

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 17, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Erinna Nong, Cultural Affairs Intern

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Mesghali led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Hope Parrish reported that the Culver City Historical Society have voted to hold their quarterly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month so that the Cultural Affairs Commission could participate.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, discussed a recent action by the City Council regarding purchase of a former gun store site on Washington Boulevard; the opportunity to quickly paint a mural on the outside of the building replacing the current text with different content in a similar style; illustrating the moment of transformation; and support from parents of La Ballona Elementary School students and Culver 878.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding funding; donations; timing; labor; community involvement; murals vs. tiles; the temporary nature of the project; the Artist Laureate Subcommittee; City Council support for painting the building quickly; activating the site. Commissioners indicated consensus to agendaize consideration of the idea at the upcoming November 21st Commission meeting.

Additional discussion ensued between Ms. Krantz, staff, and Commissioners regarding potential words to choose for the site and community input.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2023

Commissioner Fleischer pointed out a typographical error.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 15, 2023 AS CORRECTED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - 1) Receipt and Filing of a Report from Johnson Favaro Regarding the Future of Veterans Memorial Park and Bill Botts Fields at Culver City Park; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate

Jim Favaro, Johnson Favaro, discussed Culver City Park; Veterans Memorial Park; Bill Botts Fields; important properties that surround Veterans Park; possibilities for uses of the parks; defining parks; community gardens; sports; best practices to encourage multi-generational uses; transforming Veterans Memorial Auditorium; sports complexes in other cities; modern gymnasium design; aquatic facilities; event spaces; historical archives; maker spaces; creating separate facilities for Little League and AYSO; topography; the amount of undeveloped hillside; facilities at Veterans Memorial Park; parking; available square footage; setbacks; and the amount of actual parkland available at the sites.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Favaro, staff, and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentation; the potential for an amphitheater due to the topography at Culver City Park; incorporation of the findings for the official historical designation for Veterans Memorial Park into the feasibility study; flexibility afforded by maintaining the use of the site; the ability to get the facilities up and running in time for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics; the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process; separating indoor sports from the performing arts space; modularity; limits of the existing structural condition; creating a space that would support a symphony, theater production and/or gallery; serving multiple forms of art in the space; hosting small scale events; ideas of

the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; improvement of the nature trail; ideas for improvements; the fact that upper Botts Field is on a landfill and sinking; ongoing field repair; advice from the geotechnical engineer; establishing a vision for the other 45 acres at Culver City Park; creating a terraced garden that the trail passes through; the fact-finding stage of the process; appreciation for the presentation; embracing people that use Bill Botts Fields recreationally by establishing a formal lookout; supporting The Plunge; setbacks; maximizing the edge condition; consolidating facilities to work together and expand; growth of the city; the importance of open space; designing for 2050 rather than 1950; finding ways to carve out more park space; and Fiesta La Ballona.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin indicated having the opportunity to see the presentation previously.

Additional discussion ensued between Mr. Favaro, staff, and Commissioners regarding the focus on the two community parks before addressing other neighborhood parks; the proposed amphitheater; changing space in the Veterans Memorial Building; performance spaces; theater capacity, difficulties faced by local theater companies; focusing on smaller spaces; shared space; providing a welcoming lobby; creating a black box theater; different needs for a movie theater vs. a theater for plays; musical performances; consideration of acoustics; strengthening the relationship between the Culver City Historical Society and the Cultural Affairs Commission; providing a dedicated space for the Historical Society; and being mindful of the need to preserve open space.

Chair Williams invited public input.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide, Culver City Arts Foundation, reported meeting with Johnson Favaro on Friday; discussed the importance of the arts to physical and mental health; providing an art walk in addition to a nature trail; ensuring that the Teen Center is as special as the Senior Center and that the Historical Society has archive as well as exhibition space; including what is feasible and what is not in the Feasibility

Study; and including identified things in the report for possible development at other locations.

