

MINUTES
ASIAN ART COMMISSION
or Special Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Koret Education Center and Zoom

Commissioners Present:	Fred M. Levin, Chair (EC) Alexander D. Calhoun (EC) Yogen Dalal (EC) Virginia Foo (EC) Timothy F. Kahn (EC) Jennifer Kao Gorretti Lo Lui	Farah Makras Nanci Nishimura Merrill Randol France Viana Kenneth P. Wilcox (EC) Salle Yoo (EC)
Commissioners Absent:	Betty N. Alberts Michele Alioto Kathy Bissinger Denise Bradley-Tyson William Mathews Brooks	Martha Sam Hertelendy (Z) Michael Hormel Chong-Moon Lee Anthony Sun (EC) Kenneth P. Wilcox
Trustees in Attendance:	Aggie Brenneman Vaishali Chadha Tiffany Chang Claudine Cheng Thao Dodson Dixon Doll Fred Eychaner Mimi Gardner Gates Gurmeet (Gigi) Gulati	Marsha Vargas Handley Charles Huang Choonga (Maria) Kahng Dipti Mathur Anjali Pichai Ann Tanenbaum Akiko Yamazaki Songyee Yoon Hansong Zhang
Also Present:	Lauren Curry Madeline Frank Davis White Tim Hallman Sara Lee Mark Sabb	Daphne Tooke Emiko Usui Jay Xu Fan Zhang Laura Hathhorn

Call to Order and Chair’s Comments

Chair Fred Levin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., a quorum being present. Mr. Levin welcomed everyone participating in person and on Zoom, highlighting new Trustee Gurmeet (Gigi) Gulati, Commissioner-elect Matt Bissinger, and Deputy City Attorney Lauren Curry and her two intern colleagues.

Salle Yoo gave an update regarding planning for the October 24, 2024, Asian Art Museum Gala – a celebration of the museum, and *Hallyu! The Korean Wave* scheduled to open in September. In her role as gala co-chair along with trustee Varsha Rao, Ms. Yoo shared exciting news that Miky Lee, Chairperson of CJ Entertainment and producer of the movie “Parasite,” would serve as the Gala’s Honorary Chair. She urged all to attend and support the gala, forming tables with fellow board members or as table hosts.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Director’s Report – Director Jay Xu welcomed everyone, wishing all Happy Nowruz, Persian New

Year, and Lunar New Year of the Dragon. He spoke about various aspects of *Phoenix Kingdoms* opening on April 19, before calling on Chief Experience Officer and Deputy Director Emiko Usui to introduce the Art Hit. Ms. Usui welcomed staff members Galance Marneur, Mark Sabb and Fan Zhang who presented the Art Hit: *Experience Design & Digital Content Update regarding Phoenix Kingdoms and Hallyu*. Dr. Xu continued his report on the timing of events for Phoenix Kingdoms, and he congratulated several people recently honored -- Akiko Yamazaki (the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Women's History Month honoree), Claudine Cheng (City of San Francisco Women's History Month Honoree), Abby Chen (National Art Education Association Asian Art And Culture Interest Group Distinguished Art Educator Award and San Francisco Travel Association's Women in the Arts 2024), and his appointment as a new trustee for the American Alliance of Museums. He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Chief Curator's Talk with Kondo Takahiro led by Dr. Robert Mintz on March 21, and he expressed appreciation to Curator of Japanese Art Laura Allen who has announced her retirement from the Museum after 12 years of service. In closing, Dr. Xu reminded all to mark their calendars for the Hallyu Gala on October 24.

Budget & Finance Committee Report – CFO Sara Lee spoke about final numbers on the Murakami exhibition highlighting 117,476 attendance, 2,000 new members, and store sales grossing \$2.6 million. Ms. Lee reviewed operating performance for the first six months of FY 2024 noting a projected deficit at the end of the fiscal year of approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million. In closing she noted the museum had begun work on the FY 25 budget.

Foundation ad Hoc Search Committee for the Director – Chair Nanci Nishimura thanks her fellow committee members (Yogen Dalal, Fred Eychaner, Fred Levin, Anjali Pichai, Ken Wilcox, Salle Yoo and Hansong Zhang) and all who have participated in the search committee's work. Ms. Nishimura noted the team had completed the first of four phases in its work with recruiter Russell Reynolds Associates which was the development wish list phase, and had begun the second phase of candidate development. She noted the third phase would be interviews and that they were being scheduled for July and August.

Asian Art Museum Ticket Distribution Policy – Sara Lee explained a resolution that the Commissioners would be called to approve later in the meeting regarding a ticket distribution policy.

