

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

May 8, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:14 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marlyn Musicant
Commissioner Michelle Bernardin
Commissioner Marla Koosed

Absent: Commissioner Ronnie Jayne (excused)

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Matthew Hetz.

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Presentations

Item P-1

Presentation by Performing Arts Grant Recipient Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre of General Programs and Upcoming Performance

Emily Wanserski, Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre, provided background on the organization; presented a montage of images; discussed their mission, goals, and accomplishments; announced upcoming performances; and provided contact information.

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Item P-2

Presentation by Performing Arts Grant Recipient Culver City Symphony Orchestra of General Programs and Upcoming Concert

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, announced their upcoming concert; discussed financial difficulties faced by the City, rental fees for Veterans Auditorium and City facilities; he requested that the City study how increases in rent will affect arts in the City; he encouraged everyone to come and see the refurbished auditorium at the Veterans Memorial Complex; and he presented photographs of the orchestra in rehearsal and at a Farragut Elementary School event.

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Item P-3

Presentation by Performing Arts Grant Recipient The Definiens Project of General Programs and Upcoming Concert

Jennifer Stevenson, provided background on the organization and contact information; discussed upcoming events; the interactive and educational nature of their programming; the importance of live music; and along with Michael Kreiner, she presented an excerpt of a program.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration and Special Projects Coordinator, read a comment into the record from Donna Stein of The Wende Museum in response to a request for an update on the search for a new home for the museum.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KOUSED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2012 REGULAR MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BERNARDIN, KOUSED, MUSICANT, SMASHEY
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: JAYNE
ABSTAIN: NONE

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public comment.

No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration and Special Projects Coordinator, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, reported an article about Culver City in the current *Westways* magazine that calls out the City's Art in Public Places Program and mentions the soon-to-be-installed RAINBOW at Sony Pictures Entertainment; she mentioned that *Westways* will include a follow-up article in the July San Diego area issue; Ms. Byers reported on two nominations for the Americans for the Arts 2012 Public Art Network Year in

Review competition; and she reported working with a group of seniors at Otis College of Art and Design.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, announced that this year *Speak Easy* would not be funded by the City General Fund but instead supported by alternative, private funding, and she announced the upcoming *Speak Easy* on May 18 as part of the *Vis á Vis Festival* presented by the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles and PEN Center USA.

Jeremy Green announced the many events scheduled for May 12; reported that the PayPal electronic donation system for the ongoing campaign to raise money for cultural programs established by the Cultural Affairs Foundation was live on the Culver City website; and she provided an update on funds raised so far.

A discussion between staff and Commissioners ensued regarding the ability to accept cash donations; clarification that a link to the donation web page also appears on the home page of the City website; and the strategy for an appeal.

John Nachbar, City Manager, discussed the City's fiscal situation; efforts to address issues; the General Fund; the elimination of non-public safety positions; total compensation for City employees; negotiations with bargaining units; reducing annual expenditures; the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency; the structural deficit; elimination of positions without funding; employees to wind down the business of the Agency and funding sources for that; Housing employees and Housing revenues; the importance of not burdening the General Fund; Redevelopment funding of Cultural Affairs; ways to retain Cultural Affairs; the recommended elimination of positions with offers to transfer those employees to other positions; the importance of Cultural Affairs to the community and the Culver City brand; and moving a portion of Cultural Affairs, including the Commission, to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Daniel Hernandez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, discussed his background and previous experience working with parks departments in other cities that

included Cultural Affairs; making programs more neighborhood and community based; and management of Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

John Nachbar, City Manager, discussed the possibility of moving Jeremy Green to the City Clerk's office; working out duties and responsibilities; allocation of work; moving Christine Byers to the Transportation Department; tasks and responsibilities covered by Cultural Affairs staff; fiscal challenges; the elimination of Redevelopment money; dividing responsibilities among other positions; keeping Cultural Affairs strong; and the hope that changes to address the fiscal difficulties would be temporary.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding projects that are in process; updating the Art in Public Places Ordinance; priorities; continuity; the timeline for reassignments; assistance from Human Resources; the budget process; City Manager authority to assign personnel; City Council approval necessary to eliminate positions; next steps in the process; streamlining processes; clarifying changes and how duties will be covered; the Art Fund; interim funding to allow streamlining and restructuring; concern that putting off the changes could jeopardize the ability of Cultural Affairs employees to find positions later; Commissioner willingness to look for creative solutions to the issues; clarification that Cultural Affairs is a part of Community Development but was entirely funded by the Redevelopment Agency; attempting to keep Cultural Affairs going in other parts of the organization; reducing Cultural Affairs rather than eliminating it; concern that housing Cultural Affairs in the PRCS Department is an old model and does not acknowledge specialized skills required for public art administration or positive economic impacts from cultural programming; a suggestion that the City create an Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy; identifying funding for the new office; grants; summer interns; appreciation to the City Manager, Parks Recreation and Community Services Director, and Councilmember Clarke for coming to the meeting; institutional knowledge; the under-utilization of the Commission; the light rail; optimism; a request to set up subcommittee meetings; and the ordinance update.

Items From Commissioners

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:53 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on June 12, 2012 in the Patio Room, 3rd Floor at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

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

City of Culver City, California
Certification of Documents by the City Clerk

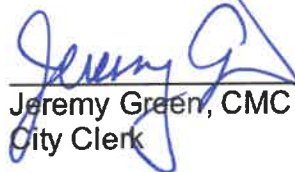
I, Jeremy Green, being the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Culver City, California hereby depose and declare

The 6 pages of the Cultural Affairs Commission Approved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2012 attached hereto are true and correct copies of documents in the possession of the City of Culver City.

I have affixed the Seal of the City of Culver City, California to indicate they are such true and correct copies.

Certified on this 7th day of March, 2022.

BY:



Jeremy Green, CMC
City Clerk

