

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 21, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Dickter called meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Len Dickter
Vice Chair Rich Cherry
Commissioner Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Absent: Commissioner John B. Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kimberly Ritter-Martinez.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

Dr. Janet Hault reported on the progress of the Ad Hoc Artist Laureate subcommittee; announced the second poetry reading of the Centennial Poetry Contest on April 8 at the library with food provided by California Pizza Kitchen; and she spoke of her participation in the story-time reading program for children of all ages, sponsored by the Friends of the Culver City Library on April 4.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes5

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PALI THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016 AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, PALI, WISNOSKY STELIN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: WILLIAMS
ABSTAIN: CHERRY

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Presentation of the Draft Creative Economy Report of Culver City; and 2) Provide Comments

Chair Dickter provided background on the item; discussed the partnership with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; the upcoming presentation to the City Council in April; quantification of creative industries; the competitiveness of Culver City; how integral the creative enterprises are; and he discussed meeting procedures.

Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, provided background on herself and the LAEDC; noted that the report was the first time they had created a report at the City level; discussed data challenges; Culver City data vs. County data; she reviewed the economic status of California and Los Angeles County; the importance and make-up of the creative economy; distribution of creative industry jobs in the city; trends within the creative industries; self-employment rates within creative industries; creative occupations and associated median wages; location quotients; job growth factors; the contribution analysis; 2014 data; state and local taxes paid; direct, indirect and induced jobs; and the importance of the creative economy.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, and Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, continued the presentation with a focus on industries specific to Culver City, including: art, culture, music, technology, architecture, fashion, design and entertainment; distributed copies of the draft report to Commissioners; discussed City business license data; the definition of the Creative Economy; the time frame covered by the data; the unique nature of the region; creative roots of the City; arts organizations within the City; creative jobs totals and breakdown within the City; community and business professionals interviewed for the report; the Cultural Corridor; interviewing and highlighting creative businesses and non-profit organizations in the city; walkable destinations in the city; job growth in the city and state; charitable donations for the arts within the city; art education within the city; dance and theatre groups; investment in permanent public art commissions in Culver City; the Performing Arts Grant Program; reduced theatre grants due to reduced venue availability; Veterans Memorial Auditorium; creative industry rentals; The Wende Museum; recreation contract classes; and the role of the City in contributing to the creative economy.

Chair Dickter concluded the presentation by detailing the objectives of the report; he noted the importance of expanding the definition of arts and culture; indicated that Culver City is the first small City to take on the task of studying the creative economy in this manner; and he discussed next steps in the process.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and Ms. Ritter-Martinez regarding appreciation for the report; translating data to the activity in the city; whether residents are represented in the jobs data; the economic activity of those who work in the city; an assertion that creative industries were initially attracted to the relatively cheap space in Culver City and the early film studios were the attraction for other creative industries; the clustering affect; the importance of housing and space to work; diversification and creative economy growth in the city and Los Angeles County; income generated by creative businesses in the city; quality of life aspects for corporate citizens; the magnitude of growth shown in the report; enterprise zones; tax incentives; the policy heavy creative economy report done in New York City; lack of performing arts spaces in the city; appreciation for inclusion of information on the non-profit sector and the school district; lack of data on artists who live and work in the city; gathering self-employment data informally; hiring a survey firm to collect data; the human capital component; sustaining the creative ecosystem; relative percentages; estimation methodology; the role of education; appreciation and recognition of Marla Koosed who began the process; and the intent to inform future actions and decisions of the City Council as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association and any other applicable organizations.

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Item A-2

1) Review of the Proposed FY 2017-2018 Cultural Trust Fund Budget for Cultural Affairs; and, 2) Provide Comments

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, and Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Public Art for Washington/National TOD Gateway line item, and updating the Community Cultural Plan.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Dickter invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, announced that the first performance of the 1988 series would be held on April 23, 2017.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts production of *CULVERCITYLAND* in the Veterans Memorial Building complimenting the new stage, and lighting; spoke on the National Arts Advocacy Day activities; announced the upcoming AVPA Film Screening at Sony; attended the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Awards on March 20 at the Colony Theater in Burbank; spoke of threats to funding for non-profit arts organizations; and reported on a special event she attended at Center Theatre Group featuring Keynote Speaker Diane Ragsdale on increasing public awareness and patronization of the arts.

Chair Dickter reported attending a performance of *Good Grief* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre on March 21; announced his upcoming participation on a grants panel for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; and he thanked staff for their work on the Creative Economy Report.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:57 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on April 18, 2017 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

LEN DICKTER
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.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date