering. Label each rendering with your name. Electronic files should be at a resolution appropriate for viewing.

#1 - Design Rendering*
UTILITY BOX 1.pdf

#2 - Design Rendering
UTILITY BOX 9.pdf

#3 - Design Rendering
UTILITY BOX 11.pdf

Design Description(s) - up to 300 words for each utility box:*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal for Box #9: The Diverse History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By putting the spotlight on people of color, this utility box highlights El Cerrito’s rich history. The art aims to uplift the BIPOC community and encourage everyone to embrace El Cerrito’s citizens that contributed to the city’s cultural fabric.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using bright colors, artful portraiture, and hand-painted text, this piece of public art highlights notable El Cerrito locals past and present, such as news anchor Belva Davis, baseball legend Pumpsie Green, and author Gail Tsukiyama. Research for this mural was done in collaboration with the president of the El Cerrito Historical Society, David Weinstein.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal for Box #1: Go Green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of the most effective ways to make El Cerrito a more environmentally sustainable city is for individuals and families to make positive changes to their daily routines. When we reduce our car dependency by walking, cycling, using public transit, or carpooling, we reduce traffic congestion and pollution. As part of a healthy lifestyle, walking and cycling have the added benefit of increasing fitness. Meanwhile, carpooling helps people build stronger relationships with other members of the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal #11: Still We Rise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By putting the spotlight on these four groundbreaking Black women, we are celebrating the lives of extraordinary individuals who achieved greatness in their fields. As viewers reflect on the lives of these women and consider their contributions to American History, we are providing context for ongoing social and political conversations and prompting a deeper understanding of the people who have paved the way for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We hope that these visions of success, perseverance, and courage will inspire people to strive to follow their own dreams and make a difference in the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Proposal

Box #9

Colusa Ave./Fairmount Ave.
Utility Box #9

THE DIVERSE HISTORY OF EL CERRITO
Selected Proposal

Box #11

Moeser Ln./Navallier St.
One of the most effective ways to make El Cerrito a more environmentally sustainable city is for individuals and families to make positive changes to their daily routines. When we reduce our car dependency by walking, cycling, using public transit, or carpooling, we reduce traffic congestion and pollution. As part of a healthy lifestyle, walking and cycling have the added benefit of increasing fitness. Meanwhile, carpooling helps people build stronger relationships with other members of the community.

By depicting these many alternate transportation options in a whimsical and fun illustration, we are normalizing the ways in which we can combat climate change while also improving our community’s mental and physical health.
Updated Box Layout A

“With us” adds a more approachable tone.
Updated Box
Layout B (recommended)

Shorter, faster read when in a car.
Della Watson is the co-founder of the Bay Area Correspondence School (BACS), a California-based epistolary arts network. A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's MFA program, Della specializes in art and literature that crosses genre boundaries. She enjoys experimenting with the impact of art in different environments and has exhibited at diverse venues such as galleries, parks, and trains.

Her work has been featured at the Art In Nature festival in Oakland, the INDEXG Gallery in Toronto, Bauhaus: 90 Years / 90 Days, The Chicago Calling Festival, and the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art's Literary Gangs series.

Check out the Bay Area Correspondence School on Facebook to learn more.
Previous Work
SuperNatural Brochure

Description: Halloween event brochure mailer. Distribution was 6-7K.

Commissioned for: California Academy of Sciences Museum

Location: N/A

Type of surface: Matte paper

Materials used: Digital, pencil and paper
Grab your costume for a spine-tingling, bone-rattling Halloween and trick-or-treat your way through the Academy at night.
Personal Project

Description: Exterior wall mural concept

Commissioned for:
Personal work

Location: N/A

Type of surface: N/A

Materials used: Digital
Neighborhood Map

Description: Neighborhood map of El Cerrito

Commissioned for: El Cerrito Art Association Show

Location: DMV, El Cerrito, CA

Type of surface: Paper

Materials used: Digital
Utility Box Public Art Program Application - Submission #18303

Date Submitted: 4/15/2022

UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM - CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application Deadline: The application is due 4 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022. For questions, contact Lina Huang at (510) 215-4371 or lhuang@ci.elcerrito.ca.us.

APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Lead Artist First Name and Last Name*  
Shanna Strauss

Home Address (Street #, Street Name)*  

You must reside in either Contra Costa or Alameda County (East San Francisco Bay Area). Proof of residency may be requested.

City*  
Oakland

Zip*  
94601

Phone:*  

Contact Email:*  

Assistant Artist(s) First Name(s) and Last Name(s) -  
Jessica Sabogal.pdf

If artists enlist assistants, all assistants must be named here. Please attach here.

Title of Artwork(s)*  
"Our legacy" - Lead Artist Shanna Strauss for Utility Box Number 1  
"Todo Para Todxs" - Lead Artist Jessica Sabogal for Utility Box number 3

If submitting designs for more than one utility box, include all the artwork titles here and list the utility box # that corresponds to each artwork title.

Name of community group or organization - if applicable*  
n/a

If none, type "n/a"
Lead Artist Biography/Qualifications (up to 300 words):*

Our artist team, Taller Sanaar is comprised of life and collaborative partners Shanna Strauss and Jessica Sabogal. Shanna Strauss is Tanzanian - American mixed media artist whose work centers on honoring and uplifting the oral traditions and stories of Black women, Indigenous women, and women of color. Jessica Sabogal is a cuir Colombian - American muralistx from San Francisco whose large-scale public artworks attempt to document and disrupt. Together they live and work in Oakland, California.

