

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 15, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair O'Carroll called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in Council Chambers at Culver City Hall.

Present: Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Shona Gupta

Absent: Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

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

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Vice Chair O'Carroll recited the Oath of Office.

Nikki DiLoreto recited the Oath of Office and joined the Commission on the dais.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that new Commissioner Shona Gupta had previously taken the Oath of Office during training.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair O'Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Vice Chair O'Carroll invited public comment.

Alicia Ide acknowledged being a member of staff; indicated that she was speaking as a member of the Culver City Arts Foundation; she welcomed new Commissioners and encouraged them to work with the Foundation; expressed regret that Shona Gupta would no longer serve on the Foundation Board; and she indicated that she had taken over as Chair of the Foundation.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Special Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of June 17, 2025

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GUPTA THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DILORETO, FLEISCHER, GUPTA, O'CARROLL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

Action Items

Item A-1

1) Acknowledgement of Reappointed Member and Newly Appointed Members of the Cultural Affairs Commission; and 2) Administration of the Oath of Office to Two Members; and (3) Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2025 - 2026

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding nominations and willingness to serve.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GUPTA THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT LEORA O'CARROLL TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND EHSAAN MESGHALI TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DILORETO, FLEISCHER, GUPTA, O'CARROLL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that the former Vice Chair had been serving as Chair would now move to the center seat.

Chair O'Carroll welcomed new Commissioners.

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Presentations

Item P-1

Presentation by NOW Art

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, introduced Carmen Zella, founder of NOW Art, and Claudia Oliveira.

Carme Zella and Claudia Oliveira, NOW Art, congratulated the new Chair; provided a presentation on Attune LA; discussed the multi-disciplinary project using sound frequencies positioned throughout Los Angeles County; the light component; the goal to create a sense of unity; the power of the collective experience; sites selected to unify the City; sound being played at the same time at all locations; the artist chosen for the project; selected sites; reuse of the platform; fostering the locations as known gathering sites; equity; the opportunity to test connectivity technology before larger events; wheelchair accessibility; the free events; micro-sites; welcoming other cultural or health and healing organizations; branding of the locations; providing autonomy and ownership of the events; the current Board of Advisors; the proposed program; she provided background on the organization; discussed grants; public/private sponsorships; and requested support and partnership with Culver City.

Discussion ensued between NOW Art representatives, staff, and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentation; post production; the intent not to have visual components in order to encourage people to go inside; documentation with a videographer; the potential to livestream; the need to agendize the item to have a full conversation; limited time to do the event in 2025; permits; exploration of collaboration with the Culver City Artist Laureate; commitments to date;; community impact; the importance of the scale of the event; conversations about potential locations; City Council consideration; remanding the matter to the Public Art Subcommittee; logistics; continued discussion; weather considerations; expediting the project; and unanimous consensus of Commissioners present was received to place consideration of the project on an agenda in the future.

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Item A-2

(1) Review of a Cultural Affairs Commission Biannual Written Report to the City Council, including Accomplishments During the Period January through June 2025, and an Update on the Upcoming July to December 2025 Plans; and (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Report to the City Council

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to staff for their hard work; acknowledgement of the many accomplishments; the very active Commission; adding a sentence to indicate: "On July 16, 2025 attending Visit Culver City Initiative meetings" under Cultural Affairs Activities Planned Creative Economy Activities for July 2025 to December 2025; and the jazz series was removed from Live Music as the Commission does not provide recommendations for that program.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER GUPTA AND SECONDED BY CHAIR O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE BIANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AS AMENDED; AND
2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DILORETO, FLEISCHER, GUPTA, O'CARROLL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-3

(1) Dissolution and Creation of Subcommittees to Reflect the FY 2025 - 2026 Cultural Affairs Work Plan; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding interest in serving; equity in service; open positions; other subcommittees that may be formed throughout the year; dissolution of certain subcommittees; historic preservation; Fiesta La Ballona entertainment; and use of the word liaison.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DILORETO AND SECONDED BY CHAIR O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. DISSOLVE THREE (3) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES INCLUDING: 2025 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM, HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE & PROGRAM UPDATE, AND FIESTA LA BALLONA ENTERTAINMENT; AND,

2. CREATE TWO (2) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES WITH THE FOLLOWING LIMITED SCOPE: 2026 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH; AND,

3. CHANGE THE NAME OF TWO (2) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES WITH THE FOLLOWING LIMITED SCOPE: FY 2025-26 CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION, 2028 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES/CULTURAL OLYMPIAD; AND,

4. MAKE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 AS FOLLOWS:

STANDING PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE: VICE CHAIR MESGHALI AND COMMISSIONER GUPTA

AD HOC ARTIST LAUREATE SUBCOMMITTEE: COMMISSIONERS DILORETO AND GUPTA

AD HOC COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE: COMMISSIONERS DILORETO AND FLEISCHER

AD HOC CREATIVE ECONOMY & CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE: CHAIR O'CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER

AD HOC FY 2025-26 CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION SUBCOMMITTEE: CHAIR O'CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER GUPTA

AD HOC 2026 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE: COMMISSIONERS DILORETO AND FLEISCHER

AD HOC 2028 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES/CULTURAL OLYMPIAD:
CHAIR O'CARROLL AND VICE CHAIR MESGHALI

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DILORETO, FLEISCHER, GUPTA, O'CARROLL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair O'Carroll invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, reminded everyone that the Summer Sunset Concert Series would begin on July 17 noting that Culver Arts was sponsoring the first hour featuring local artists.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that Sonia Romero's tiled installation "The Speedway" had been installed at the Farragut Connector noting the plaque has been ordered; he thanked Hope Parrish for help ensuring that information on the plaque was historically accurate.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, announced upcoming grant sponsored performances and indicated that information about all events was posted on the City website.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed upcoming items of interest for the Commission including the Visit Culver City event on July 16, 2025; indicated being part of the selection committee for the firm retained; reminded everyone of Fiesta La Ballona from August 22-24; discussed the unveiling of Sonia Romero's work at the Farragut Connector on August 24; Meetup in August to introduce area artists to Artist Laureate

Victoria Marks; meet and greet events; the Arts Foundation Booth at Art Walk and Roll in the Arts District on October 18; the work plan presentation to the Commission in October; the Summer Concert series; the pre-program hosted by the Culver Arts Foundation; a Q&A session hosted by Victoria Marks at the final concert for 2025 on August 28 as part of her introduction to the community; Music in the Chambers on September 7, 2025; the next Creative Economy event planned for October 16, 2025; the recent retreat with Economic Development and Cultural Development; the activation planned with the Cultural Plan; obtaining stakeholder feedback; and she thanked City Historian, Hope Parrish and Hackman Capital for working with the City on an upcoming event about the history of moving the bungalows for Culver Studios in fulfillment of the public-facing program requirement for Hackman Capital.

Commissioner Gupta was excited to hear about all the upcoming events.

Commissioner Fleischer reported attending Victoria Marks' performance at the Odyssey Theater, the Reservoir at The Geffen, and the Culver City Symphony Orchestra concert; she was looking forward to the Summer Concert series and read the schedule of performers; announced upcoming Actors' Gang shows; and she indicated being excited to attend the Visit Culver City meeting noting the importance of cultural tourism.

Chair O'Carroll thanked Hope Parrish for her help; expressed appreciation to Edgar Varela for Summer Concert series; discussed the upcoming Visit Culver City meeting; and expressed excitement about the prospect of a Visit Culver City website.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:30 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

LEORA O'CARROLL

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
CITY CLERK

Date