



# City of Santa Barbara

## DE LA GUERRA PLAZA REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA JUNE 3, 2022

8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

This meeting will be conducted in-person in the David Gebhard Room at 630 Garden Street, and electronically as described below.  
[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### City Council

Kristen Sneddon *Chair*  
Meagan Harmon

#### Planning Commission

Lesley Wiscomb *Vice Chair*  
Sheila Lodge

#### Historic Landmarks

##### Commission

Michael Drury  
Steve Hausz

#### Parks and Recreation

##### Commission

Beebe Longstreet  
Kathy McGill

#### Santa Barbara Certified

##### Farmers' Market

Sam Edelman

#### Santa Barbara Trust for

##### Historic Preservation

Anne Petersen, Ph.D.

### ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

None

### STAFF:

Brad Hess, Principal Project Manager  
Beth Anna Cornett, Project Planner  
Lia Monaco, Administrative Assistant

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## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sneddon opened the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

### I. ROLL CALL

**Kristen Sneddon, Lesley Wiscomb, Sheila Lodge, Meagan Harmon, Michael Drury, Steve Hausz, Beebe Longstreet, Kathy McGill, Sam Edelman, and Anne Petersen, Ph.D,**

Absent: Sam Edelman

Meagan Harmon arrived late at approximately 8:50 and left early at 10:03 am.

### STAFF PRESENT

Brad Hess, Principal Project Manager  
Lia Monaco, Administrative Assistant

### INVITED SPEAKERS

Lief McKay, RRM Design Group  
Debbie Rudd, RRM Design Group

### II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Announcements

No announcements were made.

B. Agenda Review/Changes

No changes.

III. **AGENDA ITEMS**

**TIME: 8:37 AM**

- A. Feedback from the joint work meeting with Historic Landmarks Commission on April 22, 2022. Vice Chair Wiscomb added a comment stating that the restroom design was supported as well as the location.
- B. Discussion of the parameters for Art in the Plaza and for the Art Sub-committee to implement for the Plaza.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment opened at 8:37 AM and no individuals spoke. Kevin Show attended.

V. **COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS**

Committee Member Discussion and Questions opened at 8:54 A.M.

The Committee was asked to answer two questions for each location considered:

- A. Should this location contain art?
- B. What are the parameters for the art in this location?

1. **Water Feature**

- All agreed this location should have art and should be a focal point.
- The shape of the space will be changed to be a circular placeholder for submittal because it is more generic and doesn't influence the style of the art.
- All agreed this could be a good location for Chumash art
- The art should be timeless
- Materials should be resilient and foot friendly
- This will be a focal point so the art should be integrated into space
- There was general discussion about the placement and style of the seating around the perimeter, and agreement that this should be further considered after the art concept has been developed.
  
- Location vote was taken between the existing location and moving it to the middle.
  - The results were 8 to 1 to leave it where it is.

2. **Center Surface Area Inside Brick Band**

- All agreed this space is for interpretive or informational art, not creative art.

**3. Street of Spain Extension**

- All agreed this space is for interpretive or informational art, not creative art.

**4. Stage: Extension off of the arcade/structure**

- All agreed the stage should not be a place for art but the stair risers would be ideal for tile modeled after the Courthouse. This tile should complement, but not necessarily match, the tile on the raised tree wells.

**5. Blocks/Shapes for Family Area: Seating/Playing**

- All but two Committee members agreed this location would be appropriate for art.
- There was general agreement that the objects should be organic in shape or material;
- Art within the shape, on top or on the side of the object could be interesting (suggestions included a tile ribbon, or etched words).
- Santa Barbara has a tradition of decorating boulders.

**6. Banding Around Tree Walls**

- All agreed that the banding would be appropriate for Spanish or Mexican tile resembling the stair riser tile for the stage
- The tile details at the Courthouse are a good example of what would be appropriate.
- All agreed that this location should not be a space for creative art
- Color and subtle

**7. Medallion Inlay Concept**

- All agreed this concept is ideal for art.
- The red dots in the plan could provide opportunity for many options or themes. These provide an opportunity for a few, or a lot of different artists to participate.
- There are three primary entry points for the red dots (both ends of De La Guerra Street, plus Storke Placita), each should relate and draw people into the plaza. Each one could potentially tell a different story.
- It was suggested that the red dots could potentially lead to the bubbler/art feature instead of the yellow dots.
- The Yellow dots provide another opportunity. The sizes and/or materials could or should be consistent;
- Yellow dots could also be considered as locations for temporary art installations/displays.
- It was recommended to keep the four in center and the one closest to Storke Placita;

**8. Infrastructure to Support Future Visual Expression Options**

Different types of cables will be installed within the lighting infrastructure to accommodate future visual expressions for the Plaza.

**9. Infrastructure to Support Future Performing Expression Options**

Infrastructure will be included in the design for the stage and potentially throughout the Plaza to facilitate future performing expression options.

**10. General Comments and Discussion**

- The term “timeless” was used throughout the discussion. That was clarified to mean “not trendy”, or “not of today”.

- One committee member expressed a desire for a location that allows the art community to “play”, with more whimsical art.
- One committee member expressed the importance of not losing sight of Hispanic references/influences in the art.
- Several committee members preferred to defer judgments on color until more contextual information was available to them.

Committee Member Discussion and Questions closed at 10:08 A.M.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment

**VI. NEXT STEPS**

**TIME: 10:09**

Mr. Hess discussed the City’s process for the Plaza going through the particular steps beyond the Pre-Application Review Team submittal. Additionally, Mr. Hess outlined the multiple reports, studies and plans that are part of the Planning Application Submittal that will continue to be developed as part of this project’s development.

Mr. Hess outlined the logic of the formation of the Art Subcommittee and asked the Advisory Committee if the three members currently on the Art Subcommittee are still interested in being on the Subcommittee, and if the Advisory Committee would approach the membership of the Subcommittee differently. After discussion that included input from Sarah York Rubin, the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County office of Arts and Culture the Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee recommended the Art Subcommittee meet to discuss the approach recommended to assess the art locations, themes, materials, etc. The Art Subcommittee will bring those recommendations back to the Advisory Committee.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sneddon adjourned the meeting at 10:59 A.M.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

TBD