

**City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report
Cultural Affairs Commission Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: November 19, 2007		Item Number: J-1	
AGENDA ITEM: A joint meeting of the City Council and the Cultural Affairs Commission to review the Culver City Cultural Plan and the Accomplishments related thereto, discussion of other topics related to the Cultural Affairs Commission, and potential referral of items to the Cultural Affairs Commission and/or the City Council.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Christine Byers & Susan Obrow / Cultural Affairs		Phone Number: (310) 253-5776 / (310) 253-5762	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Cultural Affairs Master Notification List (11/15/2007); City Council Master Notification List (11/16/2007)			
Department Approval: Sol Blumenfeld (11/14/07)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Iker) (11/15/07)	
Fiscal Impact Approval: Marlee Chang (by N. Kimball)(11/16/07)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (11/15/07)	

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council and the Cultural Affairs Commission ("CAC") review the updates to the adopted Community Cultural Plan, the list of accomplishments for calendar year 2007, and the updates to the Cultural Affairs work program for Fiscal Year 2007 – 08.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:

In November 2003, the City Council adopted a Community Cultural Plan ("Plan") for Culver City that included six goals and a list of short- (achievable within a five-year time period) and long-term (achievable within a ten year time period) outcomes. Each outcome corresponds with one or more of the six goals. Since adoption of the Plan in 2003, the staff and the CAC review the list of outcomes and update the list of corresponding accomplishments for the prior year. These updates are then presented to the City Council for review.

A copy of the Community Cultural Plan is attached and is also available via the City's website at www.culvercity.org. Below are the six goals as included in the adopted plan, a list of accomplishments for calendar year 2007, and a brief overview of staff's work program priorities for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007 - 08.

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Adopted Goals as Included in the Community Cultural Plan:

1. NURTURE AND PROMOTE CULVER CITY'S RESOURCES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN AND THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE.
2. STRENGTHEN CULVER CITY'S ARTS AND CREATIVITY IMAGE, CAPITALIZING ON AND STRENGTHENING ITS LEGACY OF FILM HISTORY, CULTURAL HISTORY, PUBLIC ART AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.
3. FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIVERSE ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES.
4. DEVELOP A NETWORK OF CULTURAL RESOURCES THROUGHOUT CULVER CITY.
5. SUPPORT CULVER CITY'S ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ARTISTS.
6. ESTABLISH THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING TO SUPPORT ONGOING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CULVER CITY.

For calendar year 2007, accomplishments include (in approximate chronological order):

- Implemented the **2007 Performing Arts Grant Program**; working closely with grant recipients by offering marketing advice and creating first pocket calendar promoting performances by grant recipients. Thirteen performing arts organizations served the Culver City community with presentations of music, theatre and dance:

2007 RECIPIENTS

About Productions	Theatre
Academy of Visual and Performing Arts	Multi-Discipline
Benita Bike DanceArt	Dance
contra-tiempo	Dance
Culver City Chamber Orchestra	Music
Culver City Public Theatre	Theatre
Culver City Symphony Orchestra	Music

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The Definiens Project	Music
Keith Glassman Dance/Performance	Dance
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony	Music
Three Chairs Theatre Company	Theatre
Vox Femina	Music
We Tell Stories	Theatre

- Completed the 6th ***Music in the Chambers*** classical music series in winter 2007, which garnered the attention of KUSC Classical Radio;

2007 PERFORMERS

Suzanna Guzman, opera singer – Los Angeles Opera
Hubert Laws, Grammy Award-nominated jazz flutist
Ben Hong, assistant principal cellist – Los Angeles Philharmonic;

- Continued implementation of City's public art program including a project for the City's west end entitled, **HERE NOW THERE THEN**. The first phase of a two phase public art project was unveiled in March 2007 along Washington Blvd., west of Sepulveda Blvd. Comprised of 90+ individually unique banners, themes included Culver City history, Native American culture, poetry, California ranchero culture, and nature. Images of each of the banners and more about the project can be accessed from the public art home page on the City's web site.
- Presented ***All Strings Considered*** in April 2007, an interactive children's music event featuring The String Family Players headed by David Young who is the principal bassist for the Los Angeles Opera. The event was presented at The Help Group on the west end of Washington Boulevard and featured in the Calendar section of the *Los Angeles Times*.
- Completed second annual ***ARTWALK Culver City*** in June 2007 with 42 professional galleries in and adjacent to Culver City participating. Estimated attendance of 10,000 due to marketing partnerships with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's MUSE program and KCRW Radio.
- Completed banner program for the easterly portion of west Washington Boulevard (Culver City Art District). Staff's promotion of the area resulted in items in the *Los Angeles Times*, *City Beat*, *Art LTD*, Yahoo Travel and Condé Nast Traveler.

