

Culver CITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor McMorris and Members of the City Council of the City of Culver City

FROM: Cultural Affairs Commission [Chair Brenda Williams; Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll; Members Tania Fleischer, Ehsaan Mesghali, and Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin]

SUBJECT: **2024 Accomplishments and 2024 Proposed Activity and Upcoming Agenda Items for the Next Six Months**

CC: John Nachbar, City Manager
Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager

On July 16, 2024, the Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC) approved the transmittal of the following information to the City Council:

Cultural Affairs Commission Accomplishments (January 1 – June 30, 2024):

- **Art in Public Places Program:** Public Art Subcommittee and CAC reviewed applications for new permanent artworks and other City art projects, including:
 - New Permanent Public Artwork as part of the Farragut Connector
 - Consideration of a Permanent Art Concert for 3550 Hayden Avenue
 - Consideration of artwork color for “Culver Trees” by Marc Fornes at The Culver Steps
 - Consideration of Deaccession of Permanent Artwork “Sentry” by John Okulick at 4040 Duquesne Avenue

- **APPP Ordinance Update:**
 - CAC conducted detailed review of CCMC language pertaining to the Art in Public Places Program (APPP) and discussed updates. The goal of proposed updates is to ensure that Culver City’s program will be aligned with best practices and will fulfill the current needs of the community.
 - CAC received a report from Deputy City Attorney Christina Burrows, regarding the history of the APPP Ordinance, risk assessments, nexus studies, legal guidance regarding court opinions, and similar public art programs within Los Angeles County.

- **Artist Laureate Program:**
 - “*Dear Culver City...*”: Katy Krantz finalized and installed a participatory ceramics art project on the gates at City Hall. The project included creation of a book of poems. CAC participated in the opening reception and met with constituents, community, and poets. [Please watch this video about the reception and exhibition on Culver City’s YouTube channel.](#)
 - Temporary Art Project at 11029 Washington Blvd: CAC supported the mural painting by Katy Krantz.
 - CAC received a report from Cultural Affairs Manager regarding the status of the next Artist Laureate recruitment. CAC approved a change to the program timeline so that it would be aligned with City’s fiscal year in future.
- **Commission Business:** CAC members participated in recruitment and interviews for new staff. CAC met individually with incoming Cultural Affairs Manager, Sally Unsworth, to discuss onboarding and Commission priorities.
- **Creative Economy and Cultural Plan:** Subcommittee participated in creative cluster group meeting organized by Economic Development staff. CAC continues to plan stakeholder activities and events and development of a new Cultural Plan to include a Public Art Master Plan.
- **Cultural Affairs Division:** CAC received report and presentation regarding status updates for the FY 2023-24 Cultural Affairs Work Plan, and Work Plan priorities for FY 2024-25. CAC provided comments to staff regarding the Work Plans. CAC received a report from incoming Cultural Affairs Manager, Sally Unsworth, regarding upcoming projects, staffing, budgets, and recommendations.
- **Culver City Arts Foundation (Culver Arts):** Culver City Arts Foundation Liaison Subcommittee attended Board meetings and Annual Retreat. Commissioners attended community events hosted by CulverArts, received updates, and provided feedback about activities and proposed projects.
- **Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Applications:** CAC formed a new Ad Hoc Subcommittee to serve in an advisory capacity for entertainment at Fiesta La Ballona. The Subcommittee met with PRCS staff to review large number of applications from performance groups. CAC provided suggestions and expertise to inform the selection process.
- **Live Music:** CAC 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program Ad Hoc Subcommittee met with Special Events Manager Edgar Varela regarding the 2024 Summer Sunset Music Series. Commissioners made suggestions for performers, provided comments regarding prior concerts, and shared community feedback.

- **Olympics in 2028:** CAC members and staff attended a group meeting to discuss the Olympics. Also in attendance were two members of the City Council, other CBC Subcommittees, and representatives of related arts and cultural organizations. CAC provided input on ideas and events during the Olympics.
- **Outreach and Community Engagement:** As appropriate, CAC participates in targeted outreach and attends cultural activities, exhibitions, panel presentations, and sponsored performances in Culver City.
- **Performing Arts Grant Program:** CAC regularly attends and supports grant-funded performances. CAC monitors grants and provided guidance on eligibility and compliance.

Cultural Affairs Commission Activities Plan (July 1 – December 31, 2024):

- **Art in Public Places Program:** Continue review of applications for new artworks in conjunction with private development. Public Art Subcommittee and CAC will continue work on art component of Farragut Connector, Washington/National TOD project, The Culver Steps project, deaccession, and other art projects and concept proposals in connection with development throughout the city. Continue consideration of Deaccession of Permanent Artwork “Sentry” by John Okulick at 4040 Duquesne Avenue.
- **APPP Ordinance Update:** CAC will continue to consider revisions to the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance to align with current community needs. CAC will review information provided at prior meetings and will propose ordinance revisions. These suggestions will be sent to the City Attorney, for future recommendation to the City Council.
- **Artist Laureate Program:** Receive updates and provide continuing support for Artist Laureate Katy Krantz. Commence planning and recruitment of new Artist Laureate for 2025-2026.
- **Commission Business:** CAC will welcome a new Commissioner, will elect officers, and will assign members to Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees for FY 2024-2025.
- **Community Cultural Plan Update:** CAC will work with staff to develop a Community Cultural Plan that aligns with the General Plan update and includes a Public Art Master Plan.
- **Creative Economy Activities:** Subcommittee will continue to work with Cultural Affairs and Economic Development staff on stakeholder activities and events. CAC will consider ways to integrate art in storefronts, businesses, construction sites, etc.

- **Culver City Arts Foundation**: Continue liaison activities and support for Culver Arts.
- **Historic Preservation Program Update**: CAC will work with staff to update program as included in the CCMC.
- **Live Music**: CAC will attend Summer Sunset Music Series concerts in July and August at The Culver Steps and will be available to greet the audiences. CAC will consider feasibility for reinstating musical performances in the City Council Chambers or expansion to the program.
- **Olympics in 2028**: CAC's Ad Hoc Olympics 2028 Subcommittee will participate in planning and activities as determined by the City Council Olympics Subcommittee.
- **Outreach and Community Engagement**: As appropriate, CAC participates in outreach about various programs and attends cultural activities in Culver City.
- **Performing Arts Grant Program**:
 - CAC regularly attends and supports grant-funded performances.
 - Subcommittee will provide support for drafting of guidelines, consideration of eligibility criteria, and preparations for incoming applications. Subcommittee will provide support for the independent evaluation of grant applications, determine appropriate levels of grant funding based on panel scores, and make recommendations to the City Council. (September and October 2024)
 - CAC will consider recommendations of the Subcommittee at the November 2024 Regular Meeting and will prepare corresponding recommendations to City Council regarding 2025 grant awards.