

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION,
CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA

January 8, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marla Koosed
Commissioner Michelle Bernardin
Commissioner Regina Klein
Commissioner John B. Williams

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Julie Lugo Cerra.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2012

Vice Chair Koosed received clarification regarding items read into the record and their inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Klein requested that additional specificity be added to the minutes regarding her comments on *Rainbow* and her expressions of gratitude.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSSED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2012 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Town Hall Meeting

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, provided background on the item.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, thanked Janice Pober of Sony Pictures Entertainment and discussed the 2012 Performing Arts Grant Program; *Music in the Chambers*; *Speak Easy*; *Made in Culver City*; and the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, discussed the Art in Public Places Program; the Art in Public Places ordinance; maintenance issues with public art; temporary art installations in the City; an update to the Cultural Plan; the elimination of redevelopment; additional responsibilities taken on by staff; and resources and the needs of the community.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding updating the Cultural Plan; a request for public input; the 2013 Performing Arts Grant Program; and the Veterans Memorial Building.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, discussed continuing programs in 2013; the update to the Art in Public Places ordinance; the Historic Preservation Program; new art as well as maintenance of older artworks commissioned through the Art in Public Places Program; and the Community Cultural Plan.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSSED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION OPEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE TOWN

HALL MEETING.

Chair Smashey invited public participation.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Beau Alexander, Maxwell Alexander Gallery, reported that the gallery had opened in November; discussed walk-in traffic; the cancellation of *ARTWALK Culver City* due to budget constraints; and he suggested establishing an independent art walk and street fair.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and Mr. Alexander regarding staff support for such events; encouragement to Mr. Alexander to contact staff for further discussion; art walk benefits to surrounding businesses; installing public art on the medians along Washington Boulevard in the Culver City Art District; temporary art installations; works of art on loan; insurance; purchasing and maintaining art; gallery networking to create an art walk focusing on visual arts;; and a suggestion that artists represented in Culver City galleries also be represented in the City's Art in Public Places Program.

Commissioner Klein reported on the ArtPlace Awards and communities that have risen above the impacts of the elimination of redevelopment agencies in California.

Henry Ikemiya, Gramercy York, discussed ways to increase foot traffic with other businesses; downtown vs. the Culver City Art District; ways to light up the street; and the amount of retail in the City.

Cara Adams, Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, provided information on the hours they are open to the public; invited everyone to come visit; wanted to make sure their monthly movies get listed on the City's community calendar; announced a screening of musical shorts on January 26; and she was encouraged that many things were happening in the City.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, discussed the elimination of redevelopment; defending art; and he announced the next concert on February 23 at Veterans Auditorium.

Heidi Dotson, Culver City Public Theatre, announced the schedule of free theatre at Dr. Paul Carlson Park for 2013.

Louise Coffey-Webb provided an overview of Culver City Historical Society programming and activities for 2012 as well as upcoming events, and she reported that they were in need of recording equipment, sound equipment and a projector.

Donna Stein, The Wende Museum, discussed City Council approval for the lease of The Armory; architectural and landscaping plans; signing the formal lease; and she summarized programming and accomplishments for 2012 noting that their next opening would be February 6.

Arleen Chikami discussed the mission and goals of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation and she encouraged donations.

Leslie Jones, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation, welcomed collaboration with retail establishments in the City to promote culture in the City.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners, staff and Ms. Chikami regarding the 2012 fundraiser, Donate and Dine; participation by businesses; outreach; fundraising collaborations between performing arts events and restaurant events; *Speak Easy*; and the Culver Events Center.

Simon Hanna, The Actors' Gang, discussed their use of the Veterans Memorial Building for rehearsal and workshop space and he encouraged others to use it as well; wrapping up a successful year and fundraising campaign; a new partnership being announced soon; their educational and outreach program; a five-year project developed by the Youth Policy Institute; after school programs for students; a pro bono partnership with a local marketing firm; collaboration with local businesses; and upcoming events.

Samantha Frank, Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), introduced this organization which focuses on site-specific venues and performances, and she provided contact information for anyone interested in collaborating with them.

Chair Smashey expressed gratitude to Ms. Frank for coming to the meeting.

Sophia Cesaro, LA><ART, provided background on the organization and discussed upcoming events.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, discussed previous installations by LA><ART in Culver City.

Alexandra Grant discussed an art project she was in the process of developing.

Eric Sims, Kirk Douglas Theatre and Downtown Business Association, discussed past and previous shows and events at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; The Jazz Bakery; the Downtown Business Association; and rehearsal space.

Responding to Commissioner Williams, Mr. Sims provided additional detail regarding the relationship of the Kirk Douglas Theatre and The Jazz Bakery.

Mim Shapiro discussed her previous experiences with Cultural Affairs in the City; formation of the Commission; support from Sony; and she expressed pride in the City.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, added that as part of the public art program, a 94-foot high rainbow sculpture by Tony Tasset was unveiled at Sony in October 2012.

Jeannine Stehlin, The New American Theatre, announced that Alfred Molina had joined their Board of Directors; she discussed what they do; previous and upcoming events; their rehearsing and presenting locations; and the documentary being made about them.

Mary Beth Trautwein, Rediscover Center, discussed their mission and accomplishments; positive reviews; their non-profit status; family events; and the gallery.

Sarah Spencer, Grupo Folklórico Tzintzuni, reported on their formation; recent performances; goals; upcoming performances; and she provided contact information.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and staff regarding the importance of networking and collaboration; involving

local businesses; the economy; the recent purchase of the Forum by Madison Square Garden; encouragement to groups to contact the City for assistance connecting with other organizations; continuing the conversation in other open forums; and social networking.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSD THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CLOSE THE TOWN HALL PORTION OF THE MEETING.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, thanked everyone who came to the meeting and the Commission for their hard work last year.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, wished everyone Happy New Year; expressed gratitude for the support given to staff; and she encouraged everyone to check out the new webpages for Veterans Memorial Complex noting that they hoped to draw more cultural users to the building.

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Items From Commissioners

Vice Chair Koosed reported reading that a performance by Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre had been noted by the Los Angeles Times in its "Best in Dance 2012" article.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, indicated that Heidi Duckler is an ongoing grantee and she reported on upcoming performances for 2013.

Commissioner Bernardin reported that the Culver City Historical Society Archive and Resource Center would be open on January 12 in honor of visits from representatives of various Culver City Sister Cities and she discussed current exhibits.

Commissioner Klein reported that the Los Angeles World Affairs Council had moved into the Hayden Tract.

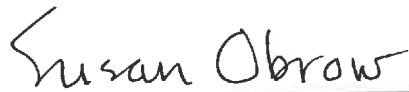
Chair Smashey thanked staff for their hard work in 2012; she encouraged arts groups in the City to stay in touch; discussed the Community Cultural Plan; and contact information for staff.

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Adjournment

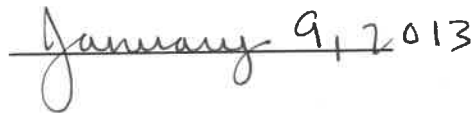
There being no further business, at 9:00 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on February 12, 2013 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED

 9, 2013



GAYLE SMASHEY

CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
City of 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, City of Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.



Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK



Date