REGULAR MEETING, August 10, 2004
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR ALICIA MILLIKAN

Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Susan Deen; Julie Lugo Cerra; Luther L. Henderson, III; Alicia Millikan, and Ronnie Jayne.

Pledge of Allegiance Mim Shapiro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present Elaine Gerety, Event Supervisor and, Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator.

Agenda Posting It was moved by Commissioner Deen, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

Item #4 Chair Millikan recognized Christine Byers to introduce Vanessa Adams, the Public Art/Historic Preservation summer intern. Ms. Adams is a native of Los Angeles and a student at Otis College of Art and Design, entering her senior year. Her internship was made possible by a grant from the Getty Grant Program. Ms. Byers noted that Ms. Adams has updated the artist slide registry as well as produced other graphic designs for cultural affairs programming.

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Item #5A **Schedule a meeting to Provide Comments on a Certificate of Appropriateness for an Adaptive Reuse Project Involving Sound Stage 6 at Sony Pictures Entertainment.**

Ms. Byers informed the Commission that the Planning Commission would be considering a Certificate of Appropriateness application on September 8th for Sound stage 6 on the Sony Pictures lot. As a matter of course, the Cultural Affairs Commission should forward comments and a recommendation to the Planning Commission given that the building has a "significant" designation in Culver City's historic structure registry. As the entire Sony project team was not able to attend this regular meeting, Ms. Byers had several possible dates for which an Adjourned Regular Meeting could be scheduled to consider this topic. Dr. Henderson asked whether the Commissioners should go in person to see the structure in question. Ms. Byers noted that it would not be necessary as all of the pictures and elevation drawings would be made available to the Commission.

The consensus of the Commission was to schedule the Adjourned Regular Meeting for Wednesday, August 25th at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be publicly noticed and recorded.

Item #5B **Consider Revised List of Accomplishments for the Community Cultural Plan.**

Ms. Gerety presented a brief overview of the development of the Community Cultural Plan ("the Plan") at the recent CAC workshop held on July 24 to discuss, among other topics, the accomplishments to date relating to the Plan. Ms. Gerety noted that the comments received during this workshop were incorporated into the outcome matrix and were sent for review to the entire Commission. This final document was presented in the packet for consideration.

Chair Millikan recognized Mim Shapiro who commended the Commission and staff for the accomplishments listed in the Plan. She noted that she would like to see a policy regarding artwork maintenance and encouraged that this be developed quickly.

Commissioner Deen moved the item for review by the City Council. Vice Chair Cerra noted that there was an outcome that was not included in the overall matrix regarding the maintenance of the performing arts grant program. Ms. Gerety noted the omission and said she will include this in the final document to Council. Chair Millikan asked about the varying verb tenses for the accomplishments regarding the Art Intern Day that took place on July 27th. Ms. Gerety noted that the past tense should be used as the action had already taken place and that she would make the change prior to forwarding to the City Council.

Dr. Henderson seconded the motion that the Cultural Affairs Commission consider and adopt the revised outcomes as indicated in the Community Cultural Plan outcome matrix and direct staff to present to City Council for inclusion. He further requested that staff include the goals of the plan so that the Council may reference them. Additionally, he asked that the matrix be posted on the website.

Ms. Gerety noted that the Plan is currently on the website for public access. Vice Chair Cerra noted that the Council does not need to adopt the update, and recommended that staff not post the revised accomplishments until they have been presented to Council. She further recommended that the revisions to the Plan be included with the policy package that will be brought to the Council for adoption at the end of the year.

Chair Millikan asked about a schedule for accomplishing these tasks. Ms. Byers noted that this schedule was discussed during the policy portion of the workshop and that a basic timeline for the cultural year of the Commission would be incorporated into the policies.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE REVISED OUTCOMES AS INDICATED IN THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN OUTCOME MATRIX AND DIRECT STAFF TO PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION.

Item #5C **Consider a Change in the Scope of Work for Critical Mass Performance Group's 2004 Performing Arts Grant.**

Ms. Gerety gave a brief staff report regarding the 2004 Performing Arts Grant process and noted the extraordinary opportunity presented to Critical Mass Performance Group to bring their piece to the inaugural season at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. She noted that the Critical Mass Performance Group received the largest grant award, however, that their scope of work had changed from a 5-week production run to a 3-day workshop. The Grants and Artist Services subcommittee met to discuss this change and due to a reduced scope of work, recommended a reduction in the grant amount to the organization.

