

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, October 11, 2007

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, 2007, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Horn presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Horn, Vice President Bechtle, Trustee Bashford, Trustee Davis, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Myatt, Trustee Shultz and Trustee Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis;

Absent: Trustee Jarman, Trustee Moscone, and Trustee Pelosi.

Staff Present: Gregory Ridenour, Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Horn called for approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2007 regular meeting of the Board. On motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Trustee Farrow, the minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

San Francisco Opera at AT&T Park: President Horn congratulated the San Francisco Opera on their tremendously successful simulcast presentation of *Samson and Delilah* – live from the Opera House via satellite to AT&T Park on September 28, 2007. The Opera reported that despite chilly weather, more than 15,000 fans attended this first-time event that was enjoyed by all.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rental Requests: Mr. Ridenour reported that rental requests as mailed to Trustees are routine and requested their approval. On motion of Trustee Farrow, seconded by Trustee Shultz, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-38

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the following rental requests are hereby approved:

WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

San Francisco Ballet Christensen Society Luncheon	December 3, 2007	\$1,100.00
Presidio Performing Arts Foundation Two matinee dance performances for SFUSD audiences	May 5, 2008	\$3,000.00
Theatre Council Productions An Evening with David Sedaris	October 27, 2008	\$2,100.00 vs. 10% \$6,000.00 maximum

HERBST THEATRE

UCSF School of Dentistry Graduation Ceremony	June 14, 2008	\$630.00
City Arts & Lectures On Art & Politics 2008	January 9, 16, 17, 28, 2008 February 12, 21, 27, 2008 April 1, 7, 8, 16, 2008 May 21, 2008	\$6,930.00
San Francisco Opera Center Meet the Adlers	February 9, 2008	\$630.00
Iglesia de Jesucristo Restauracion Proclama 2008	December 31, 2007	\$630.00
Rrazz Productions, Inc. Miss Nancy Wilson in Concert	January 19, 2008	\$1,100.00
Rrazz Productions, Inc An Evening with the Original Stars of DOO-WOP	March 8, 2008	\$1,100.00
Department of Human Services Employee Recognition Event	January 9, 2008	\$650.00

Additional Rental Requests: Mr. Ridenour reported that additional rental requests as submitted are routine and requested their approval. On motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Vic President Bechtle, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-39

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the following additional rental requests are hereby approved:

HERBST THEATRE

Paiz Public Relations How We First Met	February 14, 2008	\$1,100.00
Geographic Expeditions Conversation with Pico Iyer and Don George	April 28, 2008	\$630.00
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea Feel the Soul of Korea, vocal recital	December 4, 2007	\$630.00

Trustee Myatt inquired as to how Trustees know if rental requests submitted for approval are consistent with the War Memorial's charter. He stated that staff often presents rental requests as "routine," and Trustees are not informed as to what organizations they are supporting or benefiting in their consideration of rental requests. Trustee Myatt made reference to an upcoming event in the Herbst Theatre, presumably approved by the Board at a previous meeting, which will benefit an anti-military organization. He said he would not want to be on record as supporting a rental use of the War Memorial Veterans Building for an event that benefits an anti-military organization, as he feels this would be inconsistent with the intent of the War Memorial, which is to serve as a memorial to veterans.

President Horn stated that the War Memorial buildings are municipally owned, and the fact that the War Memorial rents its facilities to persons or organizations who qualify under the requirements of our license agreement is not meant to be interpreted as an endorsement of those persons or organizations by the Board or the City. Following discussion, President Horn asked staff to review the various City Attorney opinions that have been issued concerning the War Memorial Complex and the War Memorial Board of Trustees' administration of the War Memorial Trust Agreement for any relevant references or clarification concerning rental uses of the War Memorial facilities.

San Francisco War Memorial –75th Anniversary: Mr. Ridenour reported that this fall marks the 75th anniversary of the San Francisco War Memorial, noting that the ceremonial dedication of the War Memorial complex took place on September 9, 1932; the War Memorial Opera House opened on October 15, 1932, with a production of Puccini's *Tosca* under the direction of San Francisco Opera's first General Director Gaetano Merola; and the War Memorial Veterans Building opened on Armistice Day, November 11, 1932.

