

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

February 20, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

### **Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 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 Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager  
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst  
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.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, provided updates relevant to Cultural Affairs programs; discussed an artist project grant for documentary filmmaker Phillippe Rock, featuring Artist Laureate Katy Krantz and temporary mural; approval of a grant to Katy Krantz to support a local artist for painting assistance; and inclusion of both grants in the work plan of Culver Arts.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that two public comments had been received and distributed to Commissioners by email.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2024**

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin pointed out a typographical error that staff agreed to correct.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2024 AS AMENDED.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**Consideration of (1) FY 2023-24 Cultural Affairs Work Plan Updates; (2) FY 2024-25 Cultural Affairs Work Plan Priorities; and, (3) Provide Comments and/or Make a Recommendation to the City Manager as Appropriate**

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided status updates on the 2023-2024 Cultural Affairs work plans;

discussed the proposed work plans for 2024-2025; recent updates on current projects; an article written by Christine Byers for the November 2023 issue of *Culver City Neighbors Magazine*; trainings and administrative tasks included in serving the Commission; unforeseen items not included in the approved work plan; interactions with other departments and divisions; the AB1600 Development Impact Fee Report; Cultural Trust Fund allocations; collaboration with Economic Development on the Summer Sunset Music Series; and sharing expertise and information.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed new artworks developed as part of the Art in Public Places Program; collections management; the refresh of Joshua Callaghan's *Almost Invisible Boxes* series on downtown electrical boxes; Nate Mohler's new digital show for *Culver Current* for 2024-2025; and restoration and maintenance of existing artwork.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed work on the Art in Public Places Program (APPP) Ordinance and assistance with the Historic Preservation Program from Current Planning Manager Emily Stadnicki.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed his work with GIS, Planning, and ITS departments to verify the historically designated properties and permanent public art collection in the city, noting that the project had not been in the approved work plan.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed historic resource projects during the last fiscal year; work with Johnson Favaro on historic designations at Veterans Memorial Building as part of their feasibility study; other preservation projects in process; the restoration of the American Legion Building; the Performing Arts Grant Program; 2023 grant results; audience and promotion; 2024 grant applications and awards; administrative challenges with expansion of the program; status of 2024 grant contracts; the LA Writers' Workshop Festival of new plays presented at the Kirk Douglas Theater; increased attendance of events; Music in the Council Chambers; the Artist Laureate Program; promotion; and assistance with social media from the Communications Manager.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed the "Dear Culver City..." art installation to be displayed at City Hall; expressed appreciation to Edgar Varela and Dustin Klemann for promotion assistance; and he provided an update on the temporary mural at 11029 Washington Blvd.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed promotion and publicity; distribution of the downtown cultural walking tours aka red books; ongoing promotional projects; portions of the General Plan Update pertaining to Cultural Affairs programs and the Creative Economy; the 2028 Olympics; work with Culver Arts; the Artist Laureate Program; the new Culver Arts Community Calendar; the City website calendar for City-sponsored events; the Community Cultural Plan; powers and duties of the Commission; projects in the 2024-2025 work plan; and projects in the current work plan.

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, indicated that Jim Clarke could not be present, but had sent a letter with recommendations for inclusion in the Cultural Affairs Work Plans; she noted that Katy Krantz had organized more events for the "Dear Culver City..." project than were reflected on page seven of the status updates; discussed previous requests that the new work plan for each year include more detail on activities; general headings; implementation of art projects that would advance the work of local artists and increase interaction in the city; a suggestion for a rotating streetlight banner project utilizing local artists and students; coordination with private building owners to provide opportunity for local artists to paint murals throughout the city; utilizing vacant commercial space for art exhibits and projections; local artist programs to distinguish the city borders; the Foundation offer to assist the City in implementing the projects; the importance of ensuring a significant art component in the reimagining of Veterans Park; the need for a municipal art gallery and community arts center to be included in plans; making use of City property; eagerness of the Foundation to work with the City and Commission to advocate for the community projects and raise the money necessary to make them a reality; creation of a marketing program and visibility program for a Cultural

Corridor; she noted the Foundation hoped to be included in planning for the Olympics and wanted to continue partnerships with the Artist Laureate Program and the summer concert series; she requested that the 2023-2024 work plan updates reflect monies given by Culver Arts for City programs not currently listed; she discussed collaboration on future projects such as Music in the Council Chambers; additional grants; she asked that the City confer with the Foundation early in planning to secure funding for City projects; she noted that most major funding commitments for the year would be allocated by July 1, 2024; and she expressed hope to continue the partnership with the City and the Commission to advance the arts and engagement in the city.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Ide, staff, and Commissioners regarding the budget to fund requests made by the Foundation; City staffing; early conversations so that the Foundation can ascertain how much support they can provide; and other ways to support the City.

