



Civic Arts Commission

**Minutes**  
**Civic Arts Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

**Meeting Location: Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library**  
**1901 Russell St, Berkeley, CA 94703**

**1. CALL TO ORDER 6:06 PM**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo.

**Commissioners Absent:** Covarrubias.

**Staff Present:** Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead; Jennifer Lovvorn, Commission Secretary/Chief Cultural Affairs Officer; Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead.

**Members of the public present:** 6

**3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda): 2**

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

- a) Budget Referral of \$300,000 for Capital Projects Grants included in Annual Appropriation Ordinance Adjustment #1 ("AAO#1")
  - Council Meeting on December 12, 2023: First reading of AAO#1
  - Council Meeting on January 14, 2024: Second reading of AAO#1

**6. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS (All items for presentation, discussion and possible action)**

- a) **Action Item:** Approval of 2024-2025 Poet Laureate for the City of Berkeley as recommended by the Poet Laureate Selection Panel  
M/S/C (Passmore/Dhesi) to approve Aya de Leon as the 2024-2025 city of Berkeley Poet Laureate as recommended by the Poet Laureate Selection Panel.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 2
- b) **Presentation:** Project Overview by Marcel Pardo Ariza, 2023/2024 Municipal Artist-in-Residence for the City of Berkeley’s San Pablo Area Specific Plan Introduced by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer and presentation by Marcel Pardo Ariza, Municipal Artist-in-Residence  
Public Comment: 0
- c) **Action Item:** Cube Space Exhibition  
Introduced by Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer and presented by Leila Weefur.  
M/S/C (Anno/Woo) to approve artist Ebti Shedid for Cube Space curated by Leila Weefur for exhibition in 2024.  
**Public Comment**  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0
- d) **Action Item:** FY25 Individual Artist Projects Grant Guidelines  
Introduced by Dana Blecher, Grants Subcommittee Chair and presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead  
M/S/C (Ibarra/Anno) to approve the FY25 Individual Artist Projects Grant Guidelines.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0
- e) **Action Item:** FY25 Community Festivals Grant Guidelines  
Introduced by Dana Blecher, Grants Subcommittee Chair and presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead (Attachment 2)  
M/S/C (Bullwinkel/Ibarra) to approve the FY25 Community Festivals Grant Guidelines.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.

Public Comment: 0

- f) **Action Item:** FY25 Arts Program Grant Guidelines  
Introduced by Dana Blecher, Grants Subcommittee Chair and presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead  
M/S/C (Bullwinkel/Dhesi) to approve the FY25 Arts Program Grant Guidelines.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0
- g) **Action Item:** 2024 - 2025 Grant Review Panelists Pool  
Introduced by Dana Blecher, Grants Subcommittee Chair and presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead  
M/S/C (Passmore/Dhesi) to approve new roster of grant review panelists for the FY25 Civic Arts Grant Cycle.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — Ibarra; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0
- h) **Action Item:** Letter of support to Council for Capital Projects Grants funding  
Introduced by Dana Blecher, Civic Arts Commission Chair  
M/S/C (Ibarra/Bullwinkel) to approve letter of support to Council for Capital Projects Grant Program funding with minor modifications to the draft letter made at the meeting.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0

## 7. STAFF REPORT

- a) Civic Arts Updates, Jennifer Lovvorn
- b) Grants Program Updates, Hilary Amnah
- c) Public Art Program Updates, Mark Salinas

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Grants – No report.
  - Dana Blecher, Chair
  - Lisa Bullwinkel
  - Cameron Woo

- b) Policy & Joint Subcommittee with Housing Advisory Commission – First meeting is January 25, 2024.
  - Kim Anno, Chair
  - Lisa Bullwinkel
  - Cameron Woo
- c) Public Art – No report.
  - Matt Passmore, Chair
  - Kim Anno
  - Riti Dhesi
  - Cristina Ibarra
- d) Representatives on Civic Center Project – No report.
  - Lisa Bullwinkel
  - Cameron Woo
- e) Representative on Berkeley Cultural Trust – No report.
  - Lisa Bullwinkel
- f) Representative on Design Review Committee – Next meeting December 22, 2023.
  - Cameron Woo

**9. COMMUNICATION** (Received from the Public for Items not on the Agenda)


- a) None

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) **Action Item:** Draft Minutes of October 25, 2023 Meeting  
M/S/C (Dhesi/Woo) to approve Minutes of October 25, 2023 Meeting  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — Ibarra; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0

**11. ADJOURNMENT 7:59 PM**

- Action Item:** M/S/C (Woo/Bullwinkel) to adjourn the meeting.  
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Covarrubias.  
Public Comment: 0

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