



# ARTS & CULTURE

## San Antonio Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Plaza de Armas Building  
Culture Commons  
115 Plaza de Armas

### Members Present

D1 Arthur Campsey  
D2 Maria Williams  
D3 Yadhira Lozano  
D4 Susana Segura  
D6 Emily Fleisher  
D7 Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark  
D9 Freda Facey  
M. Rene Barilleaux  
M. Suhail Arastu  
M. Jessica Sanchez  
M. Linda Hardberger  
M. Eileen Kret

### Members Absent

D5 Andy Benavides  
D8 Henry Brun  
D10 Dr. Mark Rogers

### Staff

Krystal Jones  
Diana Hidalgo  
Lisa Biediger  
Kimberly Mirelez  
Bianca Alvarez  
Alyssa Franklin  
Renee Talamantez  
Sonia Covarrubias

### Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Barilleaux, Chair at 9:07 a.m. The roll call was taken by Sonia Covarrubias and a quorum was present.

#### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the San Antonio Arts Commission meeting on October 10, 2023**

*Motion:* Kret moved to approve. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Fleisher, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Segura, Benavides, Clark, Brun, Rogers

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the San Antonio Arts Commission meeting on November 3, 2023**

*Motion:* Sanchez moved to approve. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Fleisher, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Segura, Benavides, Clark, Brun, Rogers

Clark arrived at 9:16 a.m. and Segura arrived at 9:20 a.m.

### **3. Arts Funding: Grant Funding Guidelines (Action)**

Hidalgo informed the Commission the Grant Funding Guidelines are periodically reviewed for changes and implementation on the following three-year funding cycle. The Department approached the community for input utilizing SA Speakup online survey and community feedback sessions and included communicating new policy document prior to presenting to the Commission. The consolidation of multiple programs; Core Grant Funding Program, Performing Arts and Film Festival Funding, into one document simplifies access to programs available to our community. Hidalgo defined what's new to the Grant Funding Guidelines and presented key changes to Operational Support, Culturally Specific Support, Artist Grants, Performing Arts Grants, and Film Festival Grants. Timeline for Grant Funding Guideline approval process was shared.

Clark arrived at 9:16 a.m. and Segura arrived at 9:20 a.m.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:*

Hardberger: What is the definition of a new organization? Hidalgo: An organization not currently funded by the Department, and they meet the eligibility criteria for base operational support.

Hardberger: Are new organizations required a three-year history of performances? Hidalgo: If the new organization applies at the beginning of the three-year funding cycle, they will receive funding for three years. If they are not eligible and do not apply at the beginning of the three-year funding cycle, they would apply at year two and funding for year two and year three. If they apply at year three, they would be funded for year three. When three-year cycle opens up again, they may apply for all three years.

Lozano: In Operational Support, a new agency that comes in, do you have funding in "reserve" or does it affect the other organizations? Hidalgo: This would not affect other organizations. Currently funded organizations and any increases take priority. There is no "reserve" in the budget. Once the budget is determined, currently funded organizations, and Departmental operational expenses are accounted. Any remaining funds would be available for new organizations.

Lozano: In reference to equipment; Performing Arts Grants allows for equipment support. May individual artists purchase equipment as well? Operational support does not allow the purchase of equipment. Hidalgo: Performing Arts Grants is under Ticketmaster Agreement allowing the purchase of equipment. Individual Artist Grants is under the Hotel Occupancy Tax and does not permit purchase of equipment.

Facey: Praised the organization of the Grant Funding Guidelines and suggested the Commission is allowed more time to review the document in the future.

*Motion:* Facey moved to approve Grant Funding Guidelines as presented. Kret seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Segura, Fleisher, Clark, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Benavides, Brun, Rogers

#### **4. Public Art: Milam Park Artist Selection (Action)**

Alvarez presented Cristina Sosa Noriega for the public art opportunity at Milam Park. Alvarez provided images of site and listed shareholders involved and provided background on Milam Park. Community engagement results indicated the top ranked theme as remembrance and reverence; honoring the diverse communities buried at the former cemeteries that are known today as Milam Park. Arts scope and examples of artist work and experience were displayed. The Public Art Committee approved the artist selection. A timeline for the project was provided.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

*Motion:* Sanchez moved to approve Cristina Sosa Noriega for Milam Park artist selection, as presented. Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Segura, Fleisher, Clark, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Benavides, Brun, Rogers

#### **5. Public Art: Market Square Underpass Final Design (Action)**

Franklin presented rendering of Market Square Underpass final design by Eva Marengo Sanchez and Michael Arguello. Project includes eight murals on selected columns near Commerce and Dolorosa Streets. Franklin indicated designs utilize bright color palette and greyscale color depicting the Market Square history, the role of women and their work, history of events and cultural celebrations. Franklin noted both artists were present, the Public Art Committee approved the final design and indicated timeline for this project.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:*

Clark: Identified column referencing *corn tortillas* and a second column depicting a woman cooking a corn tortilla referencing *gorditas*; focusing on the column name "Gordita" and the lady being gordita. Clark suggested adjusting the font size making it a smaller font and referring that she is cooking a tortilla rather than making a gordita.

Lozano: Do we know the names of the people depicted on the murals to include a credit?  
Franklin: Murals are likenesses except for Arguello's daughter. Historic source images were manipulated to represent moments in time.

Clark: How many women and how many males have been depicted on this project as the objective of the project is to honor women? Franklin: six women and three men.

Barilleaux: Will these murals be painted on the columns? Franklin: Yes.

Sanchez: Will artist utilize anti-graffiti coating? Franklin: Yes.

*Motion:* Segura moved to approve the Market Square Underpass final design by artists Eva Morengo Sanchez and Michael Arguello as presented. Lozano seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Segura, Fleisher, Clark, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Benavides, Brun, Rogers

Fleisher stepped out of the room.

