REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 8, 2006
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: Chair Deen

Call to Order 7:02 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Susan Deen; Gayle Smashey; Luther L. Henderson, III; Clement Hanami; and, Ronnie Jayne.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Susan Obrow led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; and, Susan Obrow, Theatre Coordinator and Special Events Producer.

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7:03 p.m.

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.

Rebecca Alson-Milkman advised that she was representing a collective of dancers and choreographers attracted by Culver City's mission and investment in the arts. She indicated their interest in finding a performance space in Culver City.

Chair Deen thanked Ms. Alson-Milkman for coming and advised her to speak with Ms. Obrow at the conclusion of the meeting.

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Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

Item #C-2.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Smashey, seconded by Commissioner Hanami and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2006 and July 11, 2006 Regular Meetings.

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Item #A-1. 7:05 p.m.

Nomination and Appointment of Members to the Culver City Community Cultural Foundation Board of Directors.

Ms. Obrow presented the staff report noting that the 501(c)(3) structure requires the formation of a Board of Directors consisting of eight members to be selected as follows: Each current member

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Ms. Obrow presented the staff report noting that the 501(c)(3) structure requires the formation of a Board of Directors consisting of eight members to be selected as follows: Each current member

of the CAC shall appoint one member and the then sitting chair and vice-chair of the CAC shall each serve as board members; that the City Manager or his designee shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer; and that in order to be eligible, each individual must live, work, or own property or a business in Culver City or possess a special widely recognized interest and ability to improve the cultural affairs of the community.

She reported that staff and the CAC specifically addressed the following criteria when discussing board nominations at the March 2006 meeting: a commitment to supporting cultural and historic preservation programs in Culver City; an ability to make connections to private foundations for possible grants; experience serving an a board of directors for a nonprofit fund-raising organization; capacity for cooperation and collaboration to create the most effective working panel possible; and finally, availability to attend semiannual board meetings of the foundation and responsibility for preparing for those meetings. She further noted that the overall composition of the board should reflect the diversity of Culver City's community as a whole.

Ms. Obrow noted that appointed board members, with the exception of the CEO, shall serve a maximum of two terms or up to eight years, whichever is greater, and shall serve only as long as the commissioner who appointed that member remains on the Commission.

Ms. Obrow concluded her presentation by indicating that the nominees are Mercedes Paz, nominated by Chair Deen; Sofia Klatzker, nominated by Vice-Chair Henderson; Rick Noguchi, nominated by Commissioner Hanami; Renae Williams, nominated by Commissioner Jayne; and, Christine Hardin, nominated by Commissioner Smashey. She advised that a biographical statement and/or resume for each of the candidates had been provided to the Commission in their packets.

Chair Deen requested that each of her colleagues briefly summarize their candidate's background and explain the rationale behind their nomination.

Commissioner Smashey indicated that Ms. Hardin is the Principal of Pickett Design, a local Culver City design firm; that she has 20 years of experience in design production and administrating various types of large-scale projects; that she is a LEED-accredited professional who has worked with such diverse corporations as BASF, Polygram, PSE &G, North American Recycling, and China Airlines; and, that she was a member of the team working on the renovation and restoration of *Pickfair,* Mary Pickford's and Douglas Fairbanks' 1920s home. She remarked that Ms. Hardin has a wonderful eye, combined with a great sensitivity for the restoration and preservation of historic buildings and monuments, an extraordinary amount of energy and enthusiasm, and is

significantly connected to the corporate world which provides the potential for some very interesting and lucrative outreach.

Commissioner Jayne remarked that she was very pleased to present a candidate from the world of dance. She informed the Commission that Ms. Williams is the current Director of Dance Presentations at the Music Center of Los Angeles County where she oversees the staff and all facets of the dance program, including but not limited to programming, budgeting, contract negotiations, marketing, outreach, future planning, and program expansion; that she was the Director of Grant Programs for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; that she worked as Company Manager for the Lula Washington Dance Theatre and with Grand Performances at California Plaza; that she served as a board member/VP of Development for the Dance Resource Center of Greater Los Angeles; as a panelist for the Entertainment Industry Foundation; and, that she is currently serving on the board of the Western Arts Alliance. She noted that Ms. Williams is a Culver City resident and has a great deal of connection to the community as well as a tremendous amount of knowledge regarding obtaining grants.

