



Civic Arts Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

6:00 PM

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

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Kim Anno, Mayor
Dana Blecher (Chair), District 6
Lisa Bullwinkel, District 4
Modesto Covarrubias, District 7
Kathleen Crandall, District 8
Cristina Ibarra, District 3
Matthew Passmore, District 1
Eduardo Pineda, District 5
Cameron Woo (Vice Chair), District 2

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of Huchiun (*Hooch-yoon*), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (*Cho-chen-yo*) speaking Ohlone (*Oh-low-nee*) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona (*Vuh-roh-nuh*) Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. We acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City

of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Tribe and create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this Land Acknowledgement.

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

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a) Announcing Commissioner Riti Dhesi's departure
- b) Welcoming newly appointed Commissioner Kathleen Crandall
- c) Civic Arts Commission retreat in the fall

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

- a) **Action Item:** Approve Public Art Subcommittee's recommendation of 2024/2025 Cube Space Curator
Presented by Matthew Passmore, Public Art Subcommittee Chair
(Attachment 1)
Public Comment
- b) **Presentation:** Demographics for FY24 Grants
Presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead
Public Comment
- c) **Presentation:** Civic Arts Grants-funded Community Festivals Quarterly Report
Presented by Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead (Attachment 2)
Public Comment

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
 - Dana Blecher, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Cameron Woo

- b) Public Art
 - Matt Passmore, Chair
 - Kim Anno
 - Cristina Ibarra
- c) Policy Subcommittee
 - Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Cameron Woo
- d) Joint Subcommittee with Housing Advisory Commission
 - Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Cameron Woo
- e) Representative on Design Review Committee
 - Cameron Woo

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

- a) None

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Draft Minutes of February 28, 2024 Meeting (Attachment 4)
 From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approval of February 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

11. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. 2024/2025 Cube Space Curator Selection Process Summary
2. Civic Arts Grants-funded Community Festivals Quarterly Report
3. Draft Minutes of February 28, 2024 Civic Arts Commission Meeting

Staff Contact:
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 jlovvorn@berkeleyca.gov

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ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

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Civic Arts Commission
Office of Economic Development

2024/25 CUBE SPACE CURATOR SELECTION PANEL

MEETING DATE

March 19, 2024 4:00pm

SELECTION PANELISTS

Mathew Passmore, Chair, Public Art Subcommittee
Kim Anno, Public Art Subcommittee
Riti Dhesi, Public Art Subcommittee
Cristina Ibarra, Public Art Subcommittee

PROCESS

The following applicants presented an overview of their practice and proposals in response to the City of Berkeley Informal Proposals for Cube Space Curatorial Services 2024/2025, issued on February 2, 2024.

- Kevin B. Chen
- William Hernandez Luege
- Matthew Villar Miranda

The panelists discussed and evaluated each of the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Ability to successfully research artists that represent all communities; collaborations towards opportunities that build audience and artist experiences.
- Ability to develop concepts into physical space; management of public-facing projects with multiple stakeholders; understanding of project management.
- Ability to communicate curatorial intent and artist talent to the general public; development of new audiences or networks for artists.
- Ability to share comprehension of scope of work and to communicate qualifications.

The panelists then scored the applicants on each criteria using a 1 to 5 point system with the highest total possible score being 80 points. After point tabulation, the panel ranked all scores.

RESULTS

- William Hernandez Luege: 69
- Kevin B. Chen: 61
- Matthew Villar Miranda: 53

PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel selected William Hernandez Luege as Cube Space Curator for 2024/2025 and recommends this selection to the Civic Arts Commission for approval at their March 27, 2024 meeting.