**6. Public Art: Prequalified Public Art List Panelist Applicants (Action)**

Mirelez provided overview on the call for panelist and recognized the Public Art Committee members who evaluated the applications and provided the demographic on the applications received for the call for prequalified public art list panelist applicants. Mirelez noted the Public Art Committee approved the recommendation and timeline for approval of the prequalified public art list process was shared.

*Public Comments:* None

*Motion:* Arastu moved to approve Prequalified Public Art List Panelist Applicants, as presented. Hardberger seconded the motion.

*Commission Discussion:*

Barilleaux: Are panelist compensated? Mirelez: Yes

Lozano: Expressed her disappointment in the panelist list BIPOC demographics and stated she would not support the item. Jones: emphasized a challenge with the panelist applicants as many local artists strive to be on the prequalified public art list. The panelist applicants cannot serve as panelists in the same year they apply for the prequalified public art list.

Barilleaux: Is this the first time the Prequalified Public Art List Panelist Applicants comes before the Commission. Jones: Yes.

Segura: Defined BIPOC as an acronym for black indigenous and people of color and requested future presentations not use acronyms. Segura stated the challenges of informing our community on what is occurring at the San Antonio Arts Commission meetings as our meetings are no longer being audibly recorded.

Mirelez: The Department did outreach with each of the City Council Districts, Neighborhood Associations in San Antonio as well as arts organizations that we thought would help us with outreach.

Facey: Reinforced the request of not using acronyms in meetings and suggested that staff introduce any new processes leading with "this is new". Facey suggested identifying those communities where there is a low response rate and providing outreach similar to how things were done in the past. People volunteering to go into communities that are reluctant to look on web, speak to organizations where you would get a response. Mirelez: As we are currently accepting applications for the prequalified artist list, if you have specific list, please share them with us.

Hardberger: How many people will the panelist consist of? Mirelez: Each panel will be made up of at least three people with scores being averaged.

Barilleaux: Is this the total pool of panelist? Mirelez: Yes

Lozano: This list does not reflect City of San Antonio demographics. Grants for culturally specific will now include a new category: Middle Eastern. Can we add a middle eastern panelist to the panel?

Segura: Did Public Art Committee approve item? Respectfully suggested additional community outreach efforts to add diversity to the Prequalified Public Art List Panelist. Mirelez: Yes, item was approved by Public Art Committee.

Barilleaux: Will the panels include Commissioners? Mirelez: The panels reviewing the prequalified public art list applications, will be members of the panelist pool. We asked for volunteers from the Public Art Committee to judge the prequalified public art list panelist applications. Commissioners will need to approve the prequalified list of artists and support services.

Campsey: How has this been done historically? Mirelez: Prequalified public art applications were previously reviewed by staff and staff recommended applicants for the prequalified list.

Hardberger: There was a limited response to outreach efforts. Community scoring prequalified public art applicant is a better option. The applications received were highly qualified applicants.

Arastu: Diversity includes experience, profession, age.

Sanchez: As a volunteer of the Public Art Committee in scoring, the Prequalified Public Art List Panelist Applications were a limited in numbers, not all applicants were recommended but the applicants who were; were qualified. We do want to see our communities represented on panel.

Clark: How is the inside voice represented? Jones: Panelist will evaluate prequalified applicants. That list is taken to the Public Art Committee, San Antonio Arts Commission and finally City Council.

Segura: Can someone applying for the prequalified list recuse themselves from a particular item? Jones: The issue in an artist applying to be a panelist is that the artist will then be evaluating their peers, which is a conflict.

Williams: Suggested a specific outreach to the communities that have not answered the call to gain equity, diversity, and inclusion.

*Motion failed.*

*Amended Motion:* Campsey moved to reopen the call for Prequalified Public Art List Panelist Applicants. Hardberger seconded the motion.

The amended motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Segura, Clark, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Benavides, Brun, Rogers

Abstain: Fleisher

**7. Public Art: World Heritage Mission/Roosevelt Final Design Update (Briefing)**

Talamantez presented the mural design update by Ruth Buentello for the World Heritage Mission Roosevelt project. In finalizing her design file for fabrication, Buentello made several composition changes from the final design approved in July 2023. Changes include painting the four missions which were originally early photographic images of the missions. Buentello also decreased the number of tile motifs along the bottom of the composition to allow for better movement and balance. In addition, Buentello returned to more blues in the pattern in the background. The colors and lines represent the contours of the Yanaguana River, which was part of a previous version that received positive feedback from stakeholders.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

**8. Public Art: Plaza de Armas Installation (Briefing)**

Mirelez briefed the Commission on the Plaza de Armas installation project by Christopher Montoya. Mirelez displayed images from the mural dedication.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

**Public Comments**

Mycah Lee Arellano, Executive Director at Bihl Haus thanked the Commission for support and invited them to their opening reception Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

**Announcements and Reports**

**Centro de Artes Committee: From SA to SA Virtual Artist Talk**

Lozano, Committee Chair announced from SA to SA exhibit attendance, invited the Commissioners to attend the Virtual Artist Talk scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 at 6pm and indicated the exhibit closes on December 30, 2023.

**Director's Report**

Jones shared a copy of the Annual Report and thanked both the Commission and all Sub-Committee members for their participation in the Departments success.

**Upcoming Events**

San Antonio Arts Commission and Subcommittees Appreciation Breakfast scheduled for 8:30 am, December 12.

**Adjournment**

*Motion:* Lozano motioned to adjourn the Arts Commission meeting and Facey seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Campsey, Williams, Lozano, Segura, Fleisher, Clark, Facey, Barilleaux, Arastu, Sanchez, Hardberger, Kret

Absent: Benavides, Brun, Rogers

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.