

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

February 18, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Brenda Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Absent: Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Damon Willick

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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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.

Alexey Steele, former Artist Laureate for Culver City, expressed appreciation for the work of Culver City Firefighters to help in the recent wildfires in Los Angeles; discussed his "Love My Neighbor" series; support from the

Culver City Arts Foundation; and appreciation for the Artist Laureate Program.

Alicia Ide spoke on behalf of the Culver City Arts Foundation to announce the relaunch of the Artist Resiliency Fund, and indicated that additional information was available at culverarts.org/grants or by emailing grants@culverarts.org.

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Presentations

Item P-1

Presentation by Katy Krantz - 2023-2024 Culver City Artist Laureate

Katy Krantz, former Artist Laureate, provided a presentation on her projects and events in 2024.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Krantz, staff, and Commissioners regarding the participation of Katy Krantz in the Art Walk and Roll Festival and many other local events in the past two years; appreciation for the presentation and the documentation; the amount of work done; providing a guideline for the next Artist Laureate; the thread through all the projects; generating ideas; repairs; mentorship of the new Artist Laureate; the high bar set; community benefit from the program; community-centered activations; finding ways to get people involved; reimagining old spaces; leaving public art pieces for people to enjoy; and gratitude to Ms. Krantz for her tenure.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, expressed disappointment to miss the "Dear Culver City" opening event in April; indicated what a pleasure it was for staff to work with Katy Krantz; and she read a statement submitted by Vice Chair O'Carroll: "Katy Krantz, thank you for being an outstanding Artist Laureate. Your creativity, commitment and community spirit have been the cornerstones of your residency that has resulted in beautiful and meaningful art that all of Culver City can experience and enjoy. Your work as an artist has consistently been selfless - as you have always put our community first and have engaged everybody - from children to seniors - to participate in creating memorable art. From the "Dear Culver City" art installation to the Former Gun Store

Mosaics to all of your other community art activities, thank you for enriching and inspiring our Culver City community. Wishing you all the best with your future endeavors."

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that two pieces of correspondence had been received and distributed, as well as an email invitation from Sister City Lethbridge, Canada.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Cultural Affairs Commission Meetings of December 17, 2024 and January 21, 2025

Commissioner Fleischer indicated that on page 2 of the January 21, 2025 minutes she was referred to as Member Fleischer rather than Commissioner Fleischer.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 17, 2024 AND JANUARY 21, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, MESGHALI, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: O'CARROLL, WILICK

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

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 2024 - 2025

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced the item.

Jill Thomsen, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor, provided a summary of the material of record.

Sally Unsworth informed the Commission that via email Vice Chair O'Carroll would be happy to volunteer again; interest in serving again expressed by Commissioner Mesghali; a suggestion to have one headlining performer per night; and agreement that Vice Chair o'carroll and Commissioner Mesghali serve on the 2025 Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

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Item A-2

Consideration of (1) FY 2024-25 Cultural Affairs Work Plan Updates; (2) FY 2025-26 Cultural Affairs Work Plan Priorities; and, (3) Provide Comments and/or Make a Recommendation to the City Manager as Appropriate

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed Work Plan updates; changes to Work Plan presentations; new initiatives; side projects; adding a long-range vision; the pilot *Music in the Chambers* program; the pause in work to remove the fountain in front of the police station; further consideration about deaccessioning artwork; core functions of the department; the new mission statement for the Division; the City's Strategic Plan; the Olympics; key values; increasing opportunities; neighborhood engagement; alignment with long-range plans across departments; approval of the General Plan and the Parks Plan which the arts are included in; Work Plan priorities; the Community Cultural Equity Plan (CCEP); taking a long-