Mr. Ridenour stated that in recognition and celebration of this milestone, the War Memorial and the Performing Arts Library & Museum have planned and prepared a 75th Anniversary Exhibition to be installed in the Veterans Building main lobby from October 15 through November 17, 2007. He stated that the exhibit will include memorabilia and artifacts from the War Memorial's archives installed in display cases and wall niches; enlarged photographs of the construction and opening of the War Memorial mounted on lobby columns; and a 10-15 minute slide presentation depicting the background of, and the historic events that have taken place in, the San Francisco War Memorial. Mr. Ridenour thanked the staff of the Performing Arts Library & Museum for their generous assistance in the development and installation of the exhibit.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Revenue, Appropriations and Status of Building Projects Reports for September 2007: Mr. Ridenour referred to the Revenue, Appropriations, and Status of Building Projects Reports for September 2007, and requested a resolution to approve housekeeping expenditures as submitted. On motion of Trustee Myatt, seconded by Trustee Shultz, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-40

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that Purchase Order Nos. WM0800111 through WM08000001 and Revenue Transfer No. RAWM08000015 are hereby approved.

REGULAR ITEMS

Arts Commission Gallery – Request to Install “Test Garden” Display in front of Veteran Building:

President Horn stated that Trustees have received a copy of the letter from the San Francisco Arts Commission requesting to install a temporary “Native Plant Demonstration Garden” in a portion of the grassy area at the northeast corner of the Veterans Building frontage, from November 9 through December 22, 2007, in conjunction with the simultaneous community-interactive art exhibition “The Mission Greenbelt Headquarters” in the Art Commission Gallery. President Horn stated that as described in the Arts Commission's letter, the proposed exhibit would use an approximate 10” x 13” portion of the grassy area, where the grass would be removed and in which a series of 3’ square plots would be created including 3-4 test gardens and 3-4 squares of decomposed granite. He noted that the Arts Commission Gallery would be responsible for all security and maintenance of the exhibit while in place, and would be responsible for returning and restoring the grass area to its original condition following the exhibit.

Arts Commission Gallery Director Meg Shiffler addressed the Board and introduced Amber Hasselbring, artist of the *Mission Greenbelt* exhibit. Ms. Shiffler stated the project is a community-based, urban earth artwork that proposes a new green corridor that will connect sidewalk gardens created by residents and businesses with schoolyard gardens and parks in the Mission District. The project will include various displays and public

events including a Mission youth planting day, a sidewalk landscaping workshop, and tours of the proposed Mission Greenbelt. Ms. Shiffler stated that the Gallery and the exhibit artist will work with War Memorial staff to ensure the successful installation of the gardens and restoration of the grass area following the exhibit.

Mr. Ridenour stated that staff has met with the Arts Commission Gallery on exhibit details, and that staff is recommending approval of the Arts Commission's request.

Following discussion, and on motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Trustee Myatt, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-41

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that it hereby approves the request of the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery to install a native plant demonstration garden exhibit in front of the Veterans Building from November 9 through December 22, 2007.

Resolution commending Arthur Pose on his retirement: Mr. Ridenour reported that Arthur Pose, who has worked at the War Memorial for the last 8-½ years as Administrative Services Manager, retired on September 28, 2007. On motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Trustee Davis, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-42

Whereas, **Arthur Lindo Pose** retired with distinction on September 28, 2007, after twenty-two years of service to the City and County of San Francisco, including serving as Administrative Services Manager for the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center for eight and one-half years; and

Whereas, Art, is a native of the Philippines, where he obtained degrees in Accounting and Marketing; and

Whereas, Art, after coming to San Francisco in 1972 and working in his field in the private sector, began working for the City and County of San Francisco in increasingly responsible positions first for the Controller, then the Registrar of Voters/Department of Elections, and then the War Memorial; and

Whereas, Art, has been a dedicated assistant to the Managing Director in maintaining the fiscal integrity and reputation of the War Memorial department; and

Whereas, Art's efforts have contributed to the War Memorial's mission of operating and maintaining the historically and architecturally significant buildings that make up the War Memorial as part of San Francisco's Civic Center, for the safety and comfortable enjoyment of the over one million visitors who attend events here each year; and

Whereas, Art has supported his co-workers with calm assistance and direction, and perpetual good humor; now Therefore Be It

Resolved, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco to hereby thank and commend **Art Pose** for his outstanding and dedicated service to the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, its licensees and patrons, and extend to him heartfelt best wishes in his new endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LeRue Grim, a member of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, stated that the Commission is actively discussing issues related to veterans' current and projected future needs for space in the Veterans Building, and will be making disclosures in the next few days. He said that he and the Commission look forward to working with the War Memorial Trustees and staff in representing the best interests of veterans.

Wallace Levin, County Veterans Service Officer, Vice President of the Veterans Affairs Commission, and Commander of American Legion Post #244, addressed the Board about his concerns that some of the exhibits in the Arts Commission Gallery on the first floor of the Veterans Building have content that may not be suitable for young children and may not be appropriate for installation in a building that serves as a memorial to veterans. Mr. Levin requested that the Arts Commission be asked to consider these concerns in the selection of Gallery exhibits.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Horn adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Gregory P. Ridenour
Executive Secretary