

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 21, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:34 P.M. via teleconference.

Present: Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin
Vice Chair Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Len Dickter
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate
Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC - Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2020

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin noted that Alexey Steele's name had been misspelled on page 2 of the minutes.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2020 AS CORRECTED.

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Order of the Agenda

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation to everyone for their support and thanked the City Council for reappointing her to the Commission.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding moving Items A-3 and A-4 forward on the agenda.

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Action Items

Item A-3
(Out of Sequence)

CAC - Consideration of a New Permanent Art Concept by Veronika Kellndorfer Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program Requirement for a Project at 9735 Washington Boulevard (Brick & Machine)

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced the item and provided a summary of the material of record.

Marc Pally, Art Consultant, read a letter from Carol Camp of Clarett West Development in support of the artist; he indicated that Christopher Grimes, the Artist Representative, would be

presenting the proposal as the artist lives in Germany where it was the middle of the night; and he thanked the Commission for their time and consideration.

Marco Marraccini, Abramson Architects, provided an overview of the project; discussed the process for determining the location for the art; and integrating the art into the building.

Christopher Grimes, Artist Representative, provided background on the artist and an overview of the proposal for the project; discussed differences in the appearance of the art depending on the time of day; reflections as part of the work; glass as the subject matter; the image; the art as a filter between the interior and exterior space; and he noted that this would be the first large-scale commission for the artist in the United States.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, read written public comment submitted by:

Marla Koosed who expressed support for the artist and for her work.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the subcommittee request for samples; texture of the glass; the practice of viewing samples before approving a project; whether to table the discussion; the exhibit at The Getty Museum which included a similar example of the artist's work; the materials; two panes of glass with the image in the middle; the mullions; support for the concept; the German-made glass; the timeline; integration of the artwork; the construction process; maintaining the building schedule; complexities of dealing with integrated artwork; the importance of listening to the expertise of subcommittee members; the availability of the artist's work in other institutions with stringent requirements; response to requested amendments; the report certifying the durability of the materials; similar projects executed by the artist in Germany; the timeframe for receiving the sample; the fabricators; and a proposal to move forward with conditional approval of the project pending approval of the materials by Vice Chair Pali.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PALI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPROVE A NEW PERMANENT ART CONCEPT BY VERONIKA KELLNDORFER TITLED, ARCHITECTURE OF PLANTS, EUPHORBIA AMMAK, TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE APPP REQUIREMENT FOR A PROJECT AT 9735 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD BRICK & MACHINE CONDITIONED ON PROVIDING A SAMPLE FOR APPROVAL BY THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Item A-4

CAC - 1) Discussion Regarding the Outstanding Loan Provided to Culver City Arts Foundation; and 2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public input.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Commissioner Dickter acknowledged the unusual situation with the pandemic; the excellent job done by the Foundation in a short period of time; the positive reputation of the Foundation; threats to the arts since the pandemic; the importance of granting flexibility to the Foundation; the feeling that forcing the Foundation into a repayment plan would cost the City a lot; support for a one-year extension; and the possibility of loan forgiveness.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin provided background on the formation of the Foundation; noted that they had already raised more money than they had received in seed money from the City; she expressed appreciation for the work of the Foundation; and she supported putting repayment on hold for at least a year, if not forgiving the loan altogether.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding agreement that the arts needed support and that repayment should be revisited after a year.

Sehnita Joshua Mattison, Culver City Arts Foundation, thanked the Commission for their support; discussed tireless fundraising with the intent to repay the loan by Foundation Vice Chair Jim Clarke; working to fund City programs; securing restricted funds for the Artist Laureate Program; and the goal of the Foundation to come back stronger.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding examination of what the Foundation has been able to accomplish over the past 12 months; leaving the option open for a repayment plan; a request to have the City Council reconsider their decision to require a three-year repayment plan based on a request from the Foundation with the recommendation from the Commission; the start date of the repayment plan; benefits of the deferral; and the importance of helping struggling arts organizations across the City.

