

THE ARTS COMMISSION MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2009 AT 5:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, 608 HEBER AVE, CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA. THE DATE, HOUR AND PLACE DULY ESTABLISHED FOR HOLDING SUCH SAID MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Bill Hodge
Soledad Salazar
Berenice Martinez

Absent:

Jose D. Garcia
Ulises Cardenas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Bill Hodge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Salazar, seconded by Commissioner Martinez and passed unanimously, the agenda was approved as delivered.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Salazar mentioned that at the Imperial County Office of Education Board Room some Jr. High paintings are being exhibited. Commissioner Salazar suggested they should do something similar and display art work at City Hall and other City offices. Commissioner Salazar also suggested inviting the High School as well.

Ms. Tauler replied that maybe they should not include the High School students, since they will already be participating in the Youth Art Exhibit in March and High School Art exhibit in May.

Chairman Hodge volunteered to call William Moreno and De Anza Jr. High School to see if they were interested in participating. Commissioner Salazar suggested that he speak with Gilbert Panela at William Moreno Jr. High.

Commissioner Martinez reminded the Commission that Calexico now has three Jr. High schools, the third being Camarena Jr. High. Chairman Hodge said that he would call all three Jr. High schools.

Chairman Hodge asked Ms. Tauler if she was able to acquire a children's play. Ms. Tauler replied that she had requested some children's plays, but has not yet received any. *Chairman Hodge* suggested something small and easy to manage.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Salazar the minutes for the regular meeting on February 2, 2008, were approved as delivered.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Chairman Hodge stated that he was pleased with the progress that the Arts Commission was making.

STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – JOHN SETO

Rob Lautz and Josie Talamantez attended in place of John Seto. Mr. Lautz and Ms. Talamantez stated that they work for the California Arts Council and their job is to support art education, advocacy and awareness throughout the State by working with individual Counties. Their goal is to help each County establish an Arts Council.

Imperial Valley used to have an Arts Council, which was partially funded by the California Arts Council. When the State cut back its budget the California Arts Council's \$32 million budget was reduced to \$1 million. They could no longer afford to help fund County Arts Councils as they once did.

The California Arts Council is once again in a position to start helping local Arts Councils. Currently out of the 58 Counties in California, 44 are receiving grants from the California Arts Council. Each grant ranges from \$15-20 thousand dollars. Mr. Lautz and Ms. Talamantez stated that they are looking for a group in the Imperial County who will be willing to take control of creating an Arts Council in the Valley. They had approached the City of Brawley with this notion, but Brawley was not interested. The City of Calexico was approached next because other than the City of Brawley, there really wasn't any other entity that had an existing arts organization.

The grant in reality is a three year program, but may continue for longer than that. Matching funds will be eventually required, although not at the beginning. No matching funds are required for technical assistance. Technical assistance includes; assessment and development, creating a website, creating a plan, accounting and capacity building. Mr. Lautz stated that if the Calexico Arts Commission were to take on the task of creating the Imperial County Arts Council, he would strongly suggest doing a cultural assessment of the Valley. This would help find the total population that needs to be served. This would count as technical assistance and qualify for the grant. In order to apply, the Calexico Arts Commission would need to be officially designated by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors as the Imperial County Arts Council.

Chairman Hodge asked Mr. Lautz & Ms. Talamantez what role the Calexico Arts Commission would play, and would an Arts Commission have to be established in every City? Ms. Talamantez explained that it is different for every County, depending on the needs of the County. The Calexico Arts Commission would be the one to organize and create the new County Arts Council and will be used as the entity to receive the funds from the State. They would be representing the Imperial Valley, but as mentioned before, they would need to be given permission by the County Board of Supervisors to take on this role. It is very important to have the support of all the County Board members.

Hildy Carrillo, local artist and the Director of the Calexico Chamber of Commerce, urged the Arts Commission to think about this new opportunity. Ms. Carrillo stated that if the Arts Commission took on this project, it could act as the catch all for the Imperial Valley. Ms. Carrillo suggested lobbying each County Supervisor individually, and then make a big presentation at a County Board meeting. Ms. Carrillo offered to personally help speak to some of the Supervisors. Ms. Carrillo stated that this was an exciting opportunity.

Elizabeth Lopez, another local artist, stated that there are a lot of different artistic events going on separately in the Valley all the time and it would be nice to have one main organization to go to for information.

Sky Ainsworth, also a local artist, suggested hosting a workshop with the County Supervisors to present the idea of forming the Arts Council.

Mr. Lautz and Ms. Talamantez informed the Commission that they would be able to apply for the grant with just a letter of intent from the County Board of Supervisors.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FORM 2008/2009

Ms. Tauler stated that the Statement of Economic Interest Form is due at the end of the month. If they have any questions, they may go by her office.

SET DATE FOR "ARTIST GATHERING III"

Ms. Tauler suggested a date in April. The Commission decided on a tentative date of April 30, 2009 for the third Artist Gathering.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON PLANNING YOUTH ART EXHIBIT

Chairman Hodge reported that they had asked Bernardo Olmedo to create the invitation for the Youth Art Exhibit. They would like the students to drop off the artwork on the Tuesday before the event. Ms. Tauler suggested that they reconsider having the artwork dropped off so early for liability reasons. She reminded the Commission that the Cultural Arts Center is open to the public and classes are held during the week.

DIRECTORY OF ARTISTS 2009

Ms. Tauler explained that this was the first draft of the artist directory. Very few will be printed, it will mostly be available online. It will be revised every year and will hopefully grow each year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008-2009

The Calendar lists events up until June of 2009. Ms. Tauler asked the Commissioners if they know of any events happening or would like to add an event, to please let her know and she will add it to the Calendar. Chairman Hodge stated that he would like to have a sixties theme dance in October.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Tauler reported that the "Our Town" grant she had been hoping to qualify for did not work out. She will continue to work on finding additional funding in order to continue to offer current and new services.

INFORMATION

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: APRIL 6, 2009