

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 21, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair O'Carroll 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: Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Absent: Chair Brenda Williams
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

Vice Chair O'Carroll led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Vice Chair O'Carroll invited public comment.

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

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that correspondence received had been provided to Commissioners.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2023

Vice Chair O'Carroll requested that the words "theater capacity" be added to the Johnson Favaro discussion in the minutes.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2023 AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, MESGHALI, O'CARROLL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - Consideration of (1) a Recommendation from the 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee Pertaining to the 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards; and (2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record and she thanked Cultural Affairs Intern Erinna Nong for assistance and technical support.

Vice Chair O'Carroll invited public input.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Shenandoah Harris, Psychopomp Dance Theatre, provided background on the organization; discussed their mission; and the proposed grant-funded project.

Dr. Stacy Brightman, The Ebell of Los Angeles, thanked the peer review panel and 2024 Ad Hoc Performing Arts Grant Subcommittee for their recommendation to support the grant request; requested approval of the grant; discussed their organization and mission; the proposed free event planned for National Women's History month; and thanked the Commission for their support.

Asia Yu, No Easy Props, provided background on the organization and their mission; discussed their proposed project for 2024; the free workshop before the theater show; participants; and location.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported receipt of feedback indicating no sound on YouTube and no video on Webex.

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapunktus, noted that this was their seventh year to be recommended for a grant; expressed gratitude for the support from the City; discussed the music presented; efforts to provide opportunities for young musicians; past performances; the intent to provide eclectic and provocative programming; connecting with their audience; programming; the proposed grant performance; appreciation for the opportunity to present their shows; and he distributed fliers for their upcoming performance on January 19, 2024.

Phil Popham, Helix Collective, provided background on the organization; discussed the proposed grant performance; connections with the mission of The Wende Museum; upcoming opening of the Glorlya Kaufman Performing Arts Center; and he thanked the Commission for their consideration.

Deborah Brockus, Brockus Project Dance Company, provided background on the organization; discussed their mission; prior grant performances; proposed grant performance; and she expressed appreciation to the Commission for their support of arts in Culver City.

Janet Roston, Mixed eMotion Theatrix, provided background on the organization; discussed their mission; the proposed grant performance; the development process; potential locations; she expressed appreciation for the presentations made by other speakers; and she hoped they would have the opportunity to perform in Culver City for the first time.

Tiffany Bong, UniverSoul Hip Hop, provided background on the organization; expressed appreciation for the grant recommendation; discussed partnerships; the proposed grant performance; and she thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentations; renewed passion since the pandemic; City Council consideration of the grants; Subcommittee consideration of the applications; the increased number of grants recommended; the increased grant amounts; intriguing collaborations; out-of-the-box ideas; appreciation for the use of non-traditional spaces; limited performance spaces available in the city; renewed efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); commitment and authenticity; advice for future applicants for submission of applications in the future; providing the mission and story of the organization, how the work connects, and how the performance celebrates the mission; the importance of submitting relevant work samples that help viewers feel what the experience would be like; reliance on the samples to accurately reflect the quality of work; providing clear and accurate budget notes to provide financial context; the importance of diversified boards who contribute; the need for well-articulated outreach

to the Culver City Unified School District and the community; the difficulty of bringing people back to live performances; specificity with plans for collaboration; ensuring that the proposal is compelling and complete; and appreciation to sponsors and to staff for their efforts.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for diversity of cultures and types of performances represented; use of Council Chambers as a performance space; efforts of the city to become a cultural hub in the extended Los Angeles community; appreciation to those who presented and to those who submitted letters and email; appreciation to the Subcommittee for their work; the importance of the arts; and appreciation to the sponsors.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2024 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2024 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS AND RELATED GRANTEE CONTRACTS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT; AND RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE RELATED PERFORMANCES AS CITY-SPONSORED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, MESGHALI, O'CARROLL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

