

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 15, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

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

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that public comment had been received via email and distributed to Commissioners.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alexey Steele, former Artist Laureate for Culver City, congratulated Katy Krantz for her work as current Artist Laureate; discussed the newest painting from his *Love My Neighbor* project on display at the Bowers Museum; the California Arts Council's California Creative Corps program; the Culver City Art in Public Places Program; the importance of art to the economy of Culver City; he noted that his proposal expanded the theme of *Love My Neighbor* to the realm of public art; discussed development of a prototype for new technology; finding ways to ensure that exciting and creative things happening in the arts are in Culver City; support for Culver Arts and the Artist Laureate Program in the city; and the importance of arts as a key building block for the future.

Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Steele for his efforts.

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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 June 20, 2023

Chair Fleischer indicated that after speaking with staff, it was agreed that for clarity, the reference to "outreaching art spaces" in the second complete paragraph on page 3 of the minutes would be removed.

MOVED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 20, 2023 AS AMENDED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – (1) Acknowledgement of Reappointed Commission Member; and (2) Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2023 – 2024

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT BRENDA WILLIAMS TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND LEORA O’CARROLL TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

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Item A-2

CAC – (1) Dissolution and Creation of Subcommittees to Reflect the FY 2023 – 2024 Cultural Affairs Work Plan; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding overlap between the Community Cultural Plan and the Creative Economy Subcommittees and a suggestion to combine the two; responsibilities of the Cultural Plan Subcommittee; the General Plan Update; determining priorities; community engagement efforts; the timeline for the Cultural Plan Update; combining the Creative Economy Report and the Community Cultural Plan; precedent; ad hoc vs. standing subcommittees; projects that carry over multiple years; Brown Act rules; clarification that a meeting of subcommittees from different bodies would require a public meeting; the overlapping Olympics subcommittees; government

transparency; and Commission consensus was achieved to amend the Creative Economy Subcommittee to become the Creative Economy and Cultural Plan Subcommittee.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. DISSOLVE THE AD HOC 2023 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE; AND,

2. CREATE TWO AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES WITH THE FOLLOWING LIMITED SCOPE: 2024 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY AND CULTURAL PLAN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE; AND,

3. MAKE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024 AS FOLLOWS:

ART IN VACANT STOREFRONTS/BUSINESSES AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

ARTIST LAUREATE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – COMMISSIONERS FLEISCHER AND WISNOSKY STEHLIN

CREATIVE ECONOMY AND CULTURAL PLAN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – VICE CHAIR O’CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER

2024 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – COMMISSIONERS FLEISCHER AND WISNOSKY STEHLIN

CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION LIAISON AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – VICE CHAIR O’CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PROGRAM UPDATE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

2028 OLYMPICS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – VICE CHAIR O’CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

STANDING PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

Item A-3

CAC - (1) Review and Discussion of Biannual Report of Cultural Affairs Commission Activities; and, (2) Authorization for Transmittal to City Council

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record and suggested that the sentence about receiving a presentation on the 2028 Olympics on page 2 of the staff report under Commission Business be removed.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding updating the names of the Chair and Vice Chair; clarification regarding the artist networking event; adjustments to wording to clarify that the event was an opportunity for local artists to meet each other and Katy Krantz; the Community Cultural Plan; the creative economy; noting that the Commission has expanded the Creative Economy Subcommittee to include the Cultural Plan and Subcommittee members will continue to work with Cultural Affairs and Economic Development staff on stakeholder activities and events; agreement to change wording to add clarity regarding the Creative Economy and Cultural Plan; placing the proposed joint meeting with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission under Commission business to ensure it happens within the first part of the fiscal year; alignment with the Parks Master Plan; participation in the updated plans for Bill Botts Fields and Veterans Memorial Park; the consultant hired; artworks and events in the city parks and the importance of being part of the discussion; and recent City Council approval of hiring a consultant to oversee the process.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE BIENNIAL REPORT OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AS AMENDED AND AUTHORIZE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

Item A-4

CAC - (1) Review CCMC Section 3.03.200 Pertaining to Powers and Duties of the Cultural Affairs Commission; and, (2) Make Recommendations on Language Adjustments

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record noting that equity, diversity, and inclusion was included as a separate duty, and she discussed the separation of fine arts vs. visual arts.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding fixes to formatting, clerical, and typographical errors; terminology; and age requirements.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECOMMEND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CCMC SECTION 3.02.300 PERTAINING TO ITS POWERS AND DUTIES AS DISCUSSED.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed next steps and indicated that she would alert the Commission when the item goes before the City Council.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams 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, provided background on himself and his experience, and he indicated that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

Commissioners welcomed Mr. Lee and expressed appreciation for his expertise.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided an update on the restoration of *The Lion's Fountain* and other public art maintenance/conservation projects in the city.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed vehicle hang-tags for Commissioner use only while doing Commission business in the community; upcoming public workshops for 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program applicants; status of the Cultural Affairs Intern hiring process; and announced upcoming grant performances.

Vice Chair O'Carroll thanked Chair Fleischer for her service as Chair and welcomed Brenda Williams as the new Chair; reported attending the annual Board meeting of the Culver City Arts Foundation; discussed the countdown to the 2028 Olympics; and the Summer Concert Series at The Culver Steps.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation for the work of former Chair Fleischer; congratulated Chair Williams and Vice Chair O'Carroll on their appointments; thanked staff and Commissioners for their dedication; discussed the consultant hired for improvements to Bill Botts Fields and Veterans Memorial Park; programs by the Culver City Arts Foundation; and the Summer Concert Series.

Commissioner Mesghali expressed appreciation to former Chair Fleischer for her guidance and efforts; congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair; and discussed continued work by the Commission and Subcommittees.

Chair Fleischer expressed gratitude to Commissioners for their support; discussed attending the first Katy Krantz park workshop; received clarification regarding outreach and dates for upcoming workshops; reported attending the Culver City Public Theatre grant performance at Carlson Park; discussed the successful Summer Concert Series and money raised by Culver Arts to support it; community input received at the Summer Olympics meeting; the need for additional outreach to increase community engagement; and she expressed appreciation for work done on the Performing Arts Grant Program applications.

Chair Williams thanked former Chair Fleischer for her work as Chair; expressed appreciation for having Vice Chair O'Carroll to support her; and she expressed appreciation to staff and Commissioners for their confidence in her ability to serve as Chair.

Vice Chair O'Carroll thanked Commissioners Fleischer and Wisnosky Stehlin for their efforts on the Summer Concert Series.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:37 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

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
CITY CLERK

Date