

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 31, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee was called to order at 6:02 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Ehsaan Mesghali, Member
Shona Gupta, Member

Staff: Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the February 23, 2026 Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER GUPTA, SECONDED BY MEMBER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS PUBLIC ART

SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2026 CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

(1) Consideration of the Professional Review Panel's Recommendation of the Architecture as Art Proposal at 9810-9814 Washington Boulevard by Brooks Scarpa Huber on Behalf of Rethink Culver, LLC.; (2) Review, Discuss, and Provide Comments; and, (3) Make a Motion to Advance the Recommendation to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided a report on the Professional Review Panel's consideration of the Architecture as Art proposal; noted that the panel convened on March 12 with five independent members and, following review and discussion of the proposal, the panel rejected it; he discussed the process; access concerns voiced by the panel; and noted that scores averaged 42.7 out of a possible 100 points across four categories: conceptual development, innovation and materiality, spatial and experiential integration, and textual integration.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding feedback provided that was not incorporated; the panel's findings, including limited public access to the featured staircase element, the planned closure of the paseo gates following restaurant hours, the decorative rather than artistic character of the cantilevered louver elements, limited visibility of the stairwell from Culver Boulevard, and insufficient connection of the design concept to Culver City's film and cultural heritage; scoring categories; similarity of the proposal to prior work by the same firm; ways to differentiate the project; lighting; the ability of the architecture firm to make their case to the full Commission; the missed opportunity to adjust their proposal; and procedural

next steps for advancing the panel's recommendation to the full Cultural Affairs Commission.

MOVED BY CHAIR MESGHALI, SECONDED BY MEMBER GUPTA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE ADVANCE THE PROFESSIONAL REVIEW PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE ARCHITECTURE AS ART PROPOSAL AT 9810-9814 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD BY BROOKS + SCARPA HUBER ON BEHALF OF RETHINK CULVER, LLC TO THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding disappointment that the project did not work out, and benefit to using a separate, independent, community panel.

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Items from Members/Staff

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed response to serious allegations about Cesar Chavez; ongoing review of a quote included in the Barbara McCarren quotation courtyard public art installation; action taken to cover the affected text panels pending further evaluation; staff communication with the artist; potential replacement of the quote created in 1990; staff work toward an action item for review and discussion at the next meeting; the proposed Culver Public Market development at Washington Boulevard and Centinela Avenue including a 9,600 square foot outdoor dining and shopping plaza with a City-owned parking structure, to be presented as an action item at the next meeting; and a National Fitness Campaign grant received by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department for a fitness court installation at Tellefson Park, which includes a public art vinyl wrap mural opportunity.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the *Colorful Communities* poster program; the five contracted artists who have begun design and research; creation of a public engagement plan; communication with Culver City Historian Hope Parrish regarding historical context; work on public engagement; participation in a public engagement event scheduled for April 22 at the TikTok Plaza; capturing video interaction between the artists and Hope Parrish; creating a section for *Colorful Communities* on the YouTube page for Culver City; the importance of documenting the work done; launch of

the Culver City tourist website by Economic Development; and cross-pollination between Economic Development and Cultural Affairs with the Creative Economy.

Member Gupta reported attending a book festival and a new gallery opening on Washington Boulevard in the Arts District that incorporates art and performance.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding a suggestion for an Artist Meet-Up at the gallery; the exhibit related to the 2025 fires; galleries coming back to Culver City on Washington Boulevard; remaining galleries on La Cienega Boulevard; the recent show at the Walter Maciel Gallery; and agreement on the date for the next meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:34 p.m., the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned to a meeting to be held on April 29, 2026.

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Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK of the City Council of Culver City,
California

APPROVED _____

Ehsaan Mesghali
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Public Art Subcommittee