Chair Millikan read an e-mail from Culver City resident Nathan Birnbaum that noted that the Critical Mass Performance Group had been chosen for a special two week development program by Audrey Skirball-Kennis Theatre projects. It was chosen in a competitive field in a national festival and was considered a great success in the program. Mr. Birnbaum noted that the development process is on-going and that interdisciplinary ensemble work requires months of workshop time and rewriting to reach full performance level.

Chair Millikan recognized Eileen O'Sullivan, Culver City resident, who spoke in support of the *APOLLO* production for the Critical Mass Performance Group. She noted that the development process is as important as the final product and continuing to fund this project would highlight Culver City as a cultural center. She congratulated the Commission for awarding a grant to Ms. Keystone's company and is looking forward to seeing the production in both venues.

Chair Millikan recognized Nancy Keystone, Artistic Director of Critical Mass Performance Group. Ms. Keystone thanked the Commission for their support and noted that the company was extremely honored to have received such a generous award. The opportunity with Center Theatre Group was an incredibly exciting change, however, she noted that Critical Mass felt that this happened in part due to the grant award and support of the

Commission. She further commented that the development work is labor intensive and expensive, but incredibly important to bring a piece to full maturity. She read a letter from Culver City resident Julie Moody who expressed her support for the *APOLLO* workshop in September.

Commissioner Henderson, on behalf of the Grants and Artist Services subcommittee, noted that the Council awarded the original grant because of the outstanding presentation and quality of work. In looking at the reduction of public performances, Commissioner Henderson noted that while one option could be to reduce the grant award based on a performance formula, it was concluded that the best course was to reduce the overall grant by half, from $5,000 to $2,500.

Commissioner Deen also commented that there are several production costs that are fixed regardless of whether a group is hosting a 5-week production or a 3-day performance weekend. She noted that the subcommittee considered these costs and that they are supportive and excited that Critical Mass will part of the premier season at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Commissioner Jayne asked whether there was a policy in the application that outlines the approval procedure for alterations to the scope of work. Ms. Gerety noted that this procedure is defined both in the grant application and in the City contract and that all major changes to the scope of work are to be brought back to the Commission.

Vice Chair Cerra noted that she was concerned about the change at the late date, however recognized that the Cultural Affairs Commission, through this exercise, has achieved one of the goals of the Plan which is to maintain and expand cultural arts programming. She commended the subcommittee for recommending Critical Mass initially and that the opportunity at the Kirk Douglas Theatre is a sign of success. Vice Chair Cerra recommended that there should be tighter language in the application to address a similar situation in the future. Ms. Gerety noted that staff is working on the revised application and will include language to that effect. Ms Gerety also noted that the Council would not consider the change until September 13, 2004, after the workshop was completed. Chair Millikan wondered if it would be possible to do more than three performances. Ms. Keystone noted that it would not be feasible due to the upcoming agreement with the Center Theatre Group to bring the production to the Kirk Douglas Theatre in April.

Chair Millikan asked that when the play was published, if there would be a notation of where it was premiered. Ms. Keystone noted that it would indicate the premiere at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, however that the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission would be credited with the support of the development of the piece. Ms. Keystone noted that the Commission would also be credited during the performance run at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in April. Vice Chair Cerra raised a concern about the contract process and how this would be handled. Ms. Gerety noted that an amendment to the contract could be possible; however she would consult with legal counsel regarding the appropriate path.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CONSIDER AND APPROVE A CHANGE OF WORK AS PROPOSED BY THE CRITICAL MASS PERFORMANCE GROUP AND RECOMMEND A GRANT ADJUSTMENT FROM $5,000 TO $2,500 AND DIRECT STAFF TO BRING TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMEND THAT THE BALANCE OF FUNDS BE REALLOCATED TO THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR'S PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAMS.

Item #5D **Consider Artist Qualification Submissions for the Sculpture of Harry Culver and make a Recommendation to the City Council on a List of Semi Finalists.**

Ms. Byers noted that after receiving approval from the Cultural Affairs Commission and the City Council, staff developed and distributed a formal Request for Qualifications ("RFQ"). The RFQ was distributed in the first week of July; the closing date for submissions was Monday August 2nd. The RFQ was designed to narrow the list of candidates to no more than three semi-finalists. The RFQ noted that the subcommittee would consider a variety of factors to include examples of similar, life-like representational pieces, scope of work and experience in working with a community and public entities. A total of five submissions were received. Three semi finalists were presented to the Commission to consider for final recommendation to the Council.

