

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION,
CITY OF CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA

January 10, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called
to order at 7:05 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marlyn Musicant
Commissioner Michelle Bernardin
Commissioner Ronnie Jayne
Commissioner Marla Koosed*

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Wynn.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public input.

There was no response.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KOOSSED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR
MUSICANT, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2011
REGULAR MEETING.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Town Hall Meeting

Tim Robbins, Artistic Director of The Actors' Gang, provided an opening statement in which he shared his appreciation of Culver City and his commitment to serving the community; the idea of expanding programming during an economic downturn; the Company's educational outreach, after school programs, the teenage poetry program, outreach into the prison system, and upcoming programs.

Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, provided an introduction of the 2011 Otis Report on the Creative Economy followed by a presentation of a video that summarized the report findings.

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, and Christine Byers, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator, provided a summary of accomplishments in the areas of the performing arts, public art and historic preservation in 2011.

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration and Special Projects Coordinator, provided an update on the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO OPEN THE TOWN HALL MEETING.

Chair Smashey invited public input.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Jon Kellam, The Actors' Gang, discussed the organization's education and outreach; work with Homeboy Enterprises; the Theatre Infusion program; the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts; and interest in expanding relationships with educational and other organizations in the City.

Leah Kerr, Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum, provided background on the organization and discussed its accomplishments and upcoming and ongoing programs.

Chair Smashey encouraged the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum to post events on the community online calendar and to attend Cultural Affairs Commission meetings.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, provided background on the organization and discussed past and future events.

Stuart Freeman, Culver City Historical Society, thanked staff and the Commission for their support and hard work; discussed other museums in the City; indicated their willingness to work with the City; discussed historic preservation; and he invited everyone to the installation of new officers on January 18.

Heidi Dotson, Culver City Public Theatre, expressed appreciation for the restoration of *Tree of Life* at Carlson Park, and discussed the theatre's performances in the park and the upcoming season.

Ljiljana Grubisic, The Wende Museum, provided background on the Museum and discussed upcoming programs.

Chair Smashey reported a Geo Quiz on NPR about the Wende Museum that contained a reference to "The Heart of Screenland."

Julie Lugo Cerra, City Historian, expressed disappointment with state legislators and appreciation for City staff; she noted challenges ahead; discussed cultural resources in the City; she clarified that the Culver City Historical Society would be open during construction at the Veterans Memorial Building; discussed the CCHS's resources and services; encouraged everyone to visit the CCHS Archives and Resource Center and invited everyone to attend the installation of officers at The Culver Studios.

Mark Pracher, West Los Angeles College, discussed their efforts to connect with arts in the community; their alliance with the New American Theatre; broadening the existing theatre program; student productions; establishing a partnership with The J. Paul Getty Trust and other museums; their *Below-The-Line* preparation program; and working with the City and other organizations in the City.

Camille Schenkan, Arts for LA, provided background on the organization; expressed appreciation to the City for its value of the arts; and discussed past and upcoming efforts and events.

Bill Wynn, Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee, invited everyone to attend the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 15; discussed partnerships with the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum, West Los Angeles High School and Culver City High School; and events for the celebration.

Eric Sims, Kirk Douglas Theatre, invited everyone to attend *A Raisin in the Sun*, discussed the Front and Center Partnership; student performances; artwork from the Culver City High School Academy of Visual and Performing Arts; he indicated that artwork from the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum would be exhibited in the lobby; discussed community partnerships; and the Downtown Business Association's Third Wednesday Events.

Jeanette Vosburg, Culver Events Center, reported that Brasil Brasil had moved in; noted the availability of another creative space; she indicated that they had a great year last year; discussed Culver Events; acknowledged challenges presented by the economy and the importance of considering new options; and she thanked staff for its support.

Meghan Sahli-Wells discussed the importance of the cultural economy; observed that the arts should not be looked at as a luxury; noted the importance of saving the arts; discussed cultural programs in the City; the City Council meeting on January 9; prior knowledge by the City that Redevelopment was to be eliminated; the dependence of the arts on Redevelopment funding; the importance of engaging in community dialogue about how to fund the arts going forward; maintaining the summer concert series; she suggested creating a kick starter campaign to fund the concert series; and participation of small businesses.

Angela Anthony, Helms Bakery District, thanked the Commission for their support; discussed the branding of the Helms Bakery District as a hub for the arts; community events; *ARTWALK Culver City*; the Eat Real Festival; Patchwork; their commitment to the arts; creative business

offices and studios above the retail spaces; and upcoming events.

Mary Beth Trautwein, reDiscover Center, provided background on the organization and discussed past and future events.

Mim Shapiro discussed the formation of the Cultural Affairs Commission; public art; goals for the cultural community; community support; the Cultural Affairs Foundation; the importance of maintaining the *Culver City Music Festival*; Culver City as a world-renowned center for the arts; and the importance of fighting for the arts and getting the community involved.

Lynne Connor, Los Angeles, Women's Theatre Festival, provided background on the organization and discussed past and future events.

Jennifer Mulder, Vox Femina Los Angeles, thanked the Commission for their support; provided background on the organization; and discussed past and future events.

Jonathan Weiss, Culver City News, discussed the *Culver City Music Festival* debate; the importance of sponsorships; possibility of support from ASCAP, BMI and SESAC; and he suggested that someone with experience getting sponsorships should be booking the acts.

Chair Smashey clarified that finding funding for the *Culver City Music Festival* was not on the agenda for the meeting.

Commissioner Koosed encouraged Mr. Weiss to leave information so that interested parties could contact him to discuss the matter.

A discussion ensued between staff and the Commission regarding thanks to the community and those who spoke at the meeting; collaborations between different groups; the comments of Mr. Robbins regarding expanding in tough times; an observation that together we are stronger; the importance of publicizing events; and the importance of social media.

* Commissioner Koosed left the meeting at 8:50 P.M. due to illness.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERNARDIN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (ABSENT COMMISSIONER KOOSSED) THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CLOSE THE 2012 TOWN HALL MEETING.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Smashey invited public comment.

No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration and Special Projects Coordinator, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator, reported the initiation of an email blast sign-up on the Cultural Affairs website homepage and she announced that Rachel Rosenthal's *My Brazil* would be posted on the website and aired on the cable station soon.

Chair Smashey received clarification that if one has previously signed up on the mailing list it is not necessary to sign up again on the Cultural Affairs homepage.

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Items From Commissioners

Commissioner Jayne requested a subcommittee meeting of the 2012 Culver City Music Festival Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Chair Smashey reported attending the CCUSD District Community Arts Team meeting where the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts presented their accomplishments over the

past year and she encouraged everyone to check out their website.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:01 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on February 14, 2012 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

GAYLE SMASHEY
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
City of 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, City of Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK

Date

By: _____
Ela Valladares

Deputy City Clerk

City of Culver City, California
Certification of Documents by the City Clerk

I, Jeremy Green, being the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Culver City, California hereby depose and declare

The 8 pages of the Cultural Affairs Commission Approved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2012 attached hereto are true and correct copies of documents in the possession of the City of Culver City.

I have affixed the Seal of the City of Culver City, California to indicate they are such true and correct copies.

Certified on this 7th day of March, 2022.

BY:



Jeremy Green, CMC
City Clerk

