

Bedford Gallery Advisory Council
Learning Center, LCA
Tuesday, June 2, 2009
5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

BGAC: Donna Arganbright, Kari Grape, Susan Helms, Rebecca Ines, Jim Pezzaglia, Pavel Soltys, Ann Weber

AC: Reggie Marshall, Jacquelyn Smith

Staff: Robyn Burror, Erik Mortensen, Barry Gordon, Carrie Lederer

Public: Betty Dunn (Docent Representative 2009-2010), Julie Knonick (Neiman Marcus Curator), Cluff Suen (Neiman Marcus Vice President of Property Development), Ned Kahn (Artist)

A. Call to Order

1. Introductions

B. Public Communications

C. Approval of Minutes of May Meeting: Pavel Soltys moved to approve the minutes; Donna Arganbright seconded the motion.

D. Chair's Report: Ann Weber

1. Arts Commission report: Reggie Marshall

The Arts Commission met in May and reviewed the selections for Public Art in the new library. They also reviewed the calendar year for Bedford Gallery and were impressed with the scope of the schedule and events. Marshall remarked on behalf of the Arts Commission that they wish to be active ambassadors for the Arts in Walnut Creek and that they can be approached with any issues or ideas.

E. Public Art: Robyn Burror/Carrie Lederer

1. Julie Knonick, Neiman Marcus Curator: Discussion on the philosophy of fine art at Neiman Marcus stores.

The acquisition of art has always been a part of the culture of Neiman Marcus; it has never been treated as an afterthought or decoration. Stanley Marcus, son of founder Herbert Marcus, established the Foundation 65 years ago for the purpose of acquiring art for Neiman Marcus stores. He believed that art enhances people's lives and it is featured in every store to educate the public about art in an unintimidating environment, and enhance a visitor's experience of the store. Each Neiman Marcus store is unique and designed specifically for the community in which it is built, and many months are spent designing specific areas to feature original artwork. The collection now includes over 2500 individual works, prints, and commissions with a focus on contemporary abstraction by local artists which demonstrate the sensibilities and philosophy of Stanley Marcus.

**2. Cliff Suen, Neiman Marcus Vice President, Property Development:
A presentation on the proposed Walnut Creek Neiman Marcus store.**

Cliff Suen detailed the location of the property at the southeast corner of N. Main Street and Mt. Diablo Blvd., where the 64,000 sq. ft. David M. Brian store currently stands. The new building and parking garage will be 90,000 sq. ft. but occupy essentially the same footprint. Neiman Marcus will be a tenant of the The Macerich Company. The new Neiman Marcus building will include an artisan glass accent feature at the N. Main Street/Mt. Diablo corner which will fill with light during the day and be illuminated at night with subtle LEDs. Below the artisan glass will be a 24' corner window exposing the interior of the store. The pedestrian level façade will include vitrines featuring store merchandise. The main entrance on N. Main Street will be composed of a 64' bank of windows and doors. The Design Review Commission chose a second floor glass curtain wall above this entrance as the location for public art. Neiman Marcus' requirement to fulfill the Public Art Ordinance was \$96,000, but they extended that budget to \$134,000 in order to realize Ned Kahn's proposal, the design they felt best represented the sensibilities of Neiman Marcus.

Carrie Lederer noted that the selection of the location for public art at the Neiman Marcus building was made by the Design Review Commission. She suggested that this responsibility be addressed as the Public Art Ordinance is revised.

3. Ned Kahn: A presentation of the proposed public artwork for Walnut Creek Neiman Marcus.

Ned Kahn has designed a kinetic aluminum sculpture which will consist of a series of 36" long by 8" wide perforated aluminum "fins" stacked vertically on each of 13 mullions separating the second floor plate glass.

F. Curator's Report: Carrie Lederer

1. *Working in Wax*: exhibition and programs

Carrie Lederer announced that *Working in Wax* will host its next Bg Art Morning with exhibition juror Eileen Goldenberg on Wednesday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. Culture+Cocktails will be on Thursday, July 18 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

2. Fundraising for *Nature's Beloved Son*: Lederer is in discussion with Diablo Regional Arts Association for fundraising for this exhibition highlighting the life and work of John Muir.

3. School Brochure: Bedford Gallery's annual school brochure and schedule will go out in the late summer.

G. Adjournment