

**Bedford Gallery Advisory Council
Learning Center, LCA
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Present

BGAC: Donna Arganbright, Betty Dunn, Rebecca Ines, Linda Kramer, Jerry Leisure, Jim Pezzaglia, Pavel Soltys, Diane Vallier, Ann Weber

Arts Commission: Carol Fowler, Reggie Marshall, Jacqueline Smith

Staff: Robyn Burror, Carrie Lederer, Mel Chang, Scott Harriman, Barry Gordon, Steve Buckley, Deborah Han

Public: Chandra Cerrito, Scott Constable & Ene Osteraas-Constable (Wowhaus), Bob Brittain (Parks Commission/Walnut Creek Library Foundation), John Kosi (MVE Architects), Don Reber (BRE Properties), Brian Percy (Nordstrom), Lisa Kirby (Nordstrom)

A. Call to Order

1. Introductions

B. Public Communications

C. Approval of Minutes of September Meeting: Donna Arganbright moved to approved the minutes; Jerry Leisure seconded.

D. Public Art: Robyn Burror/Carrie Lederer

1. BART Project: Chandra Cerrito

Chandra Cerrito announced that the Site 1 artist, Erwin Redl, presented at the September BGAC meeting, had been approved by the Arts Commission and they are moving forward with the design process.

Cerrito introduced the artist team Wowhaus for the Site 2 public artwork. The location for the proposed project will be on the 52' vertical elevations of eastern façade of the parking garage. The wall faces a pedestrian area as well as the train platform of the BART station. Scott Constable and Ene Osteraas-Constable (Wowhaus) are experienced public artists who address ecological, historical, and cultural elements of an artwork's location, while also encouraging community involvement. Wowhaus presented previous projects in Oakland and Stockton where they created lenticular tile murals that reference the cultural and ecological narratives of the surrounding area. The colorful tiles shift between two separate images depending on the viewing angle. Wowhaus and Cerrito agree that this creates visual interest that relates well to the natural movement that will occur along the walkway and train platform. Donna Arganbright asked the artists if they have considered working with the community on this project. Osteraas-Constable explained that Oakland residents helped paint the tiles for the Jack London Square murals, while Stockton students helped research the subject matter for their city's project. She said that while community involvement is not necessary for the process, they are

open to incorporating it, and appreciate how it creates a sense of community ownership. Jim Pezzaglia questioned the longevity of the materials. Constable said that they use a NASA-developed, low emission epoxy for surface installations, and if the project begins early enough for the architects to incorporate the artwork, the mural can be installed like standard, inlaid, exterior tiles. Rebecca Ines wanted to know if the artists had any ideas for the subject matter. Constable said that they do not have concrete ideas at this time, but want to create a vibrant, iconic destination. Pezzaglia proposed a motion to recommend the approval of Wowhaus to the Arts Commission. Ines seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

2. Nordstrom Project

Brian Percy presented renderings of the planned remodel of the Nordstrom building. Because of the building's footprint, visibility restrictions from landscaping, pedestrian traffic levels, Nordstrom has selected the west entrance as the best location for public artwork. The Design Review Commission approved this site. In order to make the area under the largest and oldest trees pedestrian friendly, Nordstrom proposes the idea of art benches that will be functional and visually interesting. Percy presented the work of artists Mark Stasz and Lisa Demitrios, as well as images of mass produced benches. Ann Weber questioned the viability of the approximately \$10,000 public art allocation to purchase high quality, durable artwork. Percy said that Nordstrom is very committed to the arts and while they have invested in interior art in the past, they have not had many opportunities to pursue external artwork. The BGAC was especially drawn to Demitrios' work for being safe, functional, and durable, while still sculpturally intriguing. Arganbright proposed that Nordstrom approach Demitrios to discuss the options for materials and prices. Pavel Soltys seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Walnut Creek Library Foundation: Bob Brittain

Bob Brittain reported that the library on schedule for a mid-2010 opening and remains on budget. The Walnut Creek Library Foundation is giving \$5 million toward library and has now begun the community phase of fundraising. Local artist and Civic Arts Education instructor Ed Blackburn has been commissioned by the foundation to create ceramic book spines in honor of donors to be mounted on a second floor bookcase. Name plaques are also being sold for aisle end caps. On the grand staircase, a flat screen monitor will serve as a virtual donor wall on flat screen and also for advertising civic events at the library, the Leshner Center for the Arts, and throughout city venues. Jacque Smith announced that funds are trying to be raised for an art fence in children's garden. There is a construction budget to build functional fence, but they would prefer art piece. On Thursday, October 15, there will be a tour of the library at 4:30 p.m. with the construction team and architects. Christian Moeller's public artwork can be seen in progress. The tour will be followed by a reception at First Bank. BGAC members are invited to RSVP to Carrie Lederer.

4. Downtown fountain project

Lederer reported that the Arts Commission approved use of In Lieu funds for the downtown fountain project. Staff is working with Emily Chang of the Downtown

Business Association in hopes that the participating banks (Wells Fargo, Mechanics) will expand their contributions to the project. Staff is researching artists for a small invitational for proposals. \$25,000 – 40,000 per fountain was requested. Pezzaglia said that the banks should be contributing additional funds since the artworks will be enhancing their buildings.

E. Chair's Report: Ann Weber

1. Arts Commission Report: Reginald Marshall

The Arts Commission met on September 19. They were introduced to the work of Erwin Redl by Chandra Cerrito for the BART village project. The AC was very impressed by the work and his experience as a public artist and approved the artist to move on to the design phase. The Commission was also given the Bedford Gallery annual report and the Exhibitions & Programs update for 2009-10. Lonna Coleman has stepped down from the Arts Commission. Susanne Masella will now serve as Vice Chair.

2. 2010 Meeting Calendar

Carrie Lederer distributed a BGAC meeting calendar for 2010. Scheduling conflicts and suggestion for changes should be emailed to Lederer.

F. Curator's Report: Carrie Lederer

1. Biennial Assessment questions and 2006-2008 Assessment review

Lederer hopes that the Biennial Assessment will be discussed in depth at the November meeting. Staff will share the Annual Report and previous Biennial Assessment with the BGAC for reference. Lederer would like the BGAC to begin thinking about the gallery's mission, challenges, goals, and accomplishments. Ann: Could be helpful to get draft first before BGAC to review. Staff will distribute draft. Jim Pezzaglia wanted to know what changes were made to the questionnaire from previous cycles. Barry Gordon said that the Arts Commission met and decided on based on new information since the last report. The Commission felt that certain points were not relevant anymore, but that questions about growth and sustainability were germane.

2. Exhibitions & programs update

Lederer distributed an updated season schedule to the BGAC. The *Art on Market St.* opening was hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and Diablo Regional Arts Association. San Francisco Arts Commission staff and several artists attended the opening. Project Manager Judy Moran will be speaking at Art Morning on October 14. Lederer introduced *Art in a Suitcase*, a new program with volunteer docents designed to bring art lessons to the classroom, to supplement the gallery's school tour program. The gallery hopes to get grant funding to make curriculum specific suitcases and to expand the pilot project. The deadling for the *Object of Virtue* juried exhibition is on October 21. Details and entry forms are available on the website. Master potter Julia Galloway, the exhibition juror, will be presenting a demonstration at the gallery on November 30. Bedford staff is working with DRAA on the annual direct mail letter, which will be released soon. Lederer said that the gallery appreciates the continued support of the BGAC.

G. Adjournment