Commissioner Hanami recounted that he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Noguchi at the Japanese American National Museum, where he helped raise $23 million for the new pavilion. He noted that Mr. Noguchi is a Culver City native and current resident; that he has a wide range of experience collaborating with various ethnic groups from his work at the Arizona Humanities Council where he developed much of the programming for the Native American and Japanese American history of the area; that he served as Program Manager for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, administering many of their extension courses; that he served as Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, working with Fortune 500 companies to support the school's ongoing financial needs and priorities; and, that he currently works at the California Community Foundation, a large arts-giving program in Los Angeles. He commented that Mr. Noguchi has scrutinized many applications and assisted applicants in making improvements to better suit them to receive funding, saying he believes he would be a strong asset to the foundation's Board of Directors.

Vice-Chair Henderson advised that Ms. Klatzker is a resident of Culver City with a Bachelor of Music from Oberlin Conservatory. He provided a brief overview of her experience and qualifications, noting that she joined the staff of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission as an Arts Educator/Coordinator in 2003; that she manages opportunities and resources for the arts education community under the umbrella of *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*; that in 2004 Ms. Klatzker developed www.LAArtsEd.org, the first online resource directory of

arts education programs for regional schools; and, that she worked as a gallery educator at The Museum of Contemporary Art. He remarked that Ms. Klatzker is extremely competent and has a commitment to Culver City, saying her extensive experience combined with her current position at the Los Angeles County Arts Commission strategically positions her to learn of available opportunities and to locate those individuals who might be interested in providing assistance to the cultural activities of Culver City.

Commissioner Smashey commented that she had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Klatzker on a previous occasion, saying she had no idea of the breadth of her experience and was very, very impressed by her resume.

Chair Deen stated that she was absolutely thrilled by the qualifications possessed by these candidates. She reported that in 2001 Mercedes Paz was appointed to The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; served as Chief of the U.S. Delegation to the first Inter-American Summit of Ministers of Culture in Colombia in 2002; represented the administration at a UNESCO-sponsored conference on the International Creative Sector; served as Deputy Director for Partnerships and acting Director for the California Arts Council; and, served as Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Chair Deen advised that Ms. Paz is currently a partner at Shirley Associates, an executive search firm in Los Angeles, and that she has extensive executive management experience in both the public and private sectors.

Chair Deen concluded by noting that Ms. Paz is currently a member of the advisory boards of California Lawyers for the Arts and the Young Musicians Foundation, saying she had the pleasure of serving with her on a peer panel and believes her knowledge and experience would be a wonderful asset to Culver City's Cultural Affairs Foundation.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FIVE NOMINEES -- MERCEDES PAZ, SOFIA KLATZKER, RICK NOGUCHI, RENAE WILLIAMS, AND CHRISTINE HARDIN -- BE NAMED AS THE FIRST BOARD MEMBERS OF THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Ms. Obrow advised that staff would contact each of the newly appointed Board Members to apprise them of the process for completing the related paperwork and immediately include them on all necessary mailing lists.

7:25 p.m. **Public Comment.**

None.

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7:25 p.m. **Receipt of Correspondence.**

None

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7:26 p.m. **Items From Staff.**

Ms. Obrow noted that summer is a very busy time for the Cultural Affairs Division with many activities taking place. She provided a list of the remaining artists scheduled to perform at the Summer Sunset Music Festival, noting it has been a very successful year with a substantial increase in attendance.

She reported that the Performing Arts Grant application had been posted on the City's website along with a partial list of possible performance spaces in Culver City. She advised that, since the City does not have a traditional theatre space to offer grant applicants this year, staff did extensive outreach into the theatre and dance communities targeting companies producing site-specific work. She said that a number of dance companies responded with interest to the grant application and staff was looking forward to presenting more dance programs in the coming year. She indicated that Friday September 8th is the submission deadline for the grant applications.