Consideration and Possible Action Items

a. Condolences to the Family of Pam Rorke Levy

RESOLVED, On behalf of the entire museum family, the Commissioners and Trustees of the Asian Art Museum wish to express their deepest condolences to the family of Pam Rorke Levy, beloved wife of Commissioner William Mathews Brooks, who passed away on January 4, 2024.

b. Appreciation of Commissioner Kathleen Bissinger

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kathleen Bissinger has recently tendered her resignation from the Asian Art Commission, having served from May 19, 2003; and

WHEREAS, During her 21 years of service, Ms. Bissinger contributed greatly to the development and well-being of the museum through her generosity and outstanding service on committees that included Acquisitions and Nominating; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bissinger's stewardship, personal warmth and humanity earned her admiration throughout the museum; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That members of the Commission wish to express sincere appreciation to Kathleen

Bissinger for her generous contributions and service to the museum and the City & County of San Francisco.

c. Approval of Nomination of Matthew Bissinger, Vaishali Chadha and Kiki Kapany to the Asian Art Commission

WHEREAS, The Nominating Committee recommends the election of Matthew Bissinger, Vaishali Chadha and Kiki Kapany to the Art Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission hereby endorses the nominations of Matthew Bissinger, Vaishali Chadha and Kiki Kapany, and respectfully submits these recommendations to Mayor Breed for final appointment.

Matthew Bissinger is an interior designer and owner of Maker and Moss in Hayes Valley, San Francisco, which has the goal of highlighting artists, makers, and manufacturers that use sustainable materials and production methods. Prior to Maker and Moss, Mr. Bissinger was Legacy Gifts Officer at Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF), Co-Founder and Owner of Home Accessories, Regional Western Major Gifts Officer at Lambda Legal, and Leadership Gifts Officer at San Francisco Opera. Mr. Bissinger graduated from Sarah Lawrence College. Mr. Bissinger is the son of Commissioner Kathy Bissinger and the grandson of Founding Commissioner and Trustee Marjorie W. Bissinger.

Vaishali Chadha has a deep interest in bringing the wisdom expressed in the art and culture of Asia into contemporary society. She is an active storyteller for the Asian Art Museum. Her coaching company, Adventures For My Soul LLC, leads seekers on historical and spiritual tours to India. After she graduated from New York University Stern School of Business she moved to Singapore and traveled extensively throughout Asia. Throughout her travels, she has met numerous artists whose work she supports and promotes. She moved to the Bay Area in 2005. Vaishali is also on the board of California Institute of Integral Studies CIIS and Friends of Ridhwan. She shares her time between the Bay Area and Pondicherry, India.

Kiki Kapany is the CEO and Executive Producer at Kikim Media, where all of our productions are guided by our fundamental commitment to fairness and accuracy and by the conviction that a true story, honestly told, can change lives. She is currently producing fifteen short climate science films entitled *Our Beautiful Planet*, highlighting the cutting edge research that climate scientists are doing to solve some of the world's most pressing issues. Each film is accompanied by an individual lesson plan, developed by NSTA, and a rich community outreach guide, developed by TCI, that will educate on climate solutions, inspire curiosity and galvanize grassroots action. Her most recent productions include *Secrets in our DNA* (2021), a documentary that explores the power of direct-to-consumer DNA testing and the unintended consequences that can arise from sharing our genetic data with these rapidly growing online databases, and *Look Who's Driving* (2019), a documentary on the future of autonomous vehicles, both of which were produced for PBS's flagship science and technology series, NOVA. In addition, *The Ornament of the World* (2019), a two-hour animated and live action documentary for PBS about the relationships among Muslims, Jews and Christians in medieval Spain aired in December 2019. Kapany's other productions include *Silicon Valley: The Untold Story* (2018), a three-hour series about the cultural, technological and intellectual history of Silicon Valley for Discovery's Science Channel, and two films based on Michael Pollan's best-selling books, the Emmy-nominated *In Defense of Food* (2015), critically acclaimed at over 20 film festivals around the world, and *The Botany of Desire* (2009). Kapany has also produced *Capturing Grace* (2014), a one-hour observational film that documents the intersection between those

who live with a movement disorder (Parkinson's Disease) and dancers; *My Father, My Brother and Me* (2009), a chronicle of Parkinson's disease, for FRONTLINE, and *Hunting the Hidden Dimension* (2008), the story of fractal geometry, for NOVA and the Sloan Foundation. She also executive produced *Ending AIDS: The Search for a Vaccine* (2005, Sloan Foundation), widely praised as a compelling chronicle of one of the world's greatest biomedical research challenges, as well as the groundbreaking *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* (2002), honored with a Special Jury Award from Ciné Golden Eagle and a Bronze World Medal from the International Film and Video Festival of New York. Kapany's other programs for public television include *The Next Big Thing?*, *Stopwatch*, *Naked to the Bone*, (funded by the Sloan Foundation) and *In Search of Law and Order* (a three-hour production on alternatives to the juvenile justice system). Kikim Media also produced and directed three short videos for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, five Science Bytes videos for the Sloan Foundation, a series of 27 short videos about fascinating social entrepreneurs for the Skoll Foundation, a series about diabetes for the University of California, San Francisco Diabetes Center and the Diabetic Youth Foundation, and the special features for HBO's DVD release of the TV series *Deadwood*.

d. Approval of Asian Art Museum Ticket Distribution Policy

RESOLVED, That the Asian Art Commission hereby approves the Asian Art Museum Ticket Distribution Policy (see pasted below).