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- Continued summer intern program participation (in collaboration with the Getty Foundation and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission) and continued partnerships with the USC Theatre and Public Art Studies Programs for interns during the fall, winter and spring months.
- Completed 13th Annual ***Culver City Music Festival*** in July and August 2007 presenting authentic American and World Music. Approximately 900 people attended each concert and there were repeated listings in the Los Angeles Times as well as a marketing sponsorship with KCRW. Gary Mandell of Boulevard Music was the Music Producer.
- Developed and presented ***Made in Culver City*** in honor of the City's 90th Anniversary in September 2007. *Made in Culver City* paid homage to the City's unique film history and featured Laurel and Hardy shorts as well as Tom and Jerry's *The Cat Concerto* in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers during the afternoon and an evening screening of MGM's *An American in Paris* in City Hall Courtyard. The event was presented in association with the UCLA Film & Television Archive with permission granted by Warner Bros.
- Continued to develop a stronger relationship with Culver City resident performing arts companies and provide better communication and assistance with marketing, fundraising, and facility code and maintenance requirements; encouraged organizations to apply for grants and nurtured connections to Culver City Unified School District ("CCUSD").
- Continued development of the **Cultural Affairs Foundation**. The Articles of Incorporation were filed with the California Secretary of State at the end of 2006. The IRS Form 1023 was completed in 2007 and a designation determination is pending from the IRS. Cultural Affairs Foundation is intended for government and private foundation grants for existing Cultural Affairs programs.

At the first meeting of the Foundation Board on July 25, 2007 (a meeting held jointly with the Cultural Affairs Commission), the bylaws of the Foundation were adopted by the Foundation Board and the Officers elected.

The current Foundation Board members are:

Jerry Fulwood, City Manager, City of Culver City
Christine Hardin, Interior Designer
Luther L. Henderson, III, Chair, Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Sofia Klatzker, Policy and Planning Manager, LA County Arts Commission

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Rick Noguchi, Program Officer, California Community Foundation
Gayle Smashey, Vice-Chair, Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Rena Williams Niles, Director of Dance Presentation, The Music Center
Mercedes Paz, Member, President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities

The current Officers of the Foundation Board are:

Jerry Fulwood, Chief Executive Officer
Mercedes Paz, Chair
Christine Hardin, Vice-Chair
Sofia Klatzker, Secretary
Rena Williams Niles, Treasurer

The Foundation Board will meet with the City Manager's Office, the City Treasurer, and the City Attorney's office on December 13, 2007, to review the Bylaws in detail and better understand the role of the Foundation and its Board within the larger context of the City. The next regularly scheduled semi-annual meeting of the Board will be January 2008.

- Continued to assist The Actors' Gang with searching for a second venue in Culver City and facilitated premiere of family version of *Titus Andronicus* titled *Titus and Clownicus* in Media Park during summer.
- Continued improving outreach for public art. To complement the existing inventory of public art available via the City's web site, staff created an interactive map of the City, highlighting specific regions and identifying the locations of all public art located in Culver City. Staff will explore the options of adding a sound component and a downloadable Podcast tour to help reach wider audiences.

The Cultural Affairs Commission considered concepts for a web-based walking tour guide for public art and a printed brochure about the City's public art program during their August 2007 meeting. Staff is developing the concept for the walking tour (designed to be downloaded and printed) and anticipates completion of this by the end of November. A printed brochure is also in production that will provide information about the program both for the developer and the general public.

The Getty Foundation sponsored a summer intern in 2007 who completed preliminary condition inspections of all public art on private property. Property owners were notified of the general condition of their art work and the requirement for maintenance.

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- Continued maintenance of public art. Staff implemented an administrative contract in 2006 with Sculpture Conservation Studio for routine maintenance of the following City owned art works: *Path of Life*, *Filmstrip*, *Cougar I & II*, and *The Lion's Fountain*. All pieces have received their annual treatment (the lion has already been cleaned and waxed twice under this contract).

A contract for a complete overhaul of Nobuho Nagasawa *Truth of Fiction* has been executed. This piece has had some minor maintenance/repair since its installation in 1995, but this will be the first comprehensive work performed on it in 12 years. Staff has also received two bids for repair/replacement of the supporting framework for Ed Carpenter's *Hanging Garden* and is expecting a third proposal shortly. This item will be brought forward to City Council together with other maintenance related items no later than early January.

- Continued implementation of **historic preservation program**. Cultural Affairs staff worked with Gensler architects to find an appropriate solution for incorporating the two historical scripted "Culver" signs from the former Culver Theater marquee into the design of the new mixed-use structure on Parcel B in downtown. An approach was devised that would accommodate the design of the new building as well as comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

42 designation plaques for "Landmark" and "Significant" designated sites in Culver City's historic preservation program were installed in 2004 – 05. Eight additional plaques were installed this year. Two plaques are on order for the former King's Tropical Inn site and the former filling station at 11333 Washington Boulevard, which will be ready for installation in December 2007. (These plaques which are more elaborate than the standard oval bronze plaques include an etched image and require more design and fabrication time. A similar plaque was installed at the Culver Theater.) The plaque for 4121 Wade Street (Louis Armstrong Residence) is ready but the property owner has asked that she be allowed to complete some renovation work, including repainting of the wooden siding, prior to installation of the plaque. She anticipates this will be in December 2007. With the installation of the three plaques mentioned above, all plaques for currently designated sites as required per the Culver City Municipal Code will have been installed.