Sehnita Joshua Mattison, Culver City Arts Foundation, thanked the Commission for their support of deferring repayment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER, SECONDED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THAT IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESULTING ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, AND ON THE BASIS THAT THE CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION SHOULD BE AS FINANCIALLY SOUND AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST STRUGGLING ARTS INSTITUTIONS IN CULVER CITY, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DEFER THE CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION'S LOAN FROM THE CITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021 WITH A REPAYMENT PLAN REVISITED AT THAT TIME.

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Item A-1
(Out of Sequence)

**CAC - 1) Acknowledgment of Reappointed Commission Member; and
2) Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair**

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding willingness and availability to serve.

MOVED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT TANIA FLEISCHER TO SERVE AS CHAIR, AND LEN DICKTER TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021.

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Item A-2

CAC - (1) Dissolution of the Ad Hoc 2020 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; (2) Creation of the Ad Hoc 2021 Culver City Performing Arts Grants Program Subcommittee; and (3) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding agreement to keep the existing assignments for the next year.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PALI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. DISSOLVE THE AD HOC 2020 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE; AND

2. CREATE AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE WITH THE FOLLOWING LIMITED SCOPE: 2021 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM; AND,

3. MAINTAIN EXISTING SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FROM 2019-2020
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS FOLLOWS:

AD HOC:

ARTIST LAUREATE (FLEISCHER/WISNOSKY STEHLIN)

COMMUNICATIONS (DICKTER/WILLIAMS)

CREATIVE ECONOMY REPORT (DICKTER/PALI)

CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION LIAISON
(DICKTER/WISNOSKY STEHLIN)

2021 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM
(FLEISCHER/WISNOSKY STEHLIN)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PROGRAM UPDATE
(PALI/WILLIAMS)

STANDING:

PUBLIC ART (PALI/WILLIAMS)

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Staff

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported on the process to dismantle and refurbish Don Merkt's *Crossed Currents* artwork at the City Transportation Facility.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding public outreach regarding the project and appreciation for the notice received via GovDelivery.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, announced a performance by students of the Academy and Visual Performing Arts (AVPA) from Culver City High School via Zoom on July 24 led by Heidi Duckler Dance teacher Rafael Quintas, a Zoom performance of Sam Hirsh on piano as part of The Jazz Bakery Concerts at Home series on July 25, and an upcoming performance by the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra on August 4; she indicated that the events were supported by the City's Performing Arts Grant Program; and she reported that additional information on upcoming performances was available on the City website.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments for FY 2020-2021; indicated that she appreciated working with her colleagues on the Commission; discussed her service on the Public Art Subcommittee; she advocated for more outreach and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI); discussed outreach in the arts for public art programs; repeated efforts to guide and direct art consultants and staff to artists who reflect diversity in the arts; diversity among fine artists in Los Angeles County; she expressed frustration with the lack of appointment of People of Color (POC) or local artists; discussed the process; a recent webinar hosted by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art titled *Racism is a Public Health Issue*; a sweeping anti-racism agenda approved by Los Angeles County; systematic racism and bias; she implored

everyone to learn and be more informed about the situation; she asked Commissioners to be aware moving forward; and she noted that it would be in the best interests of the City for local artists to be supported in the competition for prized commissions.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin congratulated the Chair and the Vice Chair on their appointments; expressed appreciation to Commissioner Williams for her statement; noted the 20th anniversary of the Cultural Affairs Commission in 2021; discussed the opportunity to center actions around equity, equality and inclusion; and she noted the importance of being more inclusive.

Vice Chair Dickter expressed support for the comments made by Commissioner Williams.

Chair Fleischer indicated that she was looking forward to the August Performing Arts Grant Subcommittee meeting to begin the process for 2021; discussed figuring out how to support performing arts organizations moving forward; the importance of supporting the cultural life of Culver City; and she proposed establishing a mentorship program for the Art in Public Places Program.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:25 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on August 18, 2020.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

TANIA FLEISCHER
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