

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

June 11, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marla Koosed
Commissioner Michelle Bernardin
Commissioner Regina Klein
Commissioner John B. Williams

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Milberger.

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This item was considered out of order.

Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2013

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSSED AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2013 REGULAR MEETING.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Matthew Hill, Rogue Artists Ensemble, discussed the new show, *Hyperbole: bard*, to be performed at Carlson Park on June 29.

Taylor Kaufman, Rogue Artists Ensemble, indicated that *Hyperbole: bard* was appropriate for all ages.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners, and the speakers regarding the fast pace of the production; clarification that the show is free; clarification that the Rogue Artists Ensemble is a Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program recipient; and contact information was provided for the Rogue Artists Ensemble.

Cara Adams distributed information on upcoming events at the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum including *Juneteenth*; a book sale on June 15; a documentary film screening on the Work of Jester Harrison on June 19; a celebration of National Caribbean Heritage month beginning on June 20; *Black Talkies on Parade* on June 22; a free documentary entitled *Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win* on June 24; *Profess U* on June 27; and the Leimert Park Book Fair on June 29.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and Ms. Adams regarding information sharing to publicize events; turnout; outreach; and volunteers at Veterans Auditorium.

Jeff Gauthier, The Jazz Bakery, announced *MilesTones* on June 22 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre made possible by a Culver City Performing Arts Grant; he discussed progress on the new building; and he provided ticket and contact information for the Jazz Bakery.

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Action Items

Item A-1

**Consideration of Relocation of Jeff Kopp's Artwork,
Punctuation Station, at Westfield Culver City**

Vice Chair Koosed recused herself from the item and exited the dais.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation

Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Don Ziss, Westfield Culver City, provided a presentation on developments at the mall; discussed plans to create a play space on the lower level adjacent to the JC Penney entrance; the relocation of *Punctuation Station*; the Target Court and Sky Lobby; refurbishing the artwork; and increasing foot traffic.

Chair Smashey invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed, speaking as a member of the public, discussed the site specific nature of the work; she questioned whether Target controlled the common area in question; expressed concern that kiosks or carts might compete with the artwork; questioned whether the final installation would be a collaboration between the artist and Westfield management; and asked about the location of the current plaque and whether it would be moved.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners, staff and Mr. Ziss regarding placement of the artwork in the Target Court and Sky Lobby; involvement of the artist in the relocation and refurbishment; the final configuration of the individual pieces; the initial submission package; concern with shopping carts in the Sky Lobby; the elevator; replacing existing seating with *Punctuation Station*; community partners; activities associated with the opening celebration; and the number of children that could be accommodated in the new play space.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF JEFF KOPP'S ARTWORK, *PUNCTUATION STATION*, FROM THE INTERIOR COURT ADJACENT TO JC PENNEY TO THE INTERIOR COURT ADJACENT TO TARGET'S ENTRANCE ("TARGET COURT"), AND THE COURT AREA ABOVE TARGET ON THE THIRD LEVEL OF THE CENTER ("SKY LOBBY"); AND,
2. REQUIRE THE PROPERTY OWNER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO THE CITY NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2014 ON THE IMPACTS OF THE NEW

LOCATION TO THE CONDITION OF THE ARTWORK INCLUDING WHAT MEASURES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE ARTWORK IN GOOD CONDITION FOR THE FUTURE. THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BERNARDIN, KLEIN, SMASHEY, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: KOOSSED

Vice Chair Koosed returned to the dais.

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Item A-2

Continuation of a Discussion with the Assistant City Manager Regarding Cultural Affairs Staffing/Programming

Chair Smashey reported that a special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission had taken place on June 5 with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager, and that the item was a continuation.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager, thanked Commissioners for attending the special meeting; he discussed the meeting and the motion adopted; City Council direction to the City Manager to prepare a plan to address cultural programming and staffing in the City; effects of the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency; the temporary sales tax increase; financial forecasts; cultural staffing and programs for the new fiscal year; renewed efforts of the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board; improved communication between the Commission and the Foundation Board; coordination with Transportation and Parks, Recreation and Community Services so that Ms. Obrow and Ms. Byers can perform their duties in their new positions but also accomplish those items approved by the City Council with respect to cultural programming; the new fundraising process adopted by the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board; he suggested looking at different ways of doing things; discussed the importance of volunteers; maximizing the small amount of staff time available; The Brown Act; and expanding the role of the Commission.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and staff regarding the informal/formal nature of the Special Meeting; holding additional informal meetings; the Historic Preservation

Ordinance; setting of the meeting; including the public; accessibility of the meetings to the public; logistics; interaction with the public; maintaining the meeting format; closed sessions; appreciation to staff; missed opportunities; frustration; the process; accomplishing the Cultural Affairs job tasks; programming; special events; the temporary art program; management of the Art in Public Places Program; "Cultural City"; squandering the goodwill established; the face of the City; efforts of the City; delegation of duties; placement of Ms. Byers in the Transportation Department; hours worked; the difficulty of coordination between the two realms of responsibility; networking opportunities; cost to the City in terms of lost opportunities; funding necessary for full-time positions in Cultural Affairs; solving some of the challenges that the City faces with the General Fund; creating an ad hoc subcommittee to focus on long term planning for Cultural Affairs staffing; and Foundation fundraising - but such fundraising may not be focused on fundraising for staffing at this time.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, indicted that information on The Rogue Artists Ensemble's *Hyperbole: bard* and The Jazz Bakery's *MileSTones* would be available on the City website; and she thanked Chair Smashey for her service to the Commission.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager, thanked Chair Smashey for her service and dedication.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, referenced current development projects that had Art in Public Places Program requirements; The Willows Community School; The Platform project; and she thanked Chair Smashey for her calm, sage insight, and for her work on the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioner Williams invited everyone to attend *Music of the Imagination: Jazz Behind the Iron Curtain* at the Wende Museum on June 30; he indicated that he would have to miss the August Commission meeting as he would be teaching bass camp in Europe; and he thanked Chair Smashey for her help on the Commission.

Commissioner Klein provided an update on the Cultural Plan subcommittee meeting; she discussed the five focus areas; indicated that there would be a survey; she requested volunteers to encourage people to sign up and participate in the Cultural Plan; and she encouraged anyone with questions to pose, to forward them to staff.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager, indicated that an e-mail box was set up for Cultural Affairs communications and he clarified that interested persons could sign up, through the City website, to be on the Cultural Affairs mailing list to receive notices on upcoming events and meetings.

Commissioner Klein reported on the Performing Arts Grant subcommittee meeting; proposed changes to the current application; the need to transition to an online format; she reported attending a grant performance by the Culver City Symphony Orchestra ; she discussed the partnership with the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum; and she thanked Chair Smashey for her hard work on the Commission.

Commissioner Bernardin announced a fundraiser in July celebrating the 100th anniversary of a speech by Harry Culver gave announcing his vision for a city between Los Angeles and Venice on July 20 at the California Club; and

she thanked Chair Smashey for her service to the Commission.

Vice Chair Koosed thanked the public for expressing their concerns regarding Cultural Affairs to the City Council; she thanked the City Manager and Mr. Cole for their responsive and immediate efforts to work with the Cultural Affairs staff, Commission, and Foundation; she reported on the Ad Hoc Community Cultural Plan Subcommittee meeting; discussed the consultant and future intern; and she announced a Cultural Affairs Foundation fundraiser for *Music in the Chambers* at Akasha on July 31.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager, reported that that would be the first fundraiser under the new guidelines of the Cultural Affairs Foundation and he discussed marketing efforts for the event.

Vice Chair Koosed thanked Chair Smashey for her hard work on the Commission.

Chair Smashey reported on the May Cultural Affairs Foundation Board meeting, noting that they had voted to meet four times per year rather than two, and had established subcommittees for various purposes that would be able to meet and act independently of staff therefore enabling processes and activities to move forward more quickly.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager, noted that seemed to be working well for the Foundation and the Commission might be able to function in similar ways in the future.

Chair Smashey reported that the Foundation Board has adopted a fundraising plan; formats for soliciting potential fundraising events had been provided to Board Members; financial reports from the previous year were examined; and she discussed her eight years on the Commission.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:14 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be

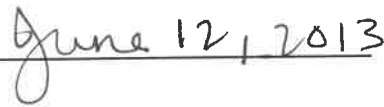
held at 7:00 P.M. on July 9, 2013 in the Mike Balkman
Council Chambers at City Hall.

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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