- Continued to assist Center Theatre Group at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Developed **Kirk Douglas Theatre Community Access Program**, as per lease agreement, to offer dates at the Kirk Douglas Theatre for Culver City-based

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cultural and community organizations. The Actors' Gang held a benefit at the theatre in August and Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts will hold a benefit in December.

- Continued to search for new permanent performing arts spaces for use by the recipients of the City's performing arts grants as well as for use by theatre companies choosing to serve the Culver City community.

Fiscal Year 2007 – 08 Work Program Updates:

- **2008 Performing Arts Grant Program.** The City Council will consider approving grants for fourteen performing arts organizations; a pocket calendar as well as additional materials to market performances in a series will be created;

PROPOSED 2008 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Benita Bike's DanceArt	Dance
Collage Dance Theatre	Dance
Culver City Chamber Orchestra	Music
Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts	Multi-Discipline
Culver City Public Theatre	Theatre
Culver City Symphony Orchestra	Music
The Definiens Project	Music
Los Angeles Area Veterans' Artists Alliance	Theatre
L.A. Contemporary Dance Company	Dance
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra	Music
Three Chairs Theatre Company	Theatre
Vox Femina Los Angeles	Music
WCB Arts Foundation	Dance
We Tell Stories	Theatre

Culver City has been selected, by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, as one of six municipalities to participate in the California Cultural Data Project, which will streamline grants writing starting in 2008; Cultural Affairs hosted a workshop on the new process at the Ivy Substation in November.

- **Music in the Chambers.** Negotiations with musical artists are underway for the series which will occur in winter 2008; public announcement and marketing campaign commences in December 2007.

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- **Children's Event.** Negotiations underway for event which will occur in April 2008; public announcement and marketing campaign commences in January 2008.
- **ARTWALK Culver City.** The Museum of Contemporary Art's MOCA Contemporaries group is slated to participate as a marketing partner. Galleries will meet in January to discuss date which will occur in late spring 2008;
- **Culver City Music Festival.** Planning is underway for next series which will occur in July and August 2008.
- **New performing space.** Continue to identify possible sites to serve performing arts grant recipients.
- **New jazz series.** Continue to explore possibility of developing series with distinguished artists.
- **Annual Film Program.** Continue to explore possibility of developing an annual film program in Culver City to fulfill goals within the Cultural Plan of establishing a film festival and celebrating the City's film legacy. Future program may be similar to *Made in Culver City*, which was produced in honor of the City's 90th Anniversary.
- **Kirk Douglas Theatre Community Access Program.** Continue to nurture local performing arts organizations by encouraging grant requests to support their participation in the program.
- **Public Art for Fire Station No. 3.** Approximately \$33,768 is available for public art for the new Fire Station No. 3. Staff has worked with the architect and project managers to identify placeholders for the art work within the larger design and are completing a request for proposal that will be forwarded to a short-list of pre-qualified artists vetted by the design team and the CAC. The proposals submitted will be reviewed by the CAC and the City Council.
- **Art in Public Places Ordinance Update.** Staff has completed the research necessary to make language change recommendations to the existing Art in Public Places Ordinance (Section 15.06 et seq. of the Culver City Municipal Code). Areas to be addressed include: expanding the definitions of what constitutes art work, incorporating specific language regarding ADA accessibility, specific criteria on the selection of artists for projects, and allowances for

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incorporating art consultants into a project. Next steps include drafting revised Ordinance language, CAC Public Art sub-committee review, City Attorney review and consideration by the Cultural Affairs Commission and the City Council. Updates are necessary in order to keep our program progressive and compliant with regional, national and professional standards.

- **City Wide Historic Structures Survey.** In order to remain compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requirements, an updated City-wide historic structures survey is necessary. Staff has completed research on current survey standards and practices. Next steps include creation of an

advisory committee who will provide input through the process, drafting of a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for a preservation consultant to perform the survey, compilation of results, certification, and recommendations on nominations (at the local, state and federal levels). It is anticipated that this process will take approximately 18 months to complete.

- **Children's Art Program.** This is conceived of as a temporary art program to beautify City and Redevelopment Agency construction sites. Next steps include drafting of an RFP for an art coordinator (this is a less than \$10,000 contract) who will work with the CCUSD and Cultural Affairs staff to implement the project. Staff met with representatives of the CCUSD earlier in 2007 and the idea received an enthusiastic response.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Funding for all of the 2007-08 work programs was adopted in the fiscal 2007-08 City and Redevelopment Agency budgets with the exception of funding for a potential Jazz series and an annual Film Program. Staff is still exploring the feasibility of these two programs.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Community Cultural Plan with Updated Outcomes for 2006.

MOTION:

That the City Council and Cultural Affairs Commission:

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1. Receive and file the information provided by staff herein and the updates to the adopted Community Cultural Plan and.
2. Discuss other topics related to the Cultural Affairs Commission and refer items to the Commission or the City Council as may be deemed appropriate.