



Civic Arts Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 17, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Civic Arts Commission
 Submitted by: Stephanie Johnson, Chairperson, Civic Arts Commission
 Subject: Revision to Berkeley Municipal Code Definition of Art; Amending BMC Section 6.14.010

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance amending Berkeley Municipal Code Section 6.14.010 ("Definitions") regarding the definition of Art.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no fiscal impacts related to this recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Civic Arts Commission recommends that the City Council update the definition of Art within the Municipal Code to bring it into alignment with current practices in the field of contemporary art. This will enable the Commission to support a broader range of work than is specified in the current definition.

At the January 28, 2015 Civic Arts Commission monthly meeting, the Commissioners voted to support this request. "Approval of Recommendation to Council: Revised Definition of Art in the Municipal Code" M/SC (Anno/Robertson), Ayes: 8, Noes: 0, Abstentions, 0, Absent 0, (One Vacant Seat): Commissioners Johnson, Teruya, Robertson, Anno, Stahl, Lovvorn, Henderson, Stross.

BACKGROUND

The definition of Art currently contained within the Berkeley Municipal Code, Section 6.14.010 reads as follows:

B. "Work of art" includes, but is not limited to, functional art integrated into public improvements, a sculpture, monument, mural, painting, fountain, banner, mosaic, weaving, stained glass, multi-media, computer-generated art, and earth art.

Proposed Changes: "Work of art" is an original work by an artist and includes, but is not limited to functional art integrated into public improvements, a sculpture, monument, mural, painting, drawing, photography, fountain, banner, mosaic, weaving, ~~stained~~ art glass, multi-media, computer-generated art, electronic and media art, video, and earth

art, installation art, performance and time based works of visual art, and social practice art.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental effects related to this recommendation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The definition of Art currently contained within the Berkeley Municipal Code, dates to the inception of the “Visual Art in Public Places” legislation (June 30, 1985). In the almost thirty years since the adoption of this legislation practices in the field of art have continued to evolve. These more recent practices are now established within the art world, exhibited at museums internationally and taught as disciplines at the college level.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager generally supports the content and recommendations of the Commission’s report. However, the Council may wish to ask the Commission to establish a more clear definition of “social practice art” prior to adoption.

CONTACT PERSON

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Stephanie Johnson, Chair, Civic Arts Commission, (510) 981-7533

Attachment:

1. Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 6.14.010 REGARDING
DEFINITION OF ART

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Section 6.14.010.B of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

"Work of art" is an original work by an artist and includes, but is not limited to, functional art integrated into public improvements, ~~a~~ sculpture, monument, mural, painting, drawing, photography, fountain, banner, mosaic, weaving, ~~stained-art~~ glass, multi-media, computer-generated art, electronic and media art, video, and earth art, installation art, performance and time based works of visual art, and social practice art.

Section 2. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

