

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 2, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Mesghali called the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:09 P.M. in Patio Room at Culver City Hall.

Present: Ehsaan Mesghali, Chair
Tania Fleischer, Vice Chair
Shona Gupta, Commissioner
Heather Moses, Commissioner

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mesghali led the Pledge of Allegiance

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Mesghali invited public comment.

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

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Receipt of Correspondence

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that a summary had been provided with important dates.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 21, 2026 and May 19, 2026

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a correction to the spelling of a name in the April 21, 2026 minutes; acknowledgement that the May 19, 2026 minutes only included up until the meeting stopped abruptly due to technical difficulties; and clarification that the performance referenced in the April 21, 2026 minutes was at the Robert Frost Auditorium.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOSES AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF APRIL 21, 2026 AND MAY 19, 2026 AS AMENDED.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receipt of Report from CVL Economics + MIG, Consultants for the Community Cultural Equity Plan, and Provide Feedback

Ann Berchtold, MIG Consultants, introduced the project team; discussed roles; the Community Cultural Equity Plan; the Public Art Master Plan component; timeline and progress; community engagement; goals for the survey questionnaire; promotion tactics; the intent to solicit broad input; the framework; providing a baseline overview; examination of other planning efforts; defining Public Art; goals and values of the community; creative placemaking; the outreach list; and extending beyond the usual voices.

Noé Noyola, MIG Consultants, provided background on himself; noted his focus on engagement and making sure the community had a voice in the process; and he discussed planned stakeholder engagement.

Consultants, staff, and Commissioners discussed community outreach and cultural planning strategies for Culver City, focusing on reaching SB 1000 priority neighborhoods through targeted promotions, local summer event pop-ups, a dedicated microsite, and distribution toolkits. To boost public engagement and survey completion, the team emphasized interactive art activities, swag, and gift card drawings while gathering direct feedback on desired local art. The discussion also addressed broader strategic goals, including filling cultural infrastructure gaps, repurposing spaces, and building a unified cultural identity that balances the city's "Screenland" heritage with its "Streamland" future. Moving forward, the project will align with City Council budget priorities, embed artist voices into city departments, involve subcommittees in survey creation, and establish a clear timeline for reviewing the first draft.

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Item A-2

Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Standing Subcommittee and Ad Hoc Subcommittees of the Cultural Affairs Commission

Chair Meghali discussed the meeting of the Public Art Subcommittee; opportunities to work with the parks to provide art to wrap fitness equipment; the Colorful Communities project; adjustments to the timeline; and shortlisting artists.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding location of the equipment wraps; streamlining the Rethink development art fee process based on legal advice; the goal to have an exhibition of all the neighborhoods by the Olympics; City Council consideration of activation of the lighting plan at Vet's tower; projection mapping; the call for a professional consultant; partnership between PRCS and Cultural Affairs; and inclusion in the 2026-2027 work plan.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the Artist Laureate presentation planned for the July meeting, and previous discussion of the Creative Economy and Cultural Plan.

Commissioner Gupta reported on the previous Culver City Arts Foundation Board meeting; discussed Artist Meetups; and *Projecting Possibilities*.

Chair Mesghali discussed staffing efforts of the Culver City Arts Foundation; grants and fundraising opportunities; different events Culver Arts is involved in; and the internship and scholarship programs.

Vice Chair Fleischer provided an update on the Culver City Fiesta La Ballona Subcommittee and discussed review of band submissions.

Vice Chair Fleischer reported on the Performing Arts Grant Program and discussed working to secure a piano for Music in the Chambers.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding pop-up performances with Performing Arts Grant recipients around Art Walk and Roll; the new Commissioner and composition of subcommittees in July; the Olympics and Paralympics Cultural Olympiad Ad Hoc Subcommittee; the RFP (Request for Proposals); subcommittee consolidation; and standing subcommittee to help staff efficiency.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Mesghali invited public comment.

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

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed public engagement for the Colorful Communities poster project in assigned neighborhoods; participation; the upcoming Stephen Coleman event on June 18 in front of Destroyer; he thanked Vice Chair Fleischer for her suggestion for targeted neighborhood mailings and all Commissioners for their attendance of various public engagement events; he discussed virtual mid-point review of the audits; and acknowledged Graphic Services

Supervisor David Vargas for his efforts to provide promotional materials for public engagement events.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding in-person signage; social media posts; different promotional tactics used for each location; and working to ensure a balanced process.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided an update on the Performing Arts Grant program; discussed approval of the grant contracts; upcoming sponsored performances; the Culver City Symphony Orchestra; the Juneteenth event on June 20; and information available on the Culver City website, social media, and in the community calendar.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed the date for the next meeting; the meet and greet for Commission, Board, and Committee (CBC) applicants; she encouraged Commissioners to watch the interviews and potentially make recommendations to Council Members; discussed upcoming Cultural Affairs items agendaized for City Council consideration; the upcoming Olympics meeting at Veterans Auditorium; upcoming World Cup events; the mural; the pilot implementation; the RFP for dance and music activations related to the approved cultural framework; and she discussed her availability in June and July.

Commissioner Moses discussed events she attended; healthy skepticism when looking at data; information available at lacountyarts.org; Americans for the Arts; tools available; Culver City Symphony Orchestra; and she indicated that School Yard Rap would be performing at the Juneteenth event at the Frost Auditorium featuring Black American Composers.

Commissioner Gupta discussed the Hospital of Emotions exhibit; the Geffen Gallery; and Deep Cuts at LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art).

Vice Chair Fleischer discussed visiting the new wing at LACMA; meeting with Edgar Varela about the summer concert series; she expressed regret at missing events June 19-20 due to being out of town; discussed the upcoming Kontrapunktus concert and their soloist; and she recognized the Culver City Symphony for their excellent work.

Chair Mesghali thanked staff for their work on community engagement; discussed the art of Lori Escalera; and visiting the CTER program at Culver City High School.

Commissioner Gupta thanked staff for sending invites to Commissioners.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, received clarification regarding procedures for Action Items.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:34 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 21, 2026.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

EHSAAN MESGHALI

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 Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date