range view of performing arts and live events; anticipated decreased funding next year; updates to the historic code; support needed from the General Plan; the Cultural Trust Fund; updates to the Municipal Code; the Rotating Art Program; communication with the Arts District; activating the medians along Washington Boulevard; general upkeep and maintenance; areas identified for beautification; alignment with the General Plan; expansion of the Utility Box Wrap program; areas identified for increased activation; commemorative poster artwork; providing opportunities for artists; street banners; digital acquisitions; developers looking to deaccession artwork; ethical considerations to taking down artwork; work with the subcommittee to audit the collection and create a more extensive deaccessioning policy and best practices; extensive maintenance required for some pieces; the Artist Laureate Program; gateway pieces for the Olympics; plaques; collaboration and formalization of partnership with the Culver Arts Foundation; engagement with other public entities and communities; communication about Cultural Affairs as a Division and as a Commission; inclusion of the Arts District Tree Surrounds in the Work Plan; collections management software; the ambitious Work Plan with new programs; staffing; and she requested Commission support of making Sam Lee's position permanent.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding status of the Marc Fornes artwork that is not part of the Work Plan; involvement of the subcommittee in consultant hiring; staff workload; the Public Art process; use of independent juries; community engagement; the two year phased process; social media; a suggestion to invite Dustin Klemann to a meeting; publicizing the Commission; the Work Plan presentation on March 4; Commission advocacy; appreciation for the presentation and for the new proposals; the intent to support individual artists directly and to engage new artists; and staff agreement to provide a copy of the presentation to Commissioners.

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Item A-3

1) Receive Staff presentation regarding best practices recommendations for 2028 Olympics Programming 2) Provide

**feedback and programmatic recommendations to the City's
Olympic Subcommittee**

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed planned walking tours; coordination regarding Art in Public Places activations; expansion of the tours to historical locations, architecture, and artwork located in public spaces of private properties; creation of an app that could be coordinated with the kiosks; and moving forward to launch before the Olympics.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the report; support for not moving too fast; alignment with other jurisdictions; working with organizations in the community with a track record; the importance of balanced programming; the amount of Public Art in Culver City; increasing visibility of what can be done for the Performing Arts; countries that are looking to have Hospitality Houses in Culver City; and identification of who the audience is.

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed use of the red Cultural Walking Tours booklet; creation of a digital application that takes all of the curated information and allows people to make their own tour; changing technology; remaining flexible; allowing for curated tours; funding; and inclusion of history, the performing arts, and architecture.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding software; establishing tours before the Olympics; mapping the artwork with information about it; keeping the online collection up to date; accuracy of information; support for stepping back to see what is happening with other entities; looking at who is coming into Culver City; venues; providing digitized walking tours; allowing for a human aspect to the connectivity; those who want to be led; mapping experiences; connections through the larger effort; and support for the excellent Work Plan.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, summarized feedback received from the Commission including the desire for a balance of programming; showcasing the Public Art collection;

and the connectivity of tours and experiences as a way to get people to Culver City and showcase what is here.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, announced the upcoming Book Festival on February 22 at the Wende Museum.

Alexey Steele felt that the presentation was very informative and a great starting point; he was encouraged to see creative thinking; discussed idea gathering and collection; reported attending the opening of a Black History Month show at a gallery on Robertson; and he encouraged everyone to see the show noting that he would share information about the gallery.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that the 21 recommended Performing Arts Grants were approved by the City Council on January 13; discussed the contracting process for the grantees; performances beginning in March; and feedback provided to those not recommended for grants and for those who were awarded grants.

Commissioner Mesghali encouraged everyone to look into the street banner program that he is involved with; discussed coordination with the Farhang Foundation; celebration of Persian New Year; a potential parallel program in Orange County; and the learning process.

Chair Williams discussed a program in Westwood with beautiful banners to announce the New Year.

Commissioner Fleischer discussed Letters of Interest being accepted for the Artist Laureate program until March 3, 2025; and she proposed adding boundaries to the original call so that people do not have to search the FAQ on the website.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding additional outreach; internal outreach; encouragement for Commissioners to continue to spread the word; letters of interest received; and expanded geographic boundaries.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:29 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED

5/20/2025

Brenda Williams

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

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

16 JUNE 2025

Date