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Item A-2

CAC – Consideration of (1) a Recommendation from the CAC Artist Laureate Subcommittee Regarding a Temporary Art Project by Artist Laureate Katy Krantz for the Former Gun Store at 11029 Washington Blvd.; (2) Provide Comments as Appropriate; and, (3) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced the item.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, congratulated the grantees; thanked Commissioners for their consideration of her proposal for recommendation to the City Council: provided an overview of the proposed community art project for the former gun store at 11029 Washington Boulevard; presented a video with ideas to transform the location; discussed the use of words, colors, and font to create a visual link to the history of the building; sites for potential community engagement for a second phase of the project; community involvement; engaging individuals at sites that fall within 1,000 feet of the building; inclusion of a small memorial for artist Lori Escalera's brother who died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound; memorials acting as a graffiti deterrent; a correction to the staff report to indicate that Culver 878 lobbied the City to purchase the gun shop building, not to close it, and that a Culver City ordinance requires that gun stores be at least 1,000 feet from schools, not a state law; eagerness to transform the building; the temporary nature of the project due to the uncertain future of the building; acknowledging the hard work of community members who advocated for change; broadcasting community values; labor; she noted that her focus is generally on ceramic tile murals but she has a degree in painting as well as previous experience painting public buildings; and she indicated engaging in dialogue with the head of the sign painting program at LA Trade Technical-College.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the idea; use of bold colors for a temporary project; incorporation of ceramic work and memorials in the niches at the pedestrian level; long-term vision for the space; keeping the western feeling with the fonts; appreciation for the mock-ups; the public outreach process in 2024; urgency to paint out the existing signs; potential City Council approval at the December 11th meeting; the contingency on the

professional painter's contract for assistance with larger color blocks that are harder to reach as well as application of an anti-graffiti coating; costs; funding for supplies granted to the Artist Laureate during the term; the unforeseen opportunity and that this is above and beyond the work already underway; offsetting labor costs by the commercial painters who are repainting the building; work done by the Artist Laureate; insurance liability; costs to rent a lift; materials; stipend; the Cultural Trust Fund; potential support from Culver City Arts Foundation; use of students from LA Trade Technical-College to assist; risk management; community involvement; input on the text; timing; painting that is scheduled to start on November 27, 2023; pending Artist Laureate projects; length of time to complete, conduct outreach, and do the painting; outreach to determine the fate of the building; ensuring that if the project is approved, the public understands that it is meant to be a temporary celebration of the moment; appreciation for the presentation and for the willingness of the Artist Laureate to take on the extra work; helping the community heal; ensuring that no one is overlooked in a memorial; enlisting Culver 878 and Lori Escalera for help with research; City responsibility for costs for the priming and repainting; the potential for the memorial to be a part of the property no matter what happens in the future; separate consideration for the memorial piece to allow painting to move forward quickly; implementation of Phase 2 once the future of the site is more clear; creation of a memorial that can be removed and transferred to a new property; having a celebratory opening weekend in the spring; the recommendation to the City Council; Commission support for two phases; general vs. specific approval; making intentions clear; letting the City Council know that Phase 2 would be returning as a separate item; allowing for flexibility; making a determination once additional information is available; and providing information to the City Council on Phase 2.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE PHASE ONE OF THE TEMPORARY ART PROJECT BY ARTIST LAUREATE KATY KRANTZ FOR THE FORMER GUN STORE AT 11029 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, MESGHALI, O'CARROLL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, thanked the Commission for their support.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Vice Chair O'Carroll 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

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that she would follow up with Jeff Lee, Technology Artists, regarding his pending proposal for equipment to support performances in the Council Chambers and report back to the Commission; indicated that Johnson Favaro would return with a presentation on the feasibility study in December; reported a planned discussion on the update to the Art in Public Places Program as outlined in the City's Municipal Code; and consideration of options to increase funding for the performing arts.

Commissioner Mesghali discussed serving on a panel at the Culver City Masonic Temple and a discussion on the role of diversity in supporting the arts and performances in Culver City.

Commissioner Fleischer wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and expressed gratitude to the City Council and staff for their efforts.

Vice Chair O'Carroll reported attending the opening of two new exhibits at The Wende Museum on November 11, and she wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:36 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

LEORA O'CARROLL

VICE 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