

Agenda Item 6 b Public Art Projects -City Council 2.16.21 meeting

MSA Corporate <msacorporate@outlook.com>

Mon 2/15/2021 7:32 PM

To: Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>

Dear Council Members:

Marin Society of Artists fully supports staff recommendations to:

1. Accept the informational report on proposed public art projects in San Rafael.
2. Pass Ordinance to print adopting the proposed amendments to the San Rafael Municipal Code.

Marin Society of Artists (MSA) sprang into life in 1927 above a garage at the corner of 4th and D Streets and remained in San Rafael until the 1940s when MSA formed the Marin Art and Garden Center with several other community non-profits. In 2016, MSA returned to San Rafael and opened a new community Art Center at 3rd & E Streets (a 10 year lease of the former *Patricks* building).

San Rafael is a vibrant diverse community facing the most extraordinary challenges of this generation. Since returning to its roots, MSA is actively working with arts organizations, community-based organizations, local business and City departments to enhance the quality of life in our city.

Canal Arts Initiative (CAI) is one example of the MSA's work, and the power of partnerships. Working with the community, CAI seeks to bring public art and arts education to East San Rafael and the Canal. MSA obtained seed funding from the California Arts Council (and community match funds) for the first mural planned for the 3301 Kerner building. A collaborative process that will include Canal community members is already in motion. CAI envisions a series of public art projects in this community that will celebrate and reflect its rich mix of cultures.

Like speech, artistic expression is protected precisely because artistic expression is at the core of what makes us human. Public art has the power to uplift, confirm and enrich lives. The pilot Public Art Advisory Group, coupled with City Council approval of public art is a brilliant step forward for San Rafael. Consistent with the Draft General Plan 2040 General Plan Policy CA-3-Cultural and Arts Programs and Activities, this represents an important affirmative step to support arts in our community.

Meg Reilly, President



www.marinsocietyofartists.org

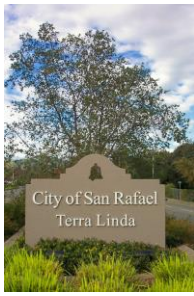
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Beliefs and Values:

All humans are blessed with creativity that thrives when nurtured.

The arts in all forms enrich the human spirit, foster communication, and lead to understanding.

Shared creativity bridges differences and forges unity.



Terra Linda Homeowners' Association

P.O. Box 6167
San Rafael, CA 94903-0405

February 15, 2021

City Council of the City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Mayor Colin and Councilmembers,

At last month's Annual Meeting of the Terra Linda Homeowners Association (TLHOA), Mayor Colin and Councilmember Kertz brought to our attention that the Council has accepted a proposal to install a pilot public art project in Arbor Park, a key location at the gateway to our neighborhood. While we had not previously heard about this project, we support the idea of using public art to address pressing issues of social justice and would like to take part in that discussion as it pertains to Terra Linda.

Specifically, we ask that the Council allocate an ad hoc position on the Pilot Public Art Advisory Group for a representative of our association or community. Our participation would enable us to disseminate timely information about the initiative to our members, generate broader community interest, and respond to concerns or questions with accurate information and dialogue. In short, we believe the initiative would benefit from having direct community participation and support.

We have reviewed the staff report that will be considered by the Council on February 16th, a document that was very helpful for answering our initial questions about how the project will be selected, funded and maintained. We were pleased to see that there is a committed and experienced coalition of actors behind the Terra Linda proposal, and that the City will ensure the installation and surrounding area is maintained throughout its life. We are also happy to learn that the proposed alternative to Design Review includes an Advisory Group of qualified individuals who will make recommendations to the Council. It is in our interest, as well as that of the City, artists and art community, to ensure the installation is carefully selected and well maintained throughout the period of display.

Our additional questions include whether the installation will be covered by City liability or damage insurance in the event of accident or deterioration from natural elements, and whether the artist(s) or the City will maintain ownership of the art.

Officers: President, Kim Keith-Brown
 Secretary, Denis O'Leary
 Treasurer, William Bacon
 Liaison to the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods, Kate Powers
 Member and ex-President, Gina Daly

Thank you for considering our request to collaborate in this important initiative. We look forward to learning more at tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

The Terra Linda Homeowners Association (TLHOA) Board of Directors