

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 16, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Erinna Nong, Cultural Affairs Intern

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Cultural Affairs Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023

Vice Chair O'Carroll received agreement from Commissioners to add the following language to paragraph 2 on page 6: "Questions were posed to Christina Burrows by the CAC. Vice Chair O'Carroll asked if she could return to the January meeting with answers to the questions. She stated that there was not enough time.", and that on page 7 in paragraph 2, line 12, language be added after "developer options" to indicate: "including their fee going to Performing Arts instead of Public Art."

Commissioner Fleischer pointed out a typographical error that staff agreed to correct.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that staff would ensure clarity while making the requested changes.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2023 AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, MESGHALI, O'CARROLL, WISNOSKY STEHLIN
ABSTAIN: WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Update from Culver City Artist Laureate Katy Krantz on Projects and Activities for 2024; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, provided a presentation on projects and events with photographs; discussed "*Dear Culver City...*"; word gathering and clay stamping; ongoing events; ceramic pinch pots; prototypes; the process; seniors who are helping with the glazing; poetry collaboration; 11029 Washington Boulevard temporary mural installation; outreach to adjacent businesses; potential mosaic work in the trapezoids; community engagement; the sign painter and muralist; survey responses; activation of the building; Phase 2; most popular words suggested; and involving the community in the process.

Discussion ensued between Katy Krantz, staff, and Commissioners regarding appreciation to Katy Krantz for her efforts and for engagement with seniors; the poetry component; creation of a book; participation of poets in an opening event; details of the "*Dear Culver City...*" project; collaboration with Laureates in other cities; appreciation for hiring the sign painter; insurance; appreciation for the vision and problem solving of the Artist Laureate; the timeline for the 11029 Washington project; the difficulty of sharing one's process in a public fashion; protecting the art from vandalism; security; appreciation for the new mock-up; interest in placing mosaic in the trapezoids; appreciation for the organization and communication of the Artist Laureate; matching the original lettering; weather concerns; using the space for a hands-on studio; funding for a documentary about the process by the Culver City Arts Foundation; community support; and appreciation for the presentation.

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Item A-2

(1) Creation of an Ad Hoc Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Subcommittee; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to the Ad Hoc Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, pointed out an error in the attachment to the staff report that referred to the 2023 Performing Arts Grant Program instead of the 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program.

Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record; he discussed submissions; and workload.

Jill Thomsen, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, discussed the application process; applications received; diversity of entertainment provided; the ranking process; appreciation for potential assistance with applications; the value of other perspectives; traditional City marketing; and the value of Commissioner outreach.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the budget; the ability to attract popular performers; participation by Culver City residents; community groups; the Performing Arts Grant Program (PAG) ; the role of the Subcommittee in Fiesta La Ballona; keeping Fiesta La Ballona performers separate from PAG recipients; having the Committee pick all the artists; whether to let the PAG Subcommittee insert acts; PAG recipients that have performed at Fiesta in the past; the timeline; Commissioner workload; initial sorting of applications by genre; comparisons within genres; level of Commission involvement; length of the Fiesta; number of musical acts booked; dance acts on the community stage; staggering acts to keep entertainment going; the hula dancers; making the application process more rigorous; types of entertainment; the PAG process;; finding the right fit for the right venue; the limited number of slots available; consideration on a case-by-case basis; an incident with an applicant that applied to play at Fiesta and it did not work out; grantees that want to perform at Fiesta; difficulty with timing of the PAG applications; Commissioner willingness to serve on the subcommittee; ideas

for changes; support for an initial culling of applications by staff; length of the videos; the Summer Sunset Concert Series; Commissioner expertise; and the allowable number of Commissioners on the subcommittee.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CREATE AN AD HOC FIESTA LA BALLONA ENTERTAINMENT SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI THERETO FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

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Item A-3

(1) Review and Discussion of Biannual Report of Cultural Affairs Commission Activities; and, (2) Authorization for Transmittal to City Council

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, thanked Vice Chair O'Carroll for reminder to include participation in the Five-Year Countdown to the Olympics event on July 22, 2023 by Vice Chair O'Carroll and Commissioner Fleischer in the report; ; and noted the document was due for submission to the City Clerk by January 29, 2024.

