

Letter to the Commissioners As Regards our Back and Forth and the 3 minute rule

kathleen hallinan []

Sent:Friday, March 08, 2013 1:08 PM

To: Licouris, Alyssa

Cc: Lazar, Howard

Dear Commissioners

San Francisco Street Artists Program Committee:

As regards our communications at our every other month meetings. Let me start out by stating - I do appreciate you're putting in your time with us in an unpaid position.

I wish that more street artists would appear before you and that you could hear from more of us. However the lot of a true street artist is difficult by nature of the work. One cannot make all of their products for the most part when they are selling, so evenings and free time mostly are spent making their craft - for the real artists. For the ones who deal in buy and sell imports they are probably happy with the status quo.

I DO believe the meetings ARE the right forum for "back and forth" between the public and you the Commissioners. Although there is a 3 minute rule. I would like to see you the Commissioners interact with the public after their three minutes by asking questions, and keeping the conversation going a little more after we end our 3 minute statements and you turn to each other to discuss and the gavel is sounded for the decision.

I believe this is the exact and perfect forum besides round table discussions and meetings that could occur between the SFSA office, Art Commission and the street artists themselves - outside of these meetings.

I have been certified by the Street Artist Program for an incredible 39 years. We have a stake in saving and strengthening our program. We find ourselves in difficult times currently. Mass produced imports dominate our program in certain selling areas, and yet the budget is being requested to be increased. True hand craft artists are suffering and cannot identify with the mass produced branding products they are forced to sell along side with.

Please take the time at our meetings to ask questions of the artists who come before you, please take *extra time* to have a discussion between the artists and your committee. It is within your rights to question the artists after their statements and I believe the artists would be overjoyed to answer them. We only get to meet every other month and that every other month meeting can be meaningful.

We have found ourselves in the position of having lost our most valuable spaces at Fisherman's Wharf, the # 2 destination in all of California and # 7 in the world.

I implore you to use your time with us on the every 2 month basis to have conversations we so greatly need at this time in our history and juncture as a unique program of hand crafts, one of the first of its kind in the world. Democracy in action is enlivened by discussion.

Thank You

Kathleen Hallinan