

Notes from the Special Membership Meeting
AMERICAN CANYON ARTS FOUNDATION
May 14, 2019

The meeting was held at the American Canyon Library Public Meeting Room. President Patti Krueger called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Members Present: Patti Krueger, Patricia Oro, Mark Joseph, Francoise Bowlby, Gloria Fouts, Ari Hood, Robert Johnson, Roberta Labaw, Joey McNaughton, Jonette McNaughton, Joyti Nischal Board members; LaDonna Christoffersen, Bob Harris, Jody Lane, Cherol Ockrassa, Chris Tennyson, members. Chris Clark, guest. ***There was a total of 16 members out of 52 total members, or 31%. A quorum was present.***

Welcome and Background Information. Patti welcomed the group and explained why we were meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Mark gave a brief history of the Arts Foundation and highlighted the current financial condition and membership. He noted our cash reserves have grown in the last five years to over \$16,000, which does not include another \$12,000 in funds earmarked for specific purposes (mostly the Mosaic Art project). Membership has averaged in the high 80's, but currently, we only have 52 members.

Mission Statement: There was discussion about the mission statement. Bob Harris expressed concern that we don't promote local artists enough and that we focus more on kids. Cherol Ockrassa felt we needed to be more specific about how we "promote" local artists. LaDonna asked about the geographic aspects of our mission statement; that is, we talked about the arts in the Bay Area and then focus on promoting local artists—is there a difference? Joyti Nischal suggested the City could offer us space and we can provide classes or programs. Roberta expressed concern that we are lacking enthusiasm.

In general, there did not appear to be a need to make changes to the Mission Statement, although we should clarify what our geographic area of interest is: just American Canyon, Napa/Solano Counties, the North Bay or the entire Bay Area?

Vision Statement: Then we began discussing the Vision Statement. It was noted the term "art center" sounded like a specific location—Mark acknowledged the Vision Statement was prepared when we still had the Gallery. Maybe the term "art community" would be better. Also, there was a question regarding the term "financially rewarding." The concern was that financially was a limiting term—art is more than just financial.

The consensus was that we should replace "center" with "community" and delete "financially."

Values: There was a lot of discussion about the description of the four values.

- a) *Creativity.* It was noted that art should not be limited to visual art, so delete the second half of the second sentence: "...and transfer it to a canvass, sculpture or photograph."
- b) *Collaboration:* There were suggestions about changes in the language to make it more positive.
- c) *Dedication:* The consensus was the wording was very dark and needed to be rewritten.
- d) *Service:* There were suggestions to improve how this value read.

It was suggested Cherol Ockrassa provide draft language to rewrite the value statement portion. Beyond wordsmithing, Cherol wanted to know if we can break out the membership between artists and

others, such as community members, or businesses? Chris wanted to know how we can meet other artists in the area.

Future Goals/Priorities: The membership identified several new and existing priorities.

- a) *Grow our membership.* That could be artists and non-artists. We could track business licenses to see who new artists in the community are. We need to spend money to advertise and promote the Foundation. Along this line, we need to attract younger members, such as high school art students.
- b) *More Shows.* There was some debate over whether there should be juried art shows or not. Mark suggested we have both—a juried show with well-established judges; and then a community show, in which a limited number of entries per artist would be allowed.
- c) *More artwork in local businesses.*
- d) *Bigger fund raisers.* One suggestion was a gala dinner, similar to the Evening at the Ruins or Nimbash.
- e) *More Public Art,* such as our community mosaic project.
- f) *More Arts & Culture.*
- g) *Collaborate with other art groups*—we could invite them to our board meetings as guest speakers; partner with them on bigger regional shows, etc.
- h) *Improve our connections with the high school*—by helping the Art Club on campus, we could be generating future Foundation members.
- i) *Expand beyond visual arts*—include the spoken word or music.

Concluding Remarks. Mark noted he would write up the notes from the meeting and send it out to the membership for comments. We may have a second meeting, more focused on developing a work plan based on the goals/priorities above. Several members noted it takes people to make things happen, which is why expanding our membership is so critical, as well as to engage those members.

Bob Harris noted that Bonnie Waxman could not attend, but provided some written comments, which are attached.

Robert asked how well are other Art Organizations doing? Jody Lane of Vallejo's The Hub, noted they are struggling, but Cherol reported that Fairfield is doing very well. Of course, they have two nice facilities that do not cost them anything! It is a volunteer operation, with 2-3 major art shows per year, and members "docent" 8-10 hours/month.

Patti also announced the Pygmalion Art Contest is back, and the reception will be August 2 at the Welcome Center. Also, we will have two more Mosaic Workshops in June and July, as well as at the Fourth of July.

Cherol suggested art shows at the Welcome Center Gallery should be longer than just one month—perhaps quarterly, with a reception at the end.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

1. Craft shows.
2. Open Studios in artists personal home studios
Not in business's, or stores.
3. Occasional lunch out, for the artist's.
4. Paint outs for artists and friends, local and nearby.
5. Art extravaganzas that are an extravaganza.... Not just a nice little art show.
Get back to the community center where you can get more in. Also I notice that since you started with the "juried shows, each year they have shrunk in size..... hmmm wonder what the reason is???
6. Get rid of that hurtful juried system, that you are all thinking it is so great! . Judging is OK, cause even the not so good art can still join the group and enter the show..they don't have to win something, but just to be able to be a part of the festivities, that's a fun feeling just entering and being with the group....

I know "get over it Bonnie" Well I'm sorry but I cannot forget the feeling that I got when I was told I wasn't good enough for their show. I was a new artist and hesitantly entered a Vallejo Art show in about 1959, to show my art for the first time. Not knowing what I was getting into.

I went to the show and enjoyed the art but couldn't find any of my art and when I asked where it was, they said, "Oh it wasn't accepted and is up on the stage, I went up to the stage, located my art amongst several other losers, picked them up and walked out with my "tail between my legs" and never went back.

None of my art was accepted. No reason why it was not good enough their show. wow what a great way to make money for the club. Hurt peoples feelings, and keep their money.....anyway who cares ??? Just say "Oh get over it"

I know another young new artist that joined OUR club, so she could enter her work, she entered 4 paintings, NONE were good enough for you guys. And as she also walked away with her tail between her legs, She told me.. " I knew I wasn't good enough, I shouldn't have done it." She put out over \$100 to join the club, **OUR CLUB!!** She entered her paintings and got nothing out of it..... And she too didn't come back. Why should she. I know,, Get over it!!! Right???, I'm sorry I couldn't do that to anybody....

I don't care if the big shot art shows are doing that, I don't think of us as Big Shot, I think of us as community..... where everyone is welcome. That was the reason behind this art group in the first place, It was for everyone..... the categories were... Special needs kids, Youth, Beginners, and Professionals.

Also where are all the scrapbooks that were made up of all our earlier shows? They were made for people to look back on, and enjoy, (especially those of us that are not computer savvy), and not to waste away , piled in some box somewhere.

I know.... GET OVER IT BONNIE..... NAH... I don't think so.....☹