



CITY OF SEBASTOPOL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF: July 22, 2025

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To: Public Art Committee Members
From: Tori Henkel, Permit Technician

Subject: Authorization for Chair to Sign Letter to City Council
(Item continued from July 8th meeting)

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Recommendation:

That the Public Arts Committee consider providing direction to the Chair to sign a letter to the City Council requesting support and attendance at future Public Art events, and to seek clarification regarding public art obligations related to the Barlow Hotel development.

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Executive Summary:

This agenda item recommends that the Public Arts Committee (PAC) authorize the Chair to send formal correspondence to the City Council regarding two key issues:

- Council support and attendance at upcoming PAC-sponsored events; and
- Clarification on the public art component and associated funding from the Barlow Hotel development project.

Background:

The Public Arts Committee regularly organizes and supports community-facing events and public art dedications. In the past, these events have not been well attended by members of the City Council. City Council attendance at these events demonstrates leadership support for the arts and helps foster community engagement, civic pride, and public appreciation of local artists, as well as appreciation of the work of the Public Arts Committee. Council presence also reinforces the City's commitment to culture and creativity as public values.

Additionally, the Committee seeks to understand the details of the approved development agreement for the Barlow Hotel project, specifically with respect to any public art obligations or contributions outlined in that agreement. The PAC would like clarification on the process and decisions made.

Discussion:

The Committee is requesting that the City Council:

- Attend and support public art events organized or co-sponsored by the Public Arts Committee. The presence of Councilmembers at such events provides vital civic endorsement and encourages broader community participation.
- Clarify details regarding the Barlow Hotel development agreement.

Authorizing the Committee Chair to send a formal letter to City Council ensures that these requests are formally communicated, supports greater collaboration between Council and the PAC, and promotes transparency with the public regarding arts-related development agreements.