Festival Title	Start Date	How the festival celebrates Berkeley's cultural richness, historical significance, or community/neighborhood identity
Asian Cultural Festival	4/20/2024	Berkeley and the associated region has a large Asian community, and Martin Luther King Park provides the perfect venue for a street fair celebrating the diversity of Asian culture in the region. The first fair was held on March 12, 2022, with street stalls, food vendors and performance events, and was really well received. Dharma College, has hosted 3 prior events celebrating Asian Buddhist Culture within its own premises in 2019, 2018, and 2017, and enjoys excellent relations with all of the Asian communities living in Berkeley, whatever their religious affiliation. The second festival will take place on April 23rd.
Bay Area Book Festival	5/4/2024	The Bay Area Book Festival is a large, unique celebration of Berkeley's literary life and the city's identity as a place of intellectual and creative power. We present hundreds of notable authors – from Berkeley, the broader Bay Area, the nation, and the world – at our large weekend Festival in Downtown Berkeley, where authors engage in thoughtful discussions of interest to residents. The Festival also fosters a love of reading among young people through a large children's area. All programs are curated with an emphasis on our city's values of social justice and equity.
Voice of Roma's Herdeljezi Festival	5/4/2024	The city of Berkeley is home to a small but active group of the Bay Area's few authentic Romani culture-bearers. One of the most supportive communities for Romani rights, music, and dance in the USA, can also be found in Berkeley. For this reason, after a 5-year pandemic-related programming hiatus, Voice of Roma plans to revive its popular annual Herderljezi Festival -- a celebration of Romani music, dance, foodways, and other forms of cultural expression and a platform for educating the general public about the plight of Roma worldwide -- in Berkeley in the spring of 2024.
Annual Contemporary Performance Diasporas Festival	5/18/2024	This year we will celebrate our 10th Annual Contemporary Diasporas Festival of Berkeley in the historical landmark Sawtooth Building, a hub for artisans, craftspeople, theaters and schools of the west Berkeley neighborhood. With the Festival we celebrate, foster and share with our community the best practices of equity in an inclusive environment that encourages art forms that celebrate our diversity. The festival covers many contemporary issues such as gender, race, sex, religion and the environment, giving a unique perspective and character to all of our different events, while stringing together Berkeley's different cultural roots.

Festival Title	Start Date	How the festival celebrates Berkeley's cultural richness, historical significance, or community/neighborhood identity
Berkeley Poetry Festival #21	5/22/2024	<p>Berkeley Poetry Festival celebrates Berkeley's legacy of poetry and social activism that makes our literary community vibrant. The festival showcases local poets dedicated to bringing positive change through civic work, political action, teaching, and other work that strengthens the community and promotes literature. Events include local emerging poets performing alongside celebrated poets. The festival culminates in bestowing a lifetime achievement award in partnership with the City of Berkeley, which recognizes the work of a local poet who's dedicated their life to community service. The list of past awardees reflects the diverse and historical backbone of poetry in Berkeley.</p>
Ashkenaz Open House	6/2/2024	<p>Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center has had a profound impact on Berkeley over the past 50 years, promoting cultural diversity, community building, and social justice activism through music and dance. An Open House event will celebrate cultural richness and community identity by highlighting diverse traditions and bringing people from different backgrounds and neighborhoods together. The event serves as a platform for underrepresented voices, challenging dominant narratives and promoting greater understanding and respect for diverse perspectives and experiences. Ashkenaz has played a vital role in shaping the character of Berkeley and inspiring generations of artists, activists, and community leaders.</p>
5th Annual California Native Ways - A California Indian Arts & Culture Festival	6/8/2024	<p>This festival hosts 50 California Indian artists from across the state in Ohlone Park and offers Berkeley residents a rare opportunity to experience the artistry of diverse California Indian tribes in person with the artists themselves. This festival is strongly supported by the local indigenous community as well as the neighborhood organization Friends of Ohlone Park (FOOP) who provide significant volunteer assistance. The annual festival which began in June 2019 has become a part of the Ohlone Park neighborhood identity. It is the only major annual cultural event in Berkeley exclusively featuring California Indian artisans thus enriching Berkeley's cultural diversity.</p>

