



ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF STREET ARTISTS AND CRAFTS EXAMINERS

Screening of New Street Artists and Additional Crafts

June 5, 2018

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF STREET ARTISTS AND CRAFTS EXAMINERS

MINUTES

Members Present:

Troy Harris, Carolyn Kualii, Carey Lin, Sean Nash, Debbie Wu

Staff Present:

Anne Trickey, Program Officer; Barbara Mumby, Director of Community Investments

Meeting convened (TIME): 1:15 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

Discussion.

Tad Sky said that the code of conduct is important, but it needs to be enforced by a Market Manager who is there full time. There are also various security issues and artists have to help mediate this with law enforcement, etc. instead of selling their work.

Abby Ellis brought up mismanagement and changes in the global economy that make it harder for artists to make a living selling their work. It needs to be changed, but only deep consideration about how it should change. She doesn't want spaces to be lost.

3. Director of Community Investments Report



Meetings have taken place with SF Rec and Park towards hiring of a new Market Manager. Ideally the new Market Manager will start at the beginning of July, but the start dates depends on the contracting process.

On June 4, 2018, staff and commissioners met for a full-day retreat to discuss equity, race and preliminary strategic planning for the next 2 years.

A possible ballot initiative may bring resources to the Arts Commission.

For Community Investments there is an upcoming grants convening on September 20, 2018. There will be an opportunity for some street artists to come and sell their work.

Public Comment

Tad mentioned a recent incident at Embarcadero where Rec and Park ranger had to intervene. Would be mitigated by having a Market Manager. Want to continue good relationship with Rec and Park.

Abby, reiterated need for Market Manager

4. Screening of New Artists and Additional Crafts.

1) Artist(s): Ross Spangler

Item(s): Ceramics, hand blown glass

Makes functional, hand-thrown ceramics such as bowls, mugs and vases. Also makes hand-blown glass sculptures, garden lights and drinking cups. Provided receipts for materials, tools for ceramics and glass-blowing. Unanimously voted in to the program.

No public comment.

5. Artist Code of Conduct

Discussion and Review

Program Officer Anne Trickey provided some background and context:

The current Artist Code of Conduct is the based on the one in the blue book. The blue book is a very large document and is only in English, but around 30% of artists in the program are limited English speakers. It needs to be translated into Spanish and Chinese.



The plan is to update and implement a process where everyone in the program reviews and signs it. The future Market Manager will help to enforce it and it will be integrated into the onboarding process.

Once the new Artist Code of Conduct has been revised by the committee, it will go to the full Arts Commission for another round of public review. SFAC will enact the final version as a piece of policy. Then it will be added to our online payment portal as a requirement as part of renewing a license. There will be a one-year implementation period.

Advisory Committee members discussed the wording of rules # 14, #19 to better clarify meanings. Also, committee members made a suggestion to add rules related to parking for loading/unloading and a suggestion to add rule acknowledging fair use and copyright, including items that depict trademarked items or artists copying each other.

Anne will take this to the City Attorney, who she is collaborating with to revise this document. She will send it to us again once another draft is created and also send the date of when it is scheduled for full commission review.

Public Comment:

Tad - Criteria and Code of Conduct are different things.

Re. Artist Code of Conduct

#18 conflicts with language in blue book regarding noise. Needs to be strengthened because “being considerate” is open to interpretation. Some artists make work or promote their work in noisy ways. This shouldn’t be allowed, even if they are making their work at their booth.

#12 re. umbrellas. Recently an umbrella that wasn’t weighted down blew into a crowd of people and could have injured someone and possibly led to a lawsuit. A Market Manager could help enforce this, or prevent something like this from happening.

Abby - Re. definition of “hawking”. Artists shouldn’t talk to people moving past their stalls unless they stop on their own first.

Neil Levine - Re. diversity. It is appreciated in the program and there is a desire among the group to come together, but they need help in structuring this. Re. copying, perhaps rather than policing artists who may be copying other artists, try to appeal to their sense of community and ask them to rethink their practice in light of this spirit.

6. Committee discussion on matters relating to Advisory Committee and Street Artists Program.

Discussion.

Committee members discussed the need to revise the criteria used to evaluate what is accepted or not accepted into the program. One problem is lack of models for how to evaluate this from large craft fairs and other commercial enterprises since they don't have the same requirements for transparency as we do as a public agency. How do we update how we stay up to date with modern creative techniques and production processes.

Possible restructuring of Advisory Committee meetings. Artist screenings possibly reduced to quarterly vs. monthly as they are now. This can also create time for committee members to work on projects and strategic planning together.

The Committee discussed a protocol for artists on what to do in emergency situations, and emergency contact lists for the artists. The new Market Manager could be a part creating and implementing them. Security issues, evaluation plans, homeless outreach, etc.

Many artists have expressed concern about loss of spaces on Market St. due to construction. The Arts Commission is working with artists and other agencies to ensure spaces are not lost. The timeline for construction is also slow and groundbreaking won't begin until 2024.

Anne has submitted proposal for a market analysis of what spaces in the city the program should be.

Public Comment:

Tad - The Code of Conduct is what makes the program fair. Having Market Manager to do this helps to improve interpersonal relationships between artists so they don't have to do it on their own. Quarterly artist screenings would make sense, resource-wise, but should be agendized so public can come in and argue for/against it.

Abby - Try to keep all the space that we already have. Would be interested in AdComm having meetings more than once/month.

Neil - Safety is a big concern, things on the street have gotten crazier in the past 6 months to a year. Re. tourists vs. locals, a majority of his customers are from out of town (here for conventions).



7. New Business and Announcements.

Discussion.

Intros from new committee members.

Debbie Wu. Elementary School art teacher, grew up in Bay Area, but has lived in SF for the past 5 years. Clay, mixed media, creative reuse.

Troy Harris, works as an artist for past 6 years, used to be a DJ for 17 years and store owner on Haight and Masonic, grew up in Taiwan, speaks Chinese fluently.

8. Adjournment.

Action.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Lin

Committee Member