Asian Art Museum Ticket Distribution Policy

1) Public Purposes of Distribution of Tickets or Passes.

The distribution of any ticket or pass by the City agency known as the Asian Art Museum (the "Museum") to, or at the behest of, a public official shall accomplish one or more of the following public purposes ("Asian Art Museum Public Purposes"):

- i) Furthers the charitable purposes of the Museum under the San Francisco Charter.
- ii) Facilitates public officials' familiarity with, or ability to carry out their services or fiduciary duties with respect to, the management, administration, and/or care of the Museum.
- iii) Increases the understanding and appreciation of the offerings and operations of the Museum by City officers and employees involved in the governance, funding, advising, management or administration of the Museum.
- iv) Information gathering and promotion of cultural, artistic, educational, recreational, and community activities and programs available at the Museum facilities.
- v) Monitoring and evaluation of operation and maintenance of public facilities available for City resident and visitor use.
- vi) Promotion of economic development and employment in the City and surrounding areas, including, but not limited to: supporting local businesses, including charitable organizations; and increasing City tourism, including conferences, conventions, and special events.
- vii) Increasing use or appreciation of City-run, sponsored or supported exhibitions, community programs or public programs or performances held in City facilities, including programs organized or supported by charitable and nonprofit organizations.

viii) Participation in exchange programs with foreign officials and representatives.

ix) Furthering any other public purpose that a department or commission is required or authorized by law to pursue.

x) Any public purpose similar to those listed herein or any public purpose identified in any City contract or as may be determined by resolution of the Asian Art Commission.

If the public purpose justifying the ticket distribution is for oversight or inspection of City facilities, then there must also be a written inspection report of findings and recommendations by the official receiving the ticket or pass.

2) Prohibition on Transfer.

A public official who has received a ticket or pass distributed under this policy shall not transfer such ticket or pass to any other person, except to the public official's immediate family (spouse/partner and dependent children) or no more than one guest, solely for their personal use. But the public official must accompany any immediate family member or guest who received a ticket or pass through a transfer, to the event or exhibition.

3) Reporting.

As required by the FPPC Regulation 18944.1, the Museum shall post the following information regarding the distribution of any tickets or passes under this policy on the Museum's website on a form provided by the FPPC within 45 days after the ticket/pass distribution and will send the FPPC an e-mail with the Museum's website link that displays the form so that the FPPC may post the website link:

- The name of the person receiving the ticket or pass, or if the ticket or pass is distributed to a department or other unit of the agency, and not used by a member of the governing body, political appointee, department head, or chief administrative officer of the agency, the name of the department or other unit of the agency receiving the ticket or pass and the number of tickets or passes provided to the department. If the ticket or pass is distributed to a non-City organization, the name, address, description of the organization, and the number of tickets or passes provided to the organization;
- A description of the event;
- The date of the event;
- The fair value of the ticket or pass as that term is defined in Regulation 18946, subdivision (d)(1);
- The number of tickets or passes provided to each person;
- If the ticket or pass is distributed at the behest of a public official, the name of the official who requested the distribution of the ticket or pass;
- A description of the public purpose under which the distribution was made or, alternatively, that the ticket or pass was distributed as income to the official; and
- A written inspection report of findings and recommendations by the official receiving the ticket or pass if received for the oversight or inspection of City facilities.

4) Distribution of Tickets.

The Director of the Asian Art Museum is the department official authorized to exercise discretion in the distribution of tickets and passes. The Director, or the Director's designee, shall have the authority to determine whether the distribution of tickets and/or passes to a particular recipient furthers one or more of the public purposes specified under this policy. Notwithstanding the above, the disproportionate use of tickets or passes by a member of the Board of Supervisors or other City elected official, City commissioners, City department heads, or City Administrator is prohibited.

5) Effective Date.

This policy supersedes and replaces any prior ticket distribution policy and shall be effective as of **March 19, 2024**, the date this policy was passed, approved, and adopted by resolution of the Asian Art Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission.

Asian Art Museum Ticket Policy (09-22)

Adjournment. There being no public comment or other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.