Strauss and Sabogal have collaborated on public artworks of varying sizes here in the United States and internationally. A notable example includes a mural in Sacramento commissioned by the California Endowment honoring the life and legacy of Chyna Gibson, a local Trans Black woman who was murdered in New Orleans. They also designed and painted a large-scale interior mural, commissioned by the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing, representing nurses of color who have made significant contributions in their professional field. In 2020 they collaborated on a mixed media indoor mural, honoring Black and Indigenous Elders, that was exhibited at the Phi Center in Montreal, Canada.

For this project the artists are submitting a proposal for two utility boxes, one designed by Strauss and the second by Sabogal. If accepted for the project, each artist will take the lead on their respective design and be assisted by the other artist.

Examples of previous work that are relevant to this Call for Artists

No more than five examples of previous work should be Artists need not have painted utility or signal boxes before. Each example should include information such as descriptions of the work, location, type of surface, materials used, and who the work was commissioned by or created. Electronic files should be at a resolution appropriate for.

#1 - Example of previous work*
Difference is Power.pdf

#2 - Example of previous work*
Protect Our Trans Daughters.pdf

#3 - Example of previous work
Sobreviviremos (1).pdf

#4 - Example of previous work
Serpiente de las Estrellas.pdf

#5 - Example of previous work
We Are The Bridges.pdf

Design Rendering(s)

Provide color renderings of your proposed design for the box(es), showing all four sides and the top of each box. Artists may submit up to three designs. However, each proposed design must have its own separate page. If you wish to be considered for a specific box location or locations, please label the rendering with the utility box number. If you have no preference, label the rendering. Label each rendering with your name. Electronic files should be at a resolution appropriate for viewing.

#1 - Design Rendering*
Design Rendering for Utility Box 1.pdf

#2 - Design Rendering
Design Rendering for Utility Box 3.pdf

#3 - Design Rendering
Design Description for Utility box 3.pdf
Our legacy by Shanna Strauss

Black women have always played a key role in liberation movements across the African diaspora, yet they have often been overlooked or under-acknowledged for their contributions. This design pays homage to Black women who have fought for freedom and who have created models of resistance and community care that we should remember, honor and strive for.

The foreground portrait is inspired by reference images of Tereza de Benguela who was a quilombola freedom fighter, activist and community leader in Brazil during the 1700s. As an enslaved Black woman, she organized and led the successful escape of a group of Black and Indigenous people, and subsequently founded the Quariterê quilombo community that provided a safe haven for 200 people who had escaped slavery and forced labor. For two decades she led the political, economical and administrative structure of the quilombo and maintained the defense system against any invasions until the community was brutally attacked and destroyed by Portuguese colonizers. Through her commitment to freedom and love of community, Tereza de Benguela provided a safe place and protection for those who needed it the most.

The background pattern is rendered from a Kanga design, a fabric worn by women in Tanzania. I often use Kanga patterns in my work to pay homage to the women warriors in my family lineage who fought against colonization and oppression in Tanzania, and who continue to inspire me in my own work as an artist.

Through this artwork I hope that the El Cerrito community, and especially our youth, will be inspired to think about and learn from the long legacy of Black women who are models of resistance against oppression and who have paved a way for contemporary struggles and movements.

*Design Description of Utility box 3 is uploaded under Design Rendering due to error in word capacity in form.
Jessica Sabogal  Assistant to Shanna Strauss for Utility box #1
Lead Artist for Utility box #3

Oakland, CA 94601

jessicasabogal.com
Selected Proposal

Box #1

Carlson Blvd./Central Ave.
Design Rendering for Utility Box #1: “Our Legacy”
Lead Artist: Shanna Strauss Assisted by: Jessica Sabogal

Flat view of design on four panels. Portrait is mirrored on both sides as to see design from multiple viewpoints.

3D rendering of design
Previous Work
Jessica Sabogal and Shanna Strauss

**Difference is Power, 2019**

Indoor Mural

Acrylic and Photo-Transfer on Wood Panel

16’x8’

*Commissioned by the UCSF School of Nursing*

*Total Budget: $40,500*
Jessica Sabogal and Shanna Strauss:
Chyna Gibson Memorial Mural/ Protect Our Trans Daughters, 2019
Acrylic and Mixed Media on Concrete and Wood
73’ x 23’

Commissioned by the California Endowment
Total Budget: $25,000
Jessica Sabogal
Assisted by Shanna Strauss
Acrylic on Concrete
Four towers at 35’ x 65’

Commissioned by the Mission Economic Development Agency
Total Budget: $165,000
Jessica Sabogal and Shanna Strauss:
*Serpiente de las Estrellas* (2021)
Acrylic, Spray Paint, and gold leaf on discarded Wood
45” x 72”
Memphis, TN
Jessica Sabogal and Shanna Strauss:  
**We Are The Bridges, 2020**  
Acrylic, Photo-Transfer, and Wood Burning on Found Wood  
10.5’ x 8’  

Currently on Exhibition at the PHI Foundation, Montreal, Canada  
Sale Price: $50,000