Additional discussion ensued between staff, and Commissioners regarding appreciation to the Foundation for their support; good ideas in the letter; inclusion of Economic Development in the project to add signage for the city borders and street banners; clarification regarding finalizing APPP fulfillment options for 12300 Washington Boulevard; the Marc Fornes project; updating the number of events Katy Krantz has done for "Dear Culver City..."; a suggestion to change the word "began" to "launched" in the sentence about outreach done by Katy Krantz and to indicate that staff "assisted Katy Krantz with organizing and promoting"; careful differentiation between work done by staff, different divisions, and groups; support for clarifying the boundaries of the city before the Olympics happen; donations to support the Artist Laureate for the mural; reflecting the work of the division; consultation with the Finance Department regarding the new work plan format; the arts component of reimagining Veterans Park; confirmation that repairs to *Culver Current* are already underway; buildings with historic significance; buildings designated "architecture as art"; the permanent public art collection; work that went into Historic Preservation in the past year; reports requested by other departments; reliance on the Culver City Historical Society; assistance from the Planning Department; codification of the MOU (Memorandum of

Understanding) with Culver City Arts Foundation; the Public Art Subcommittee; the selection process for art for the Farragut Connector; clarification regarding involvement of the Public Art Subcommittee or the Commission in the Farragut Connector project; involvement of the adjacent property owner; maintenance and upkeep; the art component that was added to a Public Works project; the delayed launch; extensive Artist Laureate engagement with the Senior Center; the ordinance update to allow for decision-making in upcoming projects; work done by the City Attorney on a confidential legal memo with options for the Commission to consider for recommendations to the City Council; the Percent for Art program; and legal precedent.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding new work plan items for 2024-2025; additions or changes to the work plan; the full slate of activities planned for the small staff; priorities; consensus around coordinating the City borders project with the Olympics; consensus for Music in the Council Chambers; staff effort involved and resources necessary to move forward; scale of the event; the importance of paying the professional musicians for the free, City-sponsored event; assisting Edgar Varela with coordination; access to funding; separating Music in the Council Chambers from the Performing Arts Grant Program and the Summer Concert Series; coordinating a budget with Culver Arts; having a poetry series; the Community Cultural Plan; economic vitality outreach; opportunities for cross pollination between Economic Development and Cultural Affairs; addressing removal of the Deano's Motel neon sign; involving the Conservancy; appreciation to staff for their efforts; the amount of work done by Sam Lee on the APPP and the need for a permanent position to handle the workload; the budget development calendar; City Council consideration; identification and cultivation of performance spaces and facilitating use of existing venue resources; encouraging performance venues in the parks upgrade project; public resistance to the performance space proposed for Bill Botts; non-traditional spaces; options from the consultant; the budget development calendar; the multi-step process; and turning the work plan into a budget.

**Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Williams invited public comment.

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

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**Items from Commissioners/Staff**

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, announced upcoming performances noting that grant contracts for 2024 were still being finalized.

Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager, reported that an offer had been accepted to fill the Cultural Affairs Manager position.

Commissioner Mesghali discussed his work on the Fine Arts Council of the Farhang Foundation; the successful collaboration with the Craft Contemporary Museum on the Art of Iran exhibit and events; he reported meeting with Katy Krantz regarding the potential for art supporting activities at 11029 Washington Blvd.; money spent on the building by the City; adding an art component to plans for the building; affordable housing; and he proposed an email list for attendance related to City events.

Vice Chair O'Carroll reported attending the Culver City Arts Foundation Retreat.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported distributing the Red Books; she proposed providing books to new businesses as a City housewarming gift; and she reported attending the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event.

Chair Williams reported attending the Kontrapunktus concert and the MLK event with Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:55 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED

3/19/2024



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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.



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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

10 APR 2024  
Date