Vice Chair O'Carroll proposed adding the following language to the report: "Commissioners Fleischer and O'Carroll, along with Cultural Affairs Manager Christine Byers, attended the Five-Year Countdown to the Olympics event on July 22, 2023 at Veterans Memorial Building. They met with community members to hear input on cultural ideas and events during the Olympics.", and she noted the need to add language after the first sentence on page 3, under the APPP Ordinance Update to clarify that the Commission cannot forward revisions to the City Council until hearing back from the City Attorney.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding potential language to add to clarify the situation; timing of the item; the need to get questions answered in order to make revisions; and a suggestion to add language indicating that CAC will receive answers from the City Attorney to the questions previously posed and make revisions for additional review by the City Attorney for future recommendation to the City Council.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding work done on the update from July - December 2023; agreement to amend the second sentence on page one to indicate that the Commission had posed relevant questions to the Deputy City Attorney; the importance of keeping the report concise; agreement to add the work of the PAG Subcommittee on the Summer Sunset Concert Series to both sections; references to the Olympics and the new Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Subcommittee; continuing work to provide input on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) amendment for the Culver City Arts Foundation; the creative economy and cultural plan; and staff agreement to update the document as discussed and transmit to the City Clerk to be forwarded to the City Council.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO CITY COUNCIL AS AMENDED.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that the new 3rd edition of the red books (Downtown Cultural Walking Tours) were available for distribution; discussed an upcoming meeting with the City's Communications Manager to promote the update of the red books; distribution to hotels; distribution by the Culver City Historical Society; upcoming music and dance performances as part of the Performing Arts Grant program; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Day of Service; adoption of the new ordinance with the amended powers and duties of the CAC; noted that it was the last meeting for Cultural Affairs Intern Erinna Nong; and she indicated that

there would not be another intern for 2024, but the City was applying to other appropriate fellowship programs for 2024.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed his work with Katy Krantz on a temporary mural art project; the new video created by Nate Mohler for *Culver Current*; the public art component of the Farragut Connector project; and collections management.

Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager, discussed efforts to fill the Cultural Affairs Manager position.

Chair Williams thanked Erinna Nong for her work.

Erinna Nong, Cultural Affairs Intern, expressed appreciation for the guidance.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin wished everyone a Happy New Year; thanked Cultural Affairs Intern Erinna Nong for her work; indicated that she would be at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Project Homekey volunteer event as well as the annual retreat for Culver Arts; and she indicated that she was working on the Summer Sunset Concert Series with Commissioner Fleischer.

Vice Chair O'Carroll thanked Cultural Affairs Intern Erinna Nong for her work and Cultural Affairs Analyst Sam Lee for his update; wished everyone a Happy New Year; and she was looking forward to attending the Kontrapunktus concert on January 19.

Commissioner Fleischer wished everyone a Happy New Year; thanked Cultural Affairs Intern Erinna Nong for her work; she questioned why another intern was not being hired; indicated that she would also be attending Kontrapunktus; discussed activating the area; and early planning for the Summer Sunset Concert series.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the application process; City staffing capacity to manage the position; the application deadline; the ability to apply for an intern for 2025; sponsorship of an intern by the Cultural Trust Fund; the LA County Arts Internship program; classification of interns as staff members; compensation; the hiring process; work involved with having an intern; providing an educational experience; the grant process; limitations involved with the LA County Arts Internship program; potential for a fellowship program; exit interviews; other organizations

that have not applied for the program due to the complex process; and potential need to bring in short-term help for the PAG process.

Commissioner Mesghali indicated that he would be attending a tour of archived work at the Getty Research Institute and an Art Iran exhibit at the Kraft Contemporary.

Chair Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year; indicated that she would also be attending Kontrapunktus; and noted that she would participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service for Project Homekey.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:55 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

BRENDA WILLIAMS

CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date