

Re: 9/27 CED meeting, Item c1 work plan recommendation

Kathryn Hedges <[REDACTED]>

Mon 9/27/2021 10:56 AM

To: molliemc8 <[REDACTED]>

Cc: District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>; Phan, Johnny <Johnny.Phan@sanjoseca.gov>; Kline, Kelly <Kelly.Kline@sanjoseca.gov>; Adams-Hapner, Kerry <Kerry.Adams-Hapner@sanjoseca.gov>; Klein, Nanci <Nanci.Klein@sanjoseca.gov>; Johnson, Yasmin <Yasmin.Johnson@sanjoseca.gov>; Keegan, Tina <Tina.Keegan@cityofpaloalto.org>

[External Email]

I am a Disabled artist and I support this request.

I have also been part of the Accessibility committee at the Palo Alto Junior Museum. The PAJM recognized the necessity of involving Disabled community members in planning from the early stages and has found this approach very fruitful. Their commitment to Universal Design is commendable and an example to other project managers.

Universal Design features try to include everyone's needs and support the whole community. For example, preview visitors have given feedback that making as much of the facility wheelchair-accessible as possible means that grandparents with mobility issues can still enjoy a day there with their grandchildren. It isn't just for kids in wheelchairs. The life-size bronze tactile sculptures of wildlife are intended for Blind visitors but all visitors can appreciate them. (What child doesn't want to touch the exhibits?) Improving the acoustics in the main activity area will improve the museum experience for everyone, not just Autistic visitors.

Kind regards,
Kathryn Hedges

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:37 AM Mollie McLeod <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Chair Foley, CED Committee members, and City staff:

I am following up on my request to remove an item from the 9/27 Community and Economic Development Committee [agenda](#) Consent Calendar [Item c1]. I want to make a public comment during the 1:30 pm meeting. I request an addition to the Arts Commission Fiscal Year 2021-22 work plan.

Proposed Work Plan Addition

- Objective 12: Monitor and advise on City's accessibility planning for the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA).
- Actions: Review reports and monitor for disability inclusion and accessibility practices. Provide input on disability inclusion and accessibility best practices

for items coming before the Arts Commission.

- Timeframe: Periodically throughout the year

Why is this important?

It is unclear how OCA is planning for access of/by/for people with disabilities. Ableism and audism are reflected in policies and practices that impose barriers to participation by all. Ramping up a welcoming attitude and making accessibility part of cultural event planning are necessary to bridging differences.

What resources can support this work item?

- Disability Visibility Project, episode 89: Museums
<https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2020/11/01/ep-89-museums/>
- American Alliance of Museums "Four things I learned when I started thinking about museum accessibility" <https://www.aam-us.org/2019/03/08/four-things-i-learned-when-i-started-thinking-about-museum-accessibility/>
- American Alliance of Museums "How to procure digital services with accessibility in mind" <https://www.aam-us.org/2021/02/17/how-to-procure-digital-services-with-accessibility-in-mind/>
- Paul K. Longmore Institute "10 Access blunders the non-disabled make" <https://longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu/ten-access-blunders-nondisabled-make>
- Inclusive City Maker "How to make museums more accessible to people with disabilities" <https://www.inclusivecitymaker.com/how-to-make-museums-more-accessible-for-people-with-disabilities/>
- Rooted in Rights Accessible Media <https://rootedinrights.org/accessible-media-resources/>
- Disability Inclusion Pledge adopted by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation <https://disabilityphilanthropy.org/disability-inclusion-pledge/>

Concluding Thoughts

People with disabilities are part of every demographic and the arts are a way of bridging differences. Right now, there is an exhibit "[Art of Disability Culture](#)" at the Palo Alto Center for the Arts. This is one example of access practices that are becoming more common. Setting objectives and actions, marking progress, making mistakes and learning from them -- these are necessary to #BuildBackBetter.

I am asking the Office of Cultural Affairs and Arts Commission to join me in making our commitment to accessibility and inclusion more transparent. Please add this item to the FY 21-22 work plan.

Warm regards,

Mollie McLeod

she/her

Favorite resource: [#AccessIsLove](#)

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Re: 9/27 CED meeting, Item c1 work plan recommendation

Nancy Cavillones <[REDACTED]>

Mon 9/27/2021 11:42 AM

To: molliemc8 <[REDACTED]>

Cc: District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>; Phan, Johnny <Johnny.Phan@sanjoseca.gov>; Kline, Kelly <Kelly.Kline@sanjoseca.gov>; Adams-Hapner, Kerry <Kerry.Adams-Hapner@sanjoseca.gov>; Klein, Nanci <Nanci.Klein@sanjoseca.gov>; Johnson, Yasmin <Yasmin.Johnson@sanjoseca.gov>

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

[External Email]

Chair Foley, CED Committee members, and City staff

As a deaf person, I am familiar with the ableism and audism that Mollie references in this email. I would love to see OCA adopt intentional measures to address access to the arts and culture for all.

A big thanks to Mollie for her tireless advocacy.

Nancy Cavillones

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Nancy Cavillones

I recognize with gratitude that the land on which I work, live and learn is the traditional and ancestral land of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe. I give thanks for their stewardship.

> On Sep 27, 2021, at 9:37 AM, Mollie McLeod <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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> Chair Foley, CED Committee members, and City staff:

>

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