

Fine Arts Commission
 Tuesday, January 9, 2018 4:30 p.m.
 Personnel Commission Hearing Room, Suite 200, 2nd Floor
 215 N. D Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401

Agenda

Call to Order

Ward	Commissioner	Present
1	Gil J. Botello, Chair	
2	Sandra Ibarra	
3	Deborah Bungler	
4	Dorothy Garcia	
5	Joyce Seeger	
6	Bronica Taylor	
7	Donna Howard	
Mayor	Michael Segura	
Mayor	Barbara Babcock, co-Chair	
Mayor - Alternate 1	VACANT	
Mayor - Alternate 2	VACANT	

Commissioner/Staff Announcements:

1. Rosa Parks Installation committee meeting update – Roxanna Garcia, Field Deputy, Assembly Member Eloise Gomez Reyes, 47th District
2. Announcements from staff and Commissioners

Old Business

1. Development Impact Fund Ordinance approval by Council – Michael Segura
2. Update on San Bernardino ARTSFEST – Barbara Babcock
3. Letter to City Manager in response to proposal to consolidate boards and commissions – Dotti Garcia

New Business

1. Discussion on strategy to preserve grants funding this cycle and to be included FY-18/19 City Budget process – Full Commission (continued from Dec. 12th meeting)

Public Comments

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Fine Arts Commission is set for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2018 in the Personnel Commission Hearing Room, Suite 200, 2nd Floor, 215, N. D Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401

The City of San Bernardino recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City Clerk's Office (909-384-5002) two working days prior to the meeting for any requests for reasonable accommodation to include interpreters.



City of
San Bernardino

Fine Arts Commission | Gil J. Botello, Chairperson

Andrea M. Miller, City Manager
City of San Bernardino
290 North D St.
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Dear Andrea,

The Fine Arts Commission (FAC) would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to update us on your proposed changes to the structure of the City's Boards and Commissions.

We steadfastly agree with your words in a recent letter to Commissioners, dated December 7, 2017: "public involvement is a crucial part of the City's decision-making process. By advising the Mayor, City Council and staff, bringing new ideas to table, and representing all of the diverse elements of our community, members of advisory bodies assist the City in making informed decisions that benefit the community"

Therefore, we fully understand and applaud the effort to examine the work of City Commissions, the regularity of meetings, what is accomplished at meetings and whether the work of a Commission is beneficial to the overall growth and vitality of the City and its residents.

The Fine Arts Commission was reactivated in the summer of 2014 after a hiatus of over a year; which was the result of the cut in staffing in the Mayor's office due to the bankruptcy. The Commission's original home was with the Mayor's office and the allocated funds (item 257) were in the Mayor's budget.

After the election of 2014, there was an effort, by the arts community and the City Clerk's Office to resurrect the Fine Arts Commission; there were real concerns about the status of the Arts and the economic revitalization value the arts could provide the City.

The City Clerk's Office offered to assist in re-establishing the Fine Arts Commission, allocated staff time to take minutes and send out and post agendas, as well as send other communications to commissioners. We have met every month since July of 2014, and only once during that time was there no quorum. During the past three years, we have had a total allocation of \$700,000.00

Below is a summary of the Fine Arts Commission's accomplishments during the years 2014 through 2017:

- Seed money to initiate and fund the on-going completion of the Rosa Parks statue and regular discussion of the value of finishing the statue and its installation at the California State Building on E Street (the Rosa Parks building). Due to the efforts of one of our

commissioners (Bronica Taylor) and the collaboration with the Black Culture Foundation, the statue will be installed on February 2, 2018.

- Production of brochures about the two public sculptures just outside the City Hall building: Julian Martinez Soto's larger than life-sized Martin Luther King Statue, entitled, "The Dreamer," and Bruce Beasley's, "The Gallup Flyer" Sculpture. The brochures give the history of the sculptures and the artists who made them. These brochures were distributed at the first Art Night in 2015.
- Funding of an exhibit at the former Arts on 5th building, produced by Professors Tom McGovern and Juan Delgado of CSUSB. Fine Arts commissioners contacted the owner of the building, Gregory Villanueva, and had several meetings with him and the artists. This exhibit ran for over a month, and was evidence that art was alive in downtown San Bernardino.
- Mini-grants of \$5,000.00 each were given to Council Members, with the idea that they could use the funds in their Wards to enhance the arts in that area. Six of the Council Members accepted the grants and used them in various ways including music at the Food Fests downtown, donations to the new Center for the Arts, donations to several long-time organizations on the West Side of town, donations to organizations in other wards.
- Exhibits in two other locations downtown: 1) a photographic exhibit by Micah Escamilla "Beneath the Arrowhead," which was in the windows of 379 E Street, a building owned by Paul Quinton. The Fine Arts Commission funded the exhibit, and some of the commissioners and the City Clerk and a Rotary Youth group prepared the windows by cleaning and stripping of advertisements and assisting in the installation. 2) FAC purchased through the Art Department at CSUSB a series of posters done by Graphic Arts students in the spring of 2015 with the theme "Celebrating the History of San Bernardino." Several of these were displayed in the windows of the Anderson Building in downtown. The installation was assisted by a member of the FAC. Other posters from the collection are currently displayed in the offices of Community Development.
- Quilts of Valor were presented to December 2nd, 2015 First Responders who are also military veterans. This was supported in terms of making contacts with the national organization, but without financial support.
- Grants, totaling \$595,591.00, have been given to over 25 arts organizations in the City and to the Parks and Recreation Department of the City. A strict process for awarding grants has been followed. Organizations have applied, using the forms provided. Each year, two information sessions were held, which potential applicants were required to attend. Copies of the applications were provided to each Commissioner and were read and scored using a rubric which covered several elements in the application. An interview with each applicant was held by the entire Commission before decisions were made about to whom the awards would be given and how much funding would be recommended. All of the recommendations went to the Council for approval. All organizations have been required to submit reports of their granted activities.

- A monthly arts calendar was produced and sent to a massive email list, giving dates and times of the many arts activities taking place in the City. This outreach effort was discontinued this summer because of the staff time involved.
- When the Food Fests first began, the entertainment was secured by a member of the Fine Arts Commission until it became clear that the Community Development Department was better able to make those contacts in as much as the Food Fests were a project of that department.
- The Commission has been actively involved in the planning of the Art Night (now Arts Fest) each year. During the first two years, a major amount of the funding for the event was from the Fine Arts allotment. This year, because we have no allocation in the budget, the Community Development Department has funded the event to take place in March 2018.
- Much of the logistics and background work that has gone into the above events has been done by Commission members because of the limited staffing provided. This is an active commission with responsibilities taken by members.

In closing, we agree that a thorough, transparent and fair review of the work of the City's commissions that evaluates gaps, overlap, and the duplication of services is timely and prudent, however; it is the view of the Fine Arts Commission that our work should be allowed to flourish in a City department where our work can grow and add to the economic well-being and revitalization of our once and future great City!

Sincerely,

Gil J. Botello, Chairperson
City of San Bernardino Fine Arts Commission

cc: Mayor R. Carey Davis
City of San Bernardino City Council