Ms. Obrow announced that staff is planning a family event sometime in October to celebrate the seven zoetropes in downtown Culver City and has engaged an acclaimed zoetrope workshop master to create a project for youngsters attending the event. She concluded by proclaiming that the Culver City Art Walk was included in the August edition *Los Angeles Magazine*'s "Best of L.A." issue.

Ms. Byers reminded those present that the Selection Panel for the West Washington Boulevard public art project would be reconvening the week after Labor Day to interview the three short-listed artists and review their project proposals.

She reported that she was looking forward to providing a demonstration of some recent updates to the Cultural Affair's website, including a completed inventory of the approximately 80 pieces of public art on both public and private property, saying she was hopeful to present that in September. She indicated that research has been completed over the past few months regarding updated language to the City's Public Art Ordinance

and that would keep it current with changes and trends in the public art field.

Ms. Byers advised that staff is also planning to provide an overview of the ongoing maintenance of the City's public art as well as some recommendations for implementing a comprehensive maintenance plan for the future which includes a prioritized schedule and outline of costs. She noted that the Division's summer intern has been conducting a preliminary review of public art on private property, looking for damage, missing plaques, broken lights, etc.

Ms. Byers remarked that a few comments had been received regarding the patina on the bench of the Harry Culver sculpture. She advised that the artist, De L'Esprie, was dissatisfied with the original patina and had made some changes prior to the sculpture's unveiling. She explained that the patina did not adhere to one portion of the bench and that for the unveiling ceremony, this area had been in-painted as a short term solution. She reported that Mr. Spellerberg recently applied a new patina to that area. Over time, the patina on the entire sculpture will wear naturally, becoming brighter as the bronze is exposed in areas where people sit or touch the sculpture.

Ms. Byers concluded by noting that some of the utility boxes in Town Plaza had been badly vandalized, saying staff is in the process of obtaining an estimate for repair from the artist. She announced that the artist, Joshua Callaghan, recently received a commission to do 14 utility boxes in Playa Vista as a result of his work in Culver City.

Items from Commissioners.

Chair Deen entertained comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Smashey congratulated her colleagues on their appointments. She provided a list of entertainment scheduled for Fiesta La Ballona beginning Saturday August 26th and invited everyone to come out and join the festivities.

Commissioner Jayne announced she would be making a repeat appearance in the dunk tank at Fiesta La Ballona this year, saying she expects it to be a wonderful event and hopes the community turns out en masse. She mentioned that she attended the recent Beatles tribute band concert at the Summer Sunset Music Festival, saying it was a wonderful show and she would strongly encourage everyone to attend the remainder of the performances.

Commissioner Hanami thanked staff for all the effort they put into making the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation a reality.

Vice-Chair Henderson stated he was very excited that the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation was finally coming to fruition, saying he was looking forward with great anticipation to additional funds being raised and grants being obtained to facilitate the expansion of cultural programming in Culver City. He echoed his colleague's sentiments about the performance by the Beatles tribute band and encouraged the citizens of Culver City to continue to come out on Thursday evenings to see the remainder of the concerts. He stated he looked forward to attending the festivities at Fiesta La Ballona and was anxiously awaiting the beginning of the Music in the Chambers series this winter. He remarked that he is extremely pleased with the wonderful events taking place, saying they create an atmosphere of enjoyment that brings people together and are an integral part of what makes Culver City a community.

Chair Deen noted that the La Ballona festivities would actually be starting the week of August 21st with mid-week events; that carnival rides would open at Veterans Park starting Friday the 25th; and, that the celebration would culminate with the big fiesta on the 26th and 27th. She advised that some exciting and wonderful events had been planned, and she urged everyone to bring their families and take part in the entertainment, exhibits, and merriment.

7:58 p.m. **Adjournment.**

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

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HENDERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:58 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Deen, Chair

Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter