

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

April 9, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:04 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 Jennifer Mulder.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2013

Commissioner Klein commented that in Item A-1, page 2, she had thanked the Foundation Board members for being present and praised Ms. Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin's background and contributions to the community.

Vice Chair Koosed requested that clarification be added to Item A-2, page 3, indicating that when this item was previously considered by the CAC, the suggestion then was also that the CCUSD Board meet in the Chambers on days where currently there are no other conflicts. She stated that she would have preferred that the City Council address the issue directly with the CCUSD Board rather than putting Commissioners in an uncomfortable position.

Commissioner Klein wanted clarification added to comments made by her under "Items from Commissioners" on page 5 indicating that the mission of the Whole 9 Galley is to help artists get their work exhibited.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2013 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

Jennifer Mulder, Vox Femina Los Angeles, provided background on the organization; thanked the Commission for the grant; invited everyone to attend their concert on April 28th at the Culver City Presbyterian Church; and, discussed their collaboration with the Copenhagen Bakery.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of a Public Art Concept for 12095 and 12099 Washington Boulevard (The Help Group)

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Smashey invited public participation.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Robert Toll, the artist for the project, provided background on himself and discussed his experience with The Help Group as well as the concept for the proposed sculpture.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and Mr. Toll regarding the ability of the sculpture to stand up to high

winds; the weight of the sculpture; perforation in the metal; appreciation for the thorough presentation; the maintenance component; the dealer's fee; and the architect's consulting fee.

Responding to inquiry from Commissioner Klein, Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO of The Help Group, discussed the organization's involvement in the process and she expressed support for the art concept.

Further discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners, Mr. Toll and Dr. Firestone regarding the process; City review of the sculpture; the cost of the sculpture; The Help Group's capital funds; imagery; the fact that the sculpture would be installed where it would be easily visible but not physically accessible by the public and how this relates to the theme of "opening doors"; the idea that components of the sculpture could be perceived as shutters and not doors; code requirements as included in the Art in Public Places Ordinance; the aesthetics of the sculpture; the message of offering opportunities to all children; the connection of the sculpture to the mission of The Help Group; communicating something that is related to the site; the existing relationship between the artist and The Help Group; providing an opportunity for a different artistic voice on the campus; visibility of the art piece; the maintenance plan; a feeling that the art should animate a space; safety; diluted artistic expression; concern that the sculpture was edited to fit within a specific area; the proportion of the sculpture to the adjacent signage; and that the concept meets the basic requirements of the current Art in Public Places Ordinance but would not be approved under the criteria of the revised Ordinance that will take effect April 25, 2013. Chair Smashey provided photographic examples that she shared with the artist to support comments regarding the perception that the artwork could be interpreted as shutters instead of doors.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE CONCEPT FOR AN ARTWORK ENTITLED, *THE DOORS*, BY ARTIST ROBERT S. TOLL AS FULFILLING CULVER CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM REQUIREMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH TENANT IMPROVEMENTS AT 12095 AND 12099 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD (THE HELP GROUP).

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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, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, announced upcoming Performing Arts Grant recipient performances by Vox Femina Los Angeles at the Culver City Presbyterian Church on April 28th; the Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre on May 4 at a location to be disclosed in the future; and the Society for the Activation of Social Space Through Sound and Art at the Baldwin Hills Overlook on May 5.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, discussed some of the changes in the updated Art in Public Places Ordinance that had been adopted by the City Council on March 26; a new Getty initiative, *Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A* that features a Culver City structure in the promotional materials and that PSPT also focuses on the preservation of structures constructed after World War II.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioner Bernardin reported that May is Historic Preservation month and asked about a City Council proclamation; she was pleased with the Getty initiative; and she reported the willingness of Julie Lugo Cerra to do a presentation at the next Cultural Affairs Commission meeting in honor of Historic Preservation month.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that she would look into a City Council proclamation for May and she received clarification from Counsel that consensus was necessary to have a speaker at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bernardin received Commission consensus that Julie Lugo Cerra speak at the May Cultural Affairs Commission meeting for Historic Preservation month even if the only agenda item is the presentation; she then addressed the Second Saturday Art Walks beginning on April 13.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that staff had been encouraging the Culver City art galleries to start an event on their own.

Commissioner Bernardin discussed the hours of the Second Saturday Art Walks; Culver City's Boulevard Music Summer Festival; and the City Tavern fundraiser benefitting the Music Festival.

Dan Hernandez, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, reported that six concerts for the summer music festival had been approved at the City Council meeting on April 8, 2013.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the City Tavern fundraiser; the role of the Commission and the City in the event; sponsorship credits; Cultural Affairs Foundation funding of the summer music festival; benefits of sponsorship; staff assistance with set-up; the view of the event as a community event; production work done for the event; and clarification that the contract is handled through the City Manager's office.

Vice Chair Koosed encouraged everyone to go to the Charles Phoenix event at the Getty Center on June 9 honoring iconic Los Angeles architecture; she reported attending *The Nether* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre and encouraged everyone to go see it; and she also encouraged everyone to go see *Heart of Darkness* at The Actors' Gang.

Commissioner Klein discussed Historic Preservation month; the spring issue of the Culver City Historical Society's

publication, *Culver Historical Highlights*; the Cultural Plan update and adding an educational component; she read a quote from the publication; and, she asked about copies of minutes from the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding availability of the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board meeting minutes and a suggestion to invite the Foundation Board Chair to address the CAC after each CAF Board meeting.

Commissioner Klein reported seeing the *Pacific Standard Time Presents* listing; announced A Celebration of Design & Architecture in Los Angeles on April 14 at The Helms Bakery District; she discussed the ambitious production of *The Nether*; and the Puppet Festival at the Skirball Cultural Center on April 13.

Responding to Commissioner Williams, Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, indicated that in the past the Culver City Unified School District and the Historical Society have collaborated on educational programs for younger audiences.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding lectures and programming for teaching the history of Culver City; walking tours of the City that focus on architecture; the Culver City Historical Society; a suggestion to invite Julie Lugo Cerra to provide background on what has been done in the past; collaboration with the Culver City Unified School District; Black History month; celebrating commemorative months; parental involvement; attending CCUSD School Board meetings; the upcoming Culver City centennial; and the sold out event at the Helms Bakery District on April 14.

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Adjournment

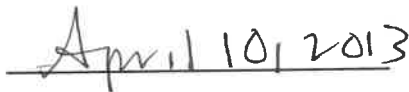
There being no further business, at 8:27 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on May 14, 2013 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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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