Ms. Byers noted that David Spellerberg who represents De L'Esprie, was thrilled at the consideration. Chair Millikan read a letter from semi-finalist Cindy Jackson. Ms. Jackson noted how important it is to have sculpture of the likeness of great historical individuals to help capture the activities and cultural ideals from the past. Ms. Jackson noted that she would like the opportunity to sculpt Harry Culver and that her goal is to create a body of work that is alive with personality. She expressed her gratitude for the consideration and looks forward to working with the Commission on the model.

Chair Millikan recognized Richard Ziebell, Jeff Buccacio and Mario Jason of the Mario Jason Art Studio. They introduced themselves, and expressed their excitement and interest in sculpting Harry Culver. Mr. Ziebell noted that their studio operates its own foundry and would be able to oversee all stages of bronze development.

Commissioner Deen noted that the selection was very difficult. However, the subcommittee looked at the proposals individually and all members reached the same conclusions. Vice Chair Cerra added that this is just the first piece the Commission is commissioning and asked that staff keep all of the applicants on file. Vice Chair Cerra noted that she is looking forward to bringing this recommendation to Council and would be happy to work with the artists to ensure that a true likeness of Harry Culver is created.

Commissioner Jayne noted that she thought all of the submissions were terrific and agreed with the subcommittee's recommendation. Commissioner Henderson asked what criteria were used in the selection process and wondered whether it would be possible to recommend four artists to the Council rather than thee.

Ms. Byers noted that it was a tough choice, however the RFQ noted it would limit the semi-finalists to three and the Commission should remain consistent. She added that is also the subcommittee's perspective that the three artists recommended had provided the strongest examples of past figurative work.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CERRA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULTURAL COMMISION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT CINDY JACKSON, THE ARTIST DE L'ESPRIE AND THE MARIO JASON ART STUDIO BE DESIGNATED SEMI-FINALISTS AND EACH PROVIDE DETAILED DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR A SCULPTURE OF HARRY CULVER.

Item #7 **Commissioner Comments.**

Vice Chair Cerra thanked staff for an excellent workshop and noted that The Plan will give us a road map to continue our good work. She also noted that she would like to see staff and the Commission communicate more regarding what is possible to accomplish so that Cultural Affairs continues to maintain a high quality of work and avoid becoming a "jack of all trades." She asked if there were any items going to Council that the Commission should be aware of. Ms. Gerety noted that on August 23rd, the Council is slated to consider the allocation of funds from the Sony Pictures Entertainment Platinum Sponsorship.

Commissioner Henderson encouraged members of the public who are interested in getting involved with the Commission to visit the website.

Commissioner Deen noted that Walter Marks had made a presentation regarding a new mural on the Los Angeles side of the Helms Complex in July and that the artwork is developing beautifully. She also wanted to remind everyone that Fiesta la

Ballona will be taking place at the end of August and the details can be found on the Fiesta website.

Chair Millikan asked for an update on the Lion Fountain. Ms. Byers noted that the Agency is working on a contract with Captured Sea to finish the fountain construction and it could take a few months before it is completed. Commissioner Deen asked if an update from Todd Tipton could be presented at the next meeting.

Chair Millikan asked about the historical slides at Pacific Theaters. Ms. Gerety noted that the slides are being shown and that they rotate within a twelve-minute canister prior to the movie. Chair Millikan asked about the quarterly reporting for the Art Fund. Ms. Byers noted that she would try to have this available at the September meeting.

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Item #8 **Announcements.**

Ms. Gerety noted that on August 29th, The Art of Historic Preservation would be presented by Vice Chair Cerra at the Culver Studios at 11:00 AM. Ms. Byers noted that there would be two Grant Training workshops that will provide basic direction for non-profit organizations and City Staff who are interested in applying for grants. The dates will be August 14th and the 25th at the Veteran's memorial Building. For more information, individuals can contact Christine Byers in the Community Development Department.

Item #10
8:50 p.m. **Adjournment.**

With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CERRA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN TO THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING ON WEDENSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2004 AT 4:00 PM. IN THE DAN PATTACHIA ROOM, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Millikan, Chair

Elaine Gerety, Cultural Affairs