

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 9, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee was called to order at 6:04 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Brenda Williams, Vice Chair
Ehsaan Mesghali, Commissioner

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, introduced meeting attendees.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Order of the Agenda

Item C-1 was heard after Item A-2.

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Action Items

Item A-1
(Out of Sequence)

1) Consideration of an Art Concept for Permanent Art by Jorge Campos/PixelArt for 12300 Washington Blvd.; 2) Provide Comments; and, 3) Make Recommendation to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Warren Brand, Branded Arts, provided background on the organization and a rendering of the work; discussed the artist selection process; the chosen artist; digital art; urban art; project location; public access and view; lighting; materials; maintenance; the plaque; the budget; and photo documentation of the project installation.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that Marla Koosed, Artist Laureate Katy Krantz, City Planner William Kavadas, and Phil Silver of Jacmar, LLC, the developer for the project, had joined the meeting.

Discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee members regarding clarification that the image was a rendition of a Gilbert Stuart painting; the intent not to have a security or operator station in the lobby; lobby furniture; code requirements for visibility; flow of traffic into the area; concern with a new property manager taking over with different ideas for use of the space in the future; the commitment made to keep the lobby clean and the space open to ensure that the artwork is visible; holding any future property owners to the commitment; the floor-to-ceiling image; use of an image of George Washington on Washington Boulevard; Booker T. Washington; scrutiny of the founding fathers; adding color to the piece to make it more contemporary; re-creating existing tradition; the contrast between the light and dark; having the eyes follow the viewer; the existing Washington mural at the western end of Washington Boulevard; potential visual interference from the light fixtures; and the lighting design strategy and plan for the lobby area.

Marla Koosed questioned why lighting would be put in before the artwork; discussed standard lighting vs. intentional lighting; other options; acknowledgement of the limited budget; support

for the project; she suggested adding text; and she expressed concern that the concept was not exciting.

Additional discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee members regarding order of installation; ensuring evenly distributed lighting for the piece; the need for a full rendering of the lobby with all components included; glare; the concrete flooring; lobby furniture; conditions of approval related to valet parking; storage of keys in the lobby after normal business hours; ensuring that the artwork in the public space is not obscured; viewing the art through the lobby window; plaque placement; next steps; information to include in the packet for full Commission consideration; and fulfillment of program requirements.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, asked about the colors of the mosaic mural and whether the artist was willing to provide additional color schemes and was open to receiving feedback.

Further discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee members regarding interpretation of the original Gilbert Stuart portrait; public domain; copyright; the original color palette; the timeline for project construction; and Commission consideration.

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Item A-2

Deaccession of a Permanent Artwork, "After Market Wheel", by Paul Tzanetopoulos at 4520 Sepulveda Blvd.; 2) Provide Comments; and, 3) Make Recommendation to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided background on "After Market Wheel"; discussed prior restoration work on the permanent artwork; disappearance of the artwork in early 2022; the plaque; notification to Building Safety; changes to tenanting of the building; the artwork located on the portion of the building occupied by the new tenant; the percent for art requirement when Pep Boys moved into the building; Planning Commission denial of the concept due to concern that the art was advertising for Pep Boys; the appeal and ultimate approval

by the City Council; the letter from Pep Boys explaining that the art was not an advertisement for Pep Boys but rather a tribute to Southern California Car Culture and the history of the automobile in Culver City; the sign permit application for Advance Auto Parts; the inability to appraise the missing artwork; re-creation of the missing artwork; the letter and check requesting to deaccession the permanent artwork; mechanisms in place to prevent art from disappearing; the need for people to monitor public art in the city; the initial Planning Commission perception that the art was advertising and Advance Auto Part's perception that the art was advertising; and communication with the artist.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding disappointment at the loss of the artwork; dealing with absentee landlords, corporations, and property owners; making a directory of public art for residents; creation of an interactive map; public participation; the City website; the contractor who pulled the art off the wall and placed it in the dumpster; QR codes; and creation of an app.

Marla Koosed discussed staffing and monitoring public art to protect it.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding time spent on the issue; things that can go wrong even with all the checks and balances in place; the check received by the City from Pep Boys; fulfilment of code requirements; street views before and after; the decision made by Pep Boys corporate; the inability to replace the art; payment of the in-lieu fee; and the money deposited back into the Cultural Trust Fund.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2022 CAC Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27,
2022 CAC PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AS WRITTEN.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Marla Koosed expressed best wishes to the Subcommittee; she asked that wording be inserted in the revised Art in Public Places ordinance about the necessity of trained Cultural Affairs staff; and noted the importance of ensuring parity with other cities.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

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Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK of the City Council of Culver City,
California

APPROVED _____

Brenda Williams
VICE CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Public Art Subcommittee

Minutes Preparation: Kristi Callan