Festival Title	Start Date	How the festival celebrates Berkeley's cultural richness, historical significance, or community/neighborhood identity
Berkeley Festival & Exhibition	6/9/2024	Since the mid-1970s, Berkeley has been a North American center for historically informed performance of early music, or music written before 1800. One major reason for the city's continued international prominence in the field is the biennial Berkeley Festival & Exhibition (BFX), founded in 1990 and now in its 18th incarnation. Every other year, the Festival attracts audiences near and far to celebrate Berkeley's vibrant and unique community of early music performers, scholars, amateur musicians, and instrument makers.
Frameline48: The SF Bay Area's International LGBTQ+ Film Festival	6/12/2024	As the world's first, largest, and most widely recognized LGBTQ+ film festival, Frameline is excited to proceed with plans for a City of Berkeley activation during our Frameline48 International LGBTQ+ Film Festival to take place in the San Francisco Bay Area, June 12-22, 2024. Our existing Festival footprint includes Oakland and San Francisco, and we seek to expand into Berkeley to engage filmgoers to attend our local film screening(s) and discussion(s). We plan this as an effective means of acknowledging Berkeley's cultural richness while uplifting the identities of Berkeley residents as supportive patrons of LGBTQ+ groundbreaking media arts.
BERKELEY CA JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL	6/16/2024	Juneteenth-in-Berkeley was started to promote community pride, and bring together South Berkeley businesses and residents in the celebration of a major African American cultural event, culminating in the first annual Festival in 1987. Berkeley Juneteenth is committed to educating future generations about the history and accomplishments of African Americans, by creating programming which highlights African American art, music and culture.
La Peña Culture Festival	6/29/2024	The La Peña Cultural Festival is a celebration of diverse cultural performing arts traditions from Latin America & the Caribbean. The outdoor block party aims to showcase and provide opportunities for 60 BIPOC cultural bearers, artists, artisans, performers, and musicians to sell their work, which is often underfunded and underrepresented. Established in 1975, La Peña was inspired by Chilean "peñas," which are community gatherings centered around music, food, and drink. The festival continues La Peña's commitment to creating community space, and offers visibility to cultural traditions that call Berkeley home.



Draft Minutes
Civic Arts Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
6:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:11pm

2. ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

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: 1

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda): 1

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a) Commission Agenda Items Format (Subcommittee Action Items Introduced/Presented by Subcommittee Chairs)

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

- a) **Action Item:** Chair and Vice Chair Election
M/S/C (Bullwinkel/Anno) to approve Dana Blecher as Chair.
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Pineda, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — None.
Public Comment: 0

M/S/C (Bullwinkel/Dhesi) to approve Cameron Woo as Vice Chair.

Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Pineda, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — None.
Public Comment: 0

- b) **Action Item:** Approval of FY24 Public Art Budget
M/S/C (Anno/Covarrubias) to approve FY24 Public Art Budget.
Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Pineda, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — None.
Public Comment: 0
- c) **Presentation:** Report out from Californians for the Arts Regional Meetings
Presented by Commissioner Lisa Bullwinkel
Public Comment: 0
- d) **Presentation:** California Arts and Culture Summit
Presented by Commissioner Lisa Bullwinkel
Public Comment: 0
- e) **Presentation:** Affordable Housing for Artists Updates Introduced by
Commissioner Kim Anno and Presented by Jennifer Lovvorn.
 - (i) New State Law AB 812 "Housing development approvals: reserving affordable units in or near a cultural district for artists"
 - (ii) Establishment of Black Arts and Culture District in Berkeley
 - (iii) Council Referral "Development of Artists Affordable Housing Certification Program"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) Public Art – Recent presentation by Immersive Arts Alliance
 - Matt Passmore, Chair
 - Kim Anno
 - Riti Dhesi

- Cristina Ibarra
- c) Policy Subcommittee – No report
- Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Cameron Woo
- d) Joint Subcommittee with Housing Advisory Commission – Refer to Item 6E
- Kim Anno, Chair
 - Lisa Bullwinkel
 - Cameron Woo
- e) Representative on Design Review Committee – 2136 San Pablo review
- Cameron Woo

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


- a) None

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) **Action Item:** M/S/C (Ibarra/Dhesi) to approve Draft Minutes of December 6, 2023 Meeting
 Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dhesi, Ibarra, Passmore, Woo;
 Nays — None; Abstain — Covarrubias, Pineda; Absent — None.
 Public Comment: 0

11. ADJOURNMENT 7:55 PM

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

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