

REGULAR MEETING, MAY 10, 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR ALICIA MILLIKAN

Call to Order
7:03 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Susan Deen; Julie Lugo Cerra; Luther L. Henderson, III; Alicia Millikan, and Ronnie Jayne.

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

Mim Shapiro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; Linda Simmons, Event Supervisor; and, Elaine Gerety-Warner, Management Analyst.

Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

It was moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Deen and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

Item #C-2.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Jayne and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2005 Regular Meeting.

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Item #P-1.
7:05 p.m.

**Update on Installation of Historic Designation Plaques
and Cultural Affairs Website.**

Ms. Byers noted that this is the second year Culver City has observed Historic Preservation Month. In observance, staff has made a concerted effort towards completing installation of the historic designation plaques. Ms. Byers advised the Commission that, to date, all but four plaques have been installed.

Ms. Byers provided an update on the status of the Cultural Affairs web pages, saying they are still a work in progress. With regard to historic preservation, one of the goals has been using the website as both an educational tool and resource for owners of historic properties. She indicated that a links has been added which connect to websites relating to historic preservation including on-line tutorials developed by the National Park Service.

Chair Millikan asked if there are still questions remaining regarding the list of the "Significant" designated structures as originally approved by the City Council.

Ms. Byers answered there are still a few questions, saying that some additional follow-up research was required.

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**Item #A-1.
7:13 p.m.**

**Consideration of a Public Art Concept for Echo Horizon School at
3430 McManus Avenue.**

Commissioner Deen recused herself from this portion of the meeting, explaining there is a possible conflict of interest since she resides within 500 feet of the project.

Ms. Byers presented a summary staff report.

Chair Millikan recognized the following speaker:

Maureen Sullivan, of Pica & Sullivan Architects, noted that their firm has worked with artist David Shelton in the past and his metal work is extremely whimsical and magical. She indicated this particular work is an artistic interpretation of the Echo Horizon School's philosophy to education.

Chair Millikan entertained Commissioners' questions or comments.

Commissioner Henderson inquired about the height of the fence and if the design is childproof, saying where there is a fence there are likely to be imaginative children that will rise to the challenge.

Ms. Byers answered that the fence is approximately seven-and-a-half feet high. Ms. Sullivan advised that there are specific codes related to fences which will be met, one which dictates that the distance between vertical and horizontal elements must not be greater than four inches as a child-safety measure. She indicated that the fence will be sanded smooth and painted to eliminate any rough edges and that it will be located in front of the school which is an area the children will not be using unsupervised.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO APPROVE DAVID SHELTON'S CONCEPT FOR A MEMORIAL GARDEN FENCE AS FULFILLING ECHO HORIZON SCHOOL'S PUBLIC ART REQUIREMENT FOR THE TENANT IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING PERMIT 64065.

Vice-Chair Cerra remarked the work is creative, useful, whimsical and a pleasure to look at, saying the children will enjoy it and she is delighted it will be seen 24/7 because that is the intent of public art.

Commissioner Deen rejoined the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

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Item #A-2.

Consideration of Proposed Funding for Art Work on West

7:24 p.m.

Washington Boulevard.

Ms. Byers presented the staff report.

Chair Millikan called for Commissioners' questions or comments.

Commissioner Jayne declared that it is a good idea to do something in this area, noting she is very curious to see how this project can ultimately be accomplished with minimal disruption to the high volume of surrounding traffic.

Commissioner Henderson commented he believes it is very important to involve the local community in the process. He suggested that the public be allowed to provide input prior to the issuance of an RFQ or RFP and that a representative from the Culver West Neighborhood Association or the Rotary Club be included on the selection panel reviewing design proposals. He voiced support for keeping the RFP and RFQ processes as open as possible.

Commissioner Henderson requested a copy of the overall Cultural Affairs budget, saying he would like to determine what portion of the total budget the \$100,000 allocation represents. He asked staff what type of public art is being contemplated and how the amount budgeted was arrived at.

Ms. Byers replied that the \$100,000 allocation is based in part on the range of costs for public art projects of a certain scale, noting the median location will require something relatively large in order to provide good visibility for passing motorists. She noted that the amount budgeted incorporates a buffer since the exact criteria for the project have yet to be determined. She explained that a series of workshops and panels will be held to receive input from the nearby community and businesses and that an RFP will then be developed taking those comments into consideration. She advised that the issue before the Commission at this point is not the project itself but rather the allocation of the funds to ensure that the project can move forward this year.

Ms. Byers advised that the Art Fund receives approximately \$160,000 of annual revenue in the form of deposits and interest earned. She indicated that \$150,000 is being allocated for new projects for FY 05-06; with \$100,000 going to this particular project, and \$50,000 being earmarked for inclusion in the funds for conservation, leaving a balance of approximately \$300,000 of unencumbered money for future projects.

Commissioner Henderson queried if staff is envisioning doing something with all three medians at the location identified in the staff report.

Ms. Byers answered that the focus at this time is on the largest median. She stated that ultimately the project may cost far less

than what is being allocated and reiterated that staff chose this number in an attempt to move the project along and avoid a return to Council for a budget amendment should more funds be needed.

Commissioner Deen declared that she is thrilled that another piece of artwork is being contemplated in Culver City, particularly something on the west end.

Chair Millikan inquired if there is any other Redevelopment Agency land or property in West Culver City that might serve as an alternative site.

Ms. Gerety-Warner replied that she is unaware of any other property owned by the Redevelopment Agency that would be a suitable alternative, saying this particular location was chosen because of its high traffic volume and the visibility it would encourage. She noted that the Redevelopment Agency is currently working on three separate projects in that area and each of those developments will incur some public art via owner contributions.

