

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

December 17, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali
Commissioner Damon Willick

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed procedures for providing public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theater Guild, provided background on the organization; requested access to Ivy Substation for late night performances of small cast, easily produced musicals that

would not conflict with Actors' Gang productions or programs; reported that they did not have the resources to pay the standard rates for rental use of the Ivy Substation; discussed rehearsals at Veterans Building; and he requested and received contact information for follow up.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported distributing two pieces of correspondence received before the 3:00 P.M. deadline.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of November 19, 2024

Vice Chair O'Carroll indicated that her comments under Items from Commissioners and Staff had been accidentally omitted and she asked that they be added to the minutes: Vice Chair O'Carroll reported attending two performances of the Culver City hosted, Jazz Bakery curated concert series; expressed appreciation for the level of musicianship; discussed attending a Creative Economy seminar on October 23 hosted by the Office of Economic and Cultural Development at the Glorya Kaufman Cultural Center; and indicated attending the Artist Laureate tile making event at the former gun store.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024 AS AMENDED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Discuss Potential Programmatic Options for 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games 2) Provide Recommendations to the City Council As Desired

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a presentation on the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games; discussed the Cultural Olympiad; arts programming and activation; establishment of the 2028 Olympics Subcommittee; the kickoff event; partnerships; convenings with county, City and various advocacy organizational partners; "Legacy" as the overarching theme; the westside convening; shared resources; suggestions for performing arts activities and public art installations; neighborhood activations; walking tours; key considerations; CIP (Capital Improvement Project) budget allocations; and considerations for determining the viability of projects.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the consultant in West Hollywood; different bodies reporting to the City Council and making their recommendations by February; and recommendations by the West Hollywood consultant for the Cultural Olympiad.

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Glen Ward, Jazz Bakery, provided background on himself; discussed having a jazz festival in Culver City produced in conjunction with the Jazz Bakery as part of the Cultural Olympiad; integrating Cultural Affairs into the economic foundry of the City to improve quality of life; the intent of the games; combining art and sports; the importance of music in everyday life; jazz as a uniquely American art form; leaving a footprint that lasts past the games; reestablishing jazz as cultural focal point; highlighting and expanding access to the

region's rich cultural landscape; celebrating diverse voices; the bold artistic history of Los Angeles; dedication and advocacy of the Jazz Bakery; the power of music to transform culture; inspiring people through music; the mission of the Jazz Bakery; moveable feast concerts; the recent jazz series; the arts as an essential part of the human experience; reputation and connections; attracting quality artists to draw audiences; the diverse nature and global appeal of jazz; quotes from various publications in support of the Jazz Bakery; founder of the Jazz Bakery, Ruth Price; goals of the Jazz Bakery; young player showcases; the educational component across the region; historic partnerships; prestigious donors; untapped funding sources; the collection of communities that make up Los Angeles; the opportunity for Culver City to become the cultural and creative hub of the Cultural Olympiad; and he hoped for Commission support to make a presentation to the City Council in early 2025.

Jeff Morrical provided background on himself; wanted to draw attention to design elements of the Arts District with significance to the theme of legacy; discussed the neighborhood unification system created in the 1990s; cultural tree surrounds that run from Wesley to Fairfax featuring film created in Culver City; art frame bus stops; the gateway over Ballona Creek; the look created for the 1984 Olympics by Sussman Prejza; the endangered tree surrounds; purview of the Public Works Department; classification of the items as public art; the significance to the district and for the upcoming Olympics; and he indicated wanting to draw the Commission's attention to endangered items.

Meg Sullivan provided background on herself; echoed comments from the previous speaker; discussed the light standards; the work of Sussman Prejza on the 1984 Olympics that was featured in the 2016 Pacific Standard Time exhibit; design language, color, and graphics used that echoed the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City; and celebrating the legacy throughline.

David Mack, Artist Magnet Justice Alliance, provided background on himself and the organization; acknowledged colleagues in the room; discussed the proposal for a county-wide arts festival culminating in Culver City using the Metro; pop-up, immersive, and site-specific activations at each station; the curator's circle; selection of Artists in Residence to activate stations; providing guided tours or

allowing self-navigation with a map; fundraising; vision and values; protecting the freedom of expression of artists; equity; providing a chance for unheard voices to be heard; using the beauty of public space to reimagine community through the arts; Olympics for All; opportunities for cross-collaboration; making the arts for everyone; elevating and activating the community; cross-cultural exchange; he asked the Commission to consider supporting the project when submitting recommendations to the City Council; and he provided packets for Commissioners.

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, introduced herself; encouraged meeting attendees to collaborate with the Foundation; discussed the vote of the Foundation Board to continue the mural initiative started with the Art Walk; plans to install murals throughout Culver City; efforts to install murals in time for the Olympics; creating a legacy for Culver City; gateway art to attract visitors; collaboration between Culver City and the Foundation to facilitate murals; a potential partnership to honor the legacy of Culver City with an ongoing film festival; flexibility of the Foundation to accomplish things that are harder for the City to do; and she indicated willingness of the Foundation to be a planning partner, to help raise money, and to be an active participant in whatever Culver City wants to move forward with.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the worthy proposals; support for the proposed projects outside of the Olympics; recommendations for projects that relate to the Olympics; ongoing programming; funding; the CIP budget line; planning, execution, and fabrication costs; project viability; staffing levels; stipulations of the Trust and the Municipal Code; making a request from the General Fund; and clarification that the Commission has another month to consider recommendations.

