

MARIPOSA COUNTY
Creative Placemaking Strategy Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

DATE: June 17, 2022
TIME: 1:00-2:00 PM
LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE ONLY

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Goralnik called the meeting to order at: 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Charles Phillips, Cara Goger, Adam Burns, Erica Wolfson, Xav Dubois, Jackie Baxton

Excused Absence: Kim Brisack, Irene Vasquez, Will Fassett,

Members Absent: Jeanetta Phillips, Abby Miller

Visitors: None

2. **ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AB361:**

The members voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in accordance AB361

3. **APPROVE MINUTES FROM 3/18/2022:**

The minutes from were approved unanimously.

4. **DISCUSSION OF CALTRANS GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT:**

Goralnik provided an overview of the Caltrans Gateway enhancement project, with an emphasis on the recent Board of Supervisors action to enter into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans, which enables the County to spend Caltrans District 10's funding earmarked for the project (\$1M). He emphasized the Committee's role in participating in and promoting the project's stakeholder engagement components, which are anticipated to be led by the Arts Council.

Goger added the importance of having contractors that are familiar with the logistical and technical aspects of working with Caltrans and in Caltrans right of way, especially in terms of the various state agency reviews and permits that will be necessary to successfully implement this project.

Wolfson expressed support for Atlas Lab as the prime consultant to drive the project, based on their successful delivery of the Creative Placemaking Strategy, knowledge of the community, and apparent capacity for similar projects in the past.

5. **DISCUSSION OF OUR TOWN GRANT // WORKING LANDS, WORKING ARTISTS:**

Goralnik reminded the committee that this project, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts' Our Town program, entails new temporary public art and creative placemaking work that activates and helps collect input to support the Agriculture and Working Lands Conservation Plan that the County is soon to commence development of. He mentioned that the County is still awaiting the notice to proceed from the NEA to begin working on the Working Lands, Working Artists project.

Goger added that this project could be expected to have more of a local feel than the Gateway Enhancement project, with less emphasis on big firms and studios that have extensive qualifications for large infrastructure-related projects. This project, in contrast, does not require such experience, and therefore is like to have more of an emphasis on local/smaller artists.

A short discussion followed regarding the possible relationship between art and policy making. Goralnik remarked that the Creative Placemaking Strategy development, during which art was used to draw attention to and collect input for a planning project that will influence county policy regarding public art, is a good example of what is anticipated for new Our Town project.

6. UPDATE ON GRASSROOTS CREATIVE PLACEMAKING INITIATIVES:

Erica Wolfson shared an update on the Greeley Hill elementary and high school mural, sharing that the project was entirely student driven and included a depiction of local, comparatively commonplace natural features that resonate with Greeley Hill youth. She added that additional murals in this area could be installed in the near future.

Adam Burns shared an update on the Pride Party, a celebration of and for LGBTQ+ people in Mariposans. Adam described the group art project that took place at the event, which was intended to be both beautiful and useful to the community. The piece, a wooden frame with wires that allowed participants to respond to a prompt, asked community members to reflect on what a “safe space” means to them. Primary takeaways included spaces where community members feel safe wearing clothing or expressing affection as they wish; and that the ability to express themselves in Mariposa was a particularly powerful outcome of the piece. He noted that the event took place on the same day as the Trails Day event, which enabled efficiencies and generated enthusiasm for both events.

Cara Goger shared an update on the Arts Council’s contributions to the Trails Day event, which included participatory poetry related to trails, wild spaces, and their experiences in the local landscape. She added that the Arts Council also brought a visiting poet from Davis to share related work.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

8. ADJOURN: Goralnik adjourned the meeting at 2:04 PM.

Minutes Prepared by: Mikey Goralnik