Chair Millikan voiced concerns about the location, saying placing public art in the medians would not only increase the likelihood of traffic accidents but it would also be difficult for pedestrians to access. She opined that public artwork should be situated so it is accessible and easy to view. She indicated another consideration is the possibility that some future Redevelopment Agency or community development project might dictate the removal of the medians, asking what, then, would become of the artwork?

Ms. Byers noted that these are all legitimate concerns that will certainly be taken into account as the process develops. She indicated there are artistic solutions available that can beautify and also be easily appreciated while driving by. She cited the lighted columns at LAX as an example.

Chair Millikan declared that, while she supports making certain there is money allocated in the budget for such a project, she would prefer to keep things more open-ended and less specific in order to maintain latitude in the project's parameters as well as to allow for the possibility of changing the location. She suggested West Culver City would provide a broader scope of possible areas rather than specifying Washington Boulevard at Wade Street as proposed by staff.

Vice-Chair Cerra stated the proposed project will be reviewed by Public Works to ascertain that it will not create an "attractive nuisance", so there is cognizance of that potential problem. She indicated she would prefer to have artwork located in a more uncluttered space, saying perhaps something great can be done at this particular location, but perhaps there are other more appropriate sites. She agreed that being less specific as far as the location is a good idea, saying the parameters should also be

wide open to allow the artistic community the ability to use their creative capacity to design something fun and wonderful.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF A NEW ART PROJECT ON WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD WEST OF CENTINELA AND ALLOCATE \$100,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 05-06 CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET.

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7:46 p.m.

Items From Staff.

Ms. Gerety-Warner advised that staff has been following up with the Santa Monica Quilt Guild and they will be resubmitting a proposal for a public art quilt project. She indicated that the next Art of ... Speaker Series event will include an informative and interactive presentation of studio archives on June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Sony Pictures Plaza.

Ms. Byers distributed pictures received from De L'Esprie and David Spellerberg and reported that the bench portion of the bronze Harry Culver sculpture has been completed. She advised that she is very pleased with a proposal from a conservator for treatment of the Heritage Fountain art work, saying she will provide a detailed memorandum to Commissioners addressing relevant conservation issues at their next meeting.

Ms. Simmons announced that the Redevelopment Agency approved The Actors' Gang as the resident theater company for the Ivy Substation. She provided an update on the upcoming Music in the Chambers series, noted the Summer Sunset Music Festival will begin June 16th, and advised that Art Revolution is now Art in the Plaza with the first show scheduled for July 10th.

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7:49 p.m.

Commissioners' Comments.

Commissioner Jayne said she recently returned from a trip to Italy, noting that the work being proposed on West Washington Boulevard is reminiscent of what she just had the pleasure of experiencing on the streets of Italy where one can discover art in the most unusual and ordinary pedestrian friendly places. She noted she is gratified to be able to serve on the Cultural Affairs Commission and have the opportunity to provide input on cultural programs and art in Culver City that will, hopefully, last for generations. She commented that it is wonderful to be able to take a walk on the street, view art, hear music, and have people enjoying life as it should be.

Commissioner Henderson said he is very pleased to have served

on the panel that recommended The Actors' Gang as the resident theater company for the Ivy Substation. He indicated that Tim Robbins and The Actors' Gang have an ongoing educational component in place and have indicated they will work with the Culver Unified School District Academy of Visual and Performing Arts. He noted they have also agreed to keep the Ivy Substation available for use by community and amateur theater groups, saying this is definitely a win-win situation for Culver City and will provide excellent theater, promote business in the community, and improve the quality of life for the City's residents.

Commissioner Henderson invited everyone to attend the Music in the Chambers series to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity to hear some world-class chamber music.

Commissioner Deen commented that she attended the second annual George Barris Custom Car Show over the weekend and congratulated the Culver City Exchange Club and the Downtown Business Association for orchestrating a stellar event.

Vice-Chair Cerra remarked that she breathes a big sigh of relief every time she now passes the Heritage Fountain. She declared it is quite beautiful, the new finish on the fountain's base is a tremendous improvement, and she is very pleased to see the beginnings of that conservation effort. She thanked Ms. Gerety-Warner for her follow-up with the Santa Monica Quilt Guild.

Vice-Chair Cerra invited everyone to view the first of a changeable exhibit of wood carvings on view in the Historic Society's display case at Pacific Theatres.

Chair Millikan, citing health and personal reasons, announced that unfortunately she will be unable to fulfill the final year of her appointment to the Cultural Affairs Commission. Saying she does not believe she can bring much more to the Commission at present, she indicated she would be very happy to continue to be of service assisting with RFP's and grant writing. She expressed regret that she is leaving the CAC prior to the formation of the 501 (c)(3) but noted she believes that work will continue and she would be more than happy to assist with that particular project.

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8:03 p.m.

Adjournment.

With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DEEN, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR CERRA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:03 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Millikan, Chair

Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter

City of Culver City, California
Certification of Documents by the City Clerk

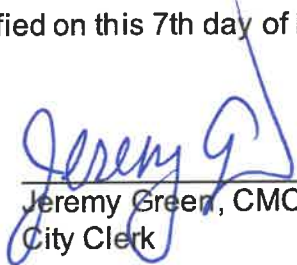
I, Jeremy Green, being the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Culver City, California hereby depose and declare

The 7 pages of the Cultural Affairs Commission Approved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2005 attached hereto are true and correct copies of documents in the possession of the City of Culver City.

I have affixed the Seal of the City of Culver City, California to indicate they are such true and correct copies.

Certified on this 7th day of March, 2022.

BY:



Jeremy Green, CMC
City Clerk