Responding to inquiry, David Mack indicated that several pop-ups were proposed in Culver City; stated that there were one or two Metro stations in Culver City; he discussed the intent that Culver City be the culmination of the festival; engagement of different communities; bringing people to Culver City; having a cultural exchange; having a zero emission bus route that brings people through the various performance sites; building visibility around the buses and bringing people

through cultural centers; examples of arts activations at Metro stations; resources available in the handout provided; and providing opportunities for more activations in Culver City and for more artists to get experience.

Trevor Davis, Reach for Community, provided background on the organization; discussed community bridging and cultural understanding; his previous work with David Mack on an immersive production called Invisible Cities at Union Station and on Meet Me at Metro; socio economic diversity; reaching audiences that might not have the means to see theater and music; positive and successful engagement; the important model of bringing arts into the streets; and engaging people of all different backgrounds in the arts.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Olympics Subcommittee; the importance of having a consultant to help with staff workload; and encouragement for those interested to come back to present a full proposal at the January meeting including a budget and partnership opportunities.

Corinna Elliott, Arts Practitioner, provided background on herself; discussed her affiliation with the Center Theater Group; noted that many people that are unknown to the City, have connections to ideas being presented; the ability of people to reach out through their nexus and relationships to help make things happen; Culver City as a destination; people who may not live in Culver City, but are part of the community; the Metro stop that made Culver City more accessible; Metro Arts Initiatives; and addressing siloing in Los Angeles.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to everyone for sharing their thoughts; support for getting assistance; the timeframe for producing events; events that are authentic and rooted in Culver City; legacy; gaining a general understanding of the ideas; support for allowing ten minute presentations with additional detail at the next meeting; the recent successful jazz series; support for a jazz event; tapping into existing international communities and connections; the Culver City Sister Cities Committee; building internationally focused cultural programming; and filling in cultural gaps.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the independently funded Cultural Olympiad; money contributed by municipalities and private fundraising; creating a unified vision; inventing new traditions and legacies; sponsorships; money allotted in 1984; the LA Opera as a legacy from the 1984 Olympics; staff agreement to share notes from the listening sessions; unification of themes; lessons learned from Paris; cities that were able to mobilize the most volunteers and engage the public as being more successful; the importance of equity; removing barriers to access; a suggestion to start engaging volunteers immediately; the need to mount a social media campaign; other people in the City with ideas; outreach and increased engagement; data and input over the past couple of years; the directive from the City Council to make recommendations for programming; non-profit and cultural partners who have contributed; limiting the scope of presentations; visual and performing arts; development of the Sister Cities idea; themed cultural programming; existing partnerships; incorporation of the ideas that were presented at the meeting as already being in the staff report; the desire for a consultant; prioritization of projects; clear categorization of project ideas and options; and agreement to make recommendations at the January meeting.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, distributed her business cards to those interested in presenting in January; discussed the directive; working with interested groups on a more formal 10-minute presentation for the January 21, 2025 meeting; examination of further proposals; identification of potential partnerships and budgets; and clarification on staff time allotment for various projects.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

None.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported on maintenance efforts for Truth or Fiction and encouraged everyone to go see it after the meeting.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided updates on Performing Arts Grants; discussed upcoming performances; thanked City Clerk and IT staff for help getting the room set up for the meeting; reminded Commissioners that the bi-annual report would be considered in January; thanked those who had submitted their summaries and encouraged everyone who had not yet done so to submit them before the end of the month; noted the hefty agenda for January; thanked the Culver Arts Foundation for their Holiday Party; and she reported that Artist Laureate Katy Krantz was nearing completion of her tile installation at the former Retting gun store.

Vice Chair O'Carroll discussed attending the State of the City Address on November 20 at the Wende Museum and the meeting she attended with staff at the Jazz Bakery on November 22 to discuss ongoing partnerships and future potential collaboration with the City.

Commissioner Fleischer discussed recent Artist Laureate meetings; revamping the application; spring applications for a new Artist Laureate beginning on July 1; she encouraged everyone to visit the temporary art installation at the former gun store as well as the Dear Culver City installation in the City Hall courtyard; and she wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Willick thanked those who made presentations and indicated that he was looking forward to the January meeting.

Commissioner Mesghali received clarification that Culver Arts was not necessarily proposing the mural project for Culver City; and that Commissioners were encouraged to attend a presentation of feedback about the gun store to the City Council.

Chair Williams reported attending the State of the City event noting that she appreciated what the Mayor had to say about her accomplishments and her vision for Culver City.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:03 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

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Lee Laib

SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 2/18/2025

Brenda Williams

BRENDA WILLIAMS

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

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

26 FEB 2025

Date