



# ARTS & CULTURE

## San Antonio Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Plaza de Armas Building  
Culture Commons  
115 Plaza de Armas

### **Members Present**

D1 Andi Rodriguez  
D2 Maria Williams  
D3 Yadhira Lozano  
D5 Andy Benavides  
D4 Susana Segura  
D9 Freda Facey  
D10 Dr. Mark Rogers  
M. Rene Barilleaux  
M. Jessica Sanchez  
M. Eileen Kret

### **Members Absent**

D6 Emily Fleisher  
D7 Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark  
D8 Henry Brun  
M. Suhail Arastu  
M. Linda Hardberger

### **Staff**

Krystal Jones  
Diana Hidalgo  
Lisa Biediger  
Kimberly Mirelez  
Bianca Alvarez  
Renee Talamantez  
Karen Dlugosz  
Amanda Montalvo  
Victoria Garcia  
Stephanie Torres  
Kim LeBlanc  
Sonia Covarrubias

### **Call to Order / Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Rene Barilleaux, Chair at 9:10 a.m. The roll call was taken by Sonia Covarrubias and a quorum was present.

### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Motion:* Rodriguez moved to approve. Facey seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

### **2. Arts Funding: FY24 Project Grants for Individual Artists Funding Recommendations (Action)**

Garcia provided the Commission a brief description of the grant, timeline, details on increased training opportunities, statistics on applications received, scoring and demographics.

Garcia presented recommendations for individual artists with the allotted funding to include 50 grantees.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* Rodriguez inquired minimum scoring amongst artist being considered. Garcia responded she did not have specifics and funding allowed to fund 50 artists. Hidalgo stated specific information would be communicated to Rodriguez after the meeting. Barilleaux inquired if all artists are experiencing a challenge in having an exhibition or performance in San Antonio. Garcia stated artists are held accountable as it is a requirement per contract. Hidalgo added the Department does provide support in seeking a venue.

*Motion:* Kret moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 project grants for individual artists, as presented. Lozano seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

### **3. Arts Funding: FY24 Base Operational and Culturally Specific Grants Funding Recommendations (Action)**

Dlugosz presented a description of each base operational and culturally specific grants. The recommendations for FY24 were handed out. Dlugosz identified recusals from Segura for voting on Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Lozano for voting on Luminaria and asked Arts Commissioners to indicate any recusal. Rogers stated he would recuse himself from voting on Alamo Performing Arts.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* Facey inquired what the criteria is to renew or deny a contract. Dlugosz stated all requirements of previous year contact have to be met, in good standing with the City and in good standing in filing Form 990 with the IRS; satisfying all grant requirements.

*Motion:* Facey moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants except for Alamo Performing Arts, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, and Luminaria, as presented. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

Segura recused herself from voting on FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

*Motion:* Sanchez moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, as presented. Lozano seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

Lozano recused herself from voting on FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Luminaria.

*Motion:* Sanchez moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Luminaria, as presented. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

Rogers recused himself from voting on FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Alamo Performing Arts.

*Motion:* Kret moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 base operational and culturally specific grants for Alamo Performing Arts, as presented. Facey seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

#### **4. Arts Funding: FY24 Events Grants Funding Recommendations (Action)**

Montalvo provided a brief description of the events grants and proceeded to present funding recommendations for events grants.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

*Motion:* Segura moved to approve funding recommendations for the FY24 events grants as presented. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

#### **5. Public Art: Police Station @ St. Mary's Artist Selection (Action)**

Alvarez presented Deborah Mersky for the public art opportunity at the Police Station @ St. Mary's. Alvarez detailed the description of sites in construction and due for completion in Spring 2024. Alvarez displayed examples of artists work and experience. The Public Art Committee approved the artist selection. A timeline for this project was provided.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

*Motion:* Kret moved to approve Deborah Mersky for the Police Station @ St. Mary's, as presented. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

**6. Public Art: World Heritage Trail at Mission/Roosevelt Final Design (Action)**

Talamantez presented rendering of World Heritage Trail at Mission and Roosevelt final designs for both the tile mural by Ruth Buentello and pair of sculptures by Jacob Tobar. Talamantez indicated tile design utilizes early images of the Missions, with patterns in the background and bottom inspired by San Jose tile, including local wildlife and ecosystem. The pair of sculptures made of concrete, utilize faux bois (imitation wood) technique, and are inspired by the architecture of the Missions. Talamantez noted the Public Art Committee approved the final design and indicated timeline for this project.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

*Motion:* Rogers moved to approve final design by artists Jacob Tobar and Ruth Buentello for the World Heritage Trail at Mission/Roosevelt, as presented. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

Abstain: Rodriguez

**7. Public Art: Poet's Pointe at Seeling Channel Dedication (Briefing)**

Mirelez announced the dedication of the Seeling Channel project by Kim Bishop & Luis Balderas in District 7. Mirelez provided images from the dedication.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

**8. Public Art: Plaza de Armas Mural Final Design Update (Briefing)**

Mirelez presented update on the color correction and sharpness for tile printing for the Plaza de Armas mural project, artwork by Christopher Montoya. Timeline was provided.

*Public Comments:* None

*Commission Discussion:* None

**Public Comments**

Anya Grokhovski, Artistic Director & CEO at Musical Bridges Around the World invited the Commission to watch *The Quilt*, 1-hour documentary movie made locally with local talent winning national awards to date.

**Announcements and Reports**

**Upcoming Event Announcements:** None

**Centro de Artes Committee: From SA to SA Exhibition Opening**

Torres invited the Commission to attend *From SA to SA* exhibition opening August 10 from 6 pm – 9 pm at Centro de Artes Gallery curated by Guillermina Zabala.

**Performing Arts, Film and Music Committee: Music Artist Forum Update**

LeBlanc reported on Music Artist Forum hosted at Urban 15 headquarters on June 12. The networking event included free digital headshots for musicians and bands by Anthony Garcia and a panel discussion with music industry professionals, moderated by the Department of Arts & Culture staff, followed by Q&A. The recording is available Department of Arts and Culture YouTube channel.

**Adjournment**

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

Aye: Rodriguez, Williams, Lozano, Benavides, Segura, Facey, Rogers, Barilleaux, Sanchez, Kret

Absent: Fleisher, Clark, Brun, Arastu, Hardberger

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Rene Barilleaux, Chair

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonia Covarrubias, Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date