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Item A-2

CAC - Consideration of a Concept for Permanent Art Installation by Yoskay Yamamoto Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program Requirement for a Project at 10301-10395 Jefferson Boulevard

Chair Williams introduced the item.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, provided a presentation on the concept for a permanent art installation by Yoskay Yamamoto; noted that the artist was not available for the meeting; he read the Artist Statement; discussed the background of the artist; challenges with the project; effective siting of the art; materials; and budget.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding preservation of some of the murals; concern that the location for the public art at the rear of the building would only be appreciated by those who work at the location; lack of open space in the front; clarification that parking is free and open and anyone can park and access the back of the project; the Culver City guide to public art; precedent for public art within a campus; artworks that are not visible from the street; size of the sculpture; safety issues with kids climbing on the art; lighting; signage; landscaping; the Japanese American community in the city; the Public Art registry; secure attachment of the flower to the head of the sculpture; clarification that a public path is not planned along Ballona Creek; the path within the property; and the potential for a restaurant or a coffee shop at the location in the future.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPROVE AN ART CONCEPT BY YOSKAY YAMAMOTO TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE APPP REQUIREMENT FOR A PROJECT BY REDCAR PROPERTIES AT 10301-10395 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that she was keeping the case planner for the project updated, and she stated that there were no plans for a gate so the parking should remain open and accessible with access to the back.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided an update on the Artist Laureate Program; discussed events and places where Katy Krantz has been present and engaging with the public; the new Communications and Public Information Manager, Dustin Klemann; Artist Laureate events highlighted on social media; and upcoming production of the third edition of the Downtown Cultural Walking Tours booklet.

Erinna Nong, Cultural Affairs Intern, provided personal and professional background; discussed the intern program funded by Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture; and projects that she would be focusing on during her tenure.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program applications; usage of the new Gloria Kaufman Creative Community Center at The Wende Museum scheduled to open during the first half of 2024; the peer review panel process; updates on the 2023 grant performances; feedback from grantees; specific comments expressing appreciation for Commissioner attendance; expansion of venue eligibility; homeless presence and security for those performing outdoors; and attendance.

Erinna Nong, Cultural Affairs Intern, discussed upcoming grantee performances and planned publicity.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed the focus on Public Art Collections Management as well as current and upcoming maintenance planned.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, encouraged everyone to review and comment on the Public Review Draft of the General Plan posted at pictureculvercity.com noting the cultural and historic related elements; she indicated that there would be no additional presentations to the Commission on the General Plan; discussed efforts to gather materials from the Historical Society's archive for the Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study; the upcoming meeting of the Historical Society; information available on the Historical Society website; plans to install the artwork by Marc Fornes/THEVERYMANY at The Culver Steps/Town Plaza in early 2024; informational plaques along the Culver Boulevard Median Bike Path; projects initiated by other departments that cross over to Cultural Affairs; and City Council approval of updating the Powers and Duties of the Cultural Affairs Commission as included in the Municipal Code.

Commissioner Mesghali discussed attending *The Persian Version* screening hosted by the Fine Arts Council.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending Fiesta Mexicana as well as the Art Walk & Roll Festival; discussed Katy Krantz's clay stamping project; indicated that she had met with Culver Arts for the Feasibility Study; and she was looking forward to engaging in the Performing Arts Grant process.

Commissioner Fleischer reported attending the grant funded *My Dear Dead Drug Lord* at the Center Theater Group and the Art Walk & Roll Festival; she was looking forward to the Performing Arts Grant process; and she thanked Culver Arts for placing Louise Coffey-Webb's memorial marker across from one of the plaques that she had worked on for the median bike path.

Vice Chair O'Carroll welcomed Erinna Nong; reported attending Fiesta Mexicana at Tito's Tacos; discussed money raised for the Culver City Arts Foundation; attending the Art Walk & Roll Festival; and she thanked the Artist Laureate for the number of events and time put in.

Chair Williams reported attending her 50th high school reunion.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:55 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Lee Lawle

SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 11/21/23

Brenda Williams

BRENDA WILLIAMS

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

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

7 DEC 2023
Date