

Minutes of the Richmond Art Center Board of Directors Meeting April 27, 2023

The Richmond Art Center Board of Directors meeting was scheduled for Zoom Conference call on April 27, 2023 at 5:45.

The meeting was called to order by Michael Dear, President at 5:47 .

Members Present via video conference were:

Michael Dear, President
Lina Velasco, Vice President
Paul Collins, Treasurer
Nettie Hoge, Secretary
John Boychuk
Jane Diokas
Helen Duhe
Susan Moffat
Stephen Nomura
Rachel Sommovilla
Monique Ziesenhenné

Also attending were Jose Rivera, Executive Director, Carloyn Rodkin, Chief Financial Officer, Kimberly Ross, Public Programs Coordinator, and Michelle Seville, Arts & Culture Manager, City of Richmond.

Michelle Seville was introduced by Michael Dear. She gave a brief presentation that included some of her history with the City of Richmond and with the RAC. Michelle served for a time as the Interim Director of the RAC. She has agreed to serve as the Chairperson for the Guillermo Celebration. The date of the event is now set for Aug 5. She has already begun working with Jose and the Board Committee for the event. The fundraising goal for the event is \$35K. Ticket solicitations have been mailed out. So far the event will include ticket sales, a food truck, mariachi band and RAC food and drinks, as well as a silent auction. Since the theme is centered around Guillermo the committee will be soliciting fish oriented businesses for sponsorship. The trout, originally created by Andree Singer Thompson will turn 25 this year. Help will be needed for music, food, and the silent auction.

Kimberly Ross, Public Programs Coordinator introduced herself to the Board. She had been with the RAC for two months. She oversees all public events. Kimberly studied apparel and fashion at SF State. Kimberly stated that she is focused on “expanding our reach.”

She solicited volunteers for set up and for work during the event. Her contact is michelle4arts@gmail.com. Her phone is (510) 529 6261

Jose commented that Kimberly has been making a difference since Day 1. She is organized, thorough, and pleasant to work with.

Minutes Approval

The minutes from the January 2023 Board meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Paul C. and a second by Stephen N.

Treasurers Report

Carolyn Ross summarized her report which was included with Board materials. As of 3/31, 3/4 of the way through the fiscal year, P&L showed income was \$883,000. This was \$85,000 above budget. Revenue from classes has improved nicely with a total of approximately \$250,000 YTD.

While fundraising is behind projections, partially because of the need to move the Guillermo event to the next fiscal year, expenses have been under budget. In spite of slow fundraising this year, net income YTD was \$120,000 which is actually \$130,000 above budget.

Executive Director's Report

Overall Jose reported good news and positive energy.

Grant writing going well, with some new exciting opportunities.

In April 2023 the RAC received about \$37,000 in grants, about \$10,800 in donations and about \$760 in new memberships. The RAC net income for the month was about \$55,444.

The status of other grants as reported by the Director in his **May** report are as follows:

\$25,000 NEA APPROVED, need to start billing.

\$12,000 ARRIVED, Fleischhacker Foundation, Exhibition Support

\$ 8,000 Neighborhood Public Art (pending receipt of \$4,000)

\$50,000 ECIA Community grant (June decision)

\$29,500 NEA Artists in residence (late Fall 2023)

\$80,000 Andy Warhol Foundation (June/July 2023)

\$5,000 Gay H Parker Estate (received notice from attorney)

\$10,000 Lehman Foundation (DENIED) was for next African Diaspora show

\$100,000 Comcast, for scholarships (August 2023)

\$25,000 Union Pacific Foundation, also to replenish scholarship (September decision) 5,000 ARRIVED sponsorship ask from Mechanics Bank for Guillermo Fest

\$9,000 grant for Wehrle exhibit (APPROVED)

\$5,000 Matt Jacobson Co. for Guillermo Fest ARRIVED

\$12,650 West Contra Costa Unified School District for Prof. Devel. ARRIVED

\$1,000 Sims Metal (metal company that made Guillermo plates) ARRIVED 10,000.
As of late May the RAC collected close to \$15,000 for the Guillermo Celebration.

Employee Retention Credit during COVID about 6-8 months, 6 checks totaling \$278,003.20. After subtracting honorariums of 15%, we net \$236,302.72

Also from the Directors May report:

The RAC welcomed a new Richmond Resident and Education Coordinator
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Annaliese Ruano who started on May 17 , finally providing some added support to all Education Department functions.

The RAC will be welcoming a new Director of Exhibitions soon, an established curator very familiar with the RAC. There will be some transition time between Roberto and Chris Kerr (whom we are certain will accept the position).

Jose mentioned at the end of the meeting that Stephen Nomura will be leaving and we need to increase board diversity. In his May report Jose reported we have a potential new candidate for the board to replace departing Stephen Nomura. Amy Zheng is a teacher at the RAC and an art instructors at Mandarin Schools. She has a master's in fine arts and a degree in accounting. Amy has confirmed her interest in joining the board. Jose will send information on to Michael Dear for a presentation to the full board.

Guillermo repair on schedule. (The repairs were completed as of the end of May)
The RAC has been building a great relationship with the mayor, who visits often, he is excited by the RACs work and wants to show the ten winners of the RAC student show at city hall.

Masks are no longer necessary at the RAC but they are still required for classrooms which do not have state of the art ventilation.

Other Business

Michael reported that the RAC Endowment Fund Committee had completed the move of funds from Mechanics to Schwab.

Michael also mentioned that a curator has been appointed for the John Wehrle retrospective.

New business

Michael announced that the Board will be moving to a 2-monthly cycle for directors meetings, plus an extra meeting for a busy September. Zoom format will be presumed, although several members said they would appreciate more face to face time.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:08

NEXT RAC BOARD MEETING: June 29, via Zoom