

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 11, 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR JAYNE

Call to Order
7:05 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Gayle Smashey; Susan Deen; Luther L. Henderson, III; Clement Hanami; and, Ronnie Jayne.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Mim Shapiro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; Susan Obrow, Theatre Coordinator and Special Events Producer; and, Heather Iker, Deputy City Attorney.

Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

It was moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

Item #C-2.

Approval of Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Deen, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2005 and July 12, 2005 Regular Meetings.

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No comment cards were submitted.

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Item #A-1.
7:07 p.m.

Consideration of Public Art Concept for Symantec at 800-900 Corporate Pointe.

Ms. Byers presented the staff report, noting that the proposed public art project at the Symantec site is the largest commission in Culver City since the creation of the public art program.

Russ Goodman, Regional President for Sares-Regis advised that Mr. Brad Goldberg, the artist commissioned for the project, has a body of work stretching back into the 70's, 80's and 90's and has created some very significant and exciting pieces in France, Japan, and throughout several cities in the United States. He remarked that Mr. Goldberg's works utilize natural elements and

peak on a symbolic level in addition to absorbing and integrating the values of the surrounding community.

Mr. Goldberg provided a twenty minute presentation assisted with PowerPoint images which he utilized to outline in detail the development of his concept, methods and materials. He advised that his background is in sculpture and landscape design and that he was raised in a high-technology oriented family which makes this a very exciting commission for him. He noted that the nature of Culver City as well as environmental sustainability played crucial roles in the development of his design concept for *Illumination*. He remarked that he utilized solar technology in the form of photovoltaic panels in combination with the translucent effects of white marble to present a classically beautiful material in a high-tech manner as a means to capture the forward-looking identity of Symantec. He explained that palms were ultimately chosen as the best trees for the project since they do not create as much shade as shorter trees and therefore would not impede the ability of the solar panels to capture light. He advised that his concept for the courtyard using marble and crushed charcoal gray gravel pressed into concrete were developed with the idea that Symantec's software designs are relatively intangible and become ever more elegant, seamless, and invisible, saying he wanted the materials utilized to provide a seamless, integrated appearance.

In response to past comments he received about the light sculptures resembling the crucifix form, Mr. Goldberg explained there is no allusion to that subject whatsoever, saying the form actually came to him as the archetype of a solar collector.

Chair Jayne entertained questions and comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Smashey inquired if there would be definite on and off times for the lighting or if it would be more of a gradual illumination. She further questioned what the effects of cloudy or gray days would have on the lighting functions.

Mr. Goldberg answered that his concept is to have the light columns come on just before dusk and go off right after dawn. He explained that solar energy does collect under cloudy conditions albeit less, saying the intention is that the sculptures not use any more energy in a yearly cycle than is naturally provided.

Vice-Chair Deen, noting that the artistic renderings show full-sized palm trees, inquired if full-sized palms will be planted rather than having to wait a lengthy period for them to grow to the appropriate size.

Mr. Goldberg advised that the palm trees will be planted quite large, saying while he cannot indicate the exact size, it is a critical

element since the whole concept is based on having no shade intruding on the light sculptures.

Commissioner Hanami queried how the area will be lit. He remarked that the piece is quite strong and that the drama of the lighting is ultimately what makes the work succeed so he would not want to see large lights placed there which would wash out the illuminating elements of the artwork.

Mr. Russ Southland, Development Manager with Sares-Regis, explained that there will be bollard-type lights measuring 30 to 36 inches which is the minimum required by code.

Commissioner Hanami inquired if studies have been performed to determine the optimal locations for the light sculptures.

Mr. Goldberg explained it is imperative that they all face south, saying the orientation and angle of the panels themselves is determined by degrees of latitude.

Commissioner Hanami commented that he has visited sites utilizing solar panels which provide monitors for the public for informational purposes and indicated he would like to find a mechanism for the public to be aware that the project is actually sustainable.

Mr. Goldberg noted that, while it is a very good idea to explain things to the viewing public, he believes it is far more interesting for people to witness the panels as something outside the realm of what they are normally used to seeing. He opined that one of the great powers of art is to be thought provoking.

Commissioner Henderson inquired if the solar collectors are designed to rotate in order to engage the sun.

Mr. Goldberg explained there are solar collectors that do rotate to follow the sun's path, saying these panels utilize a different system and will remain stationary once they have been set at the proper angle for maximum solar exposure.

Commissioner Smashey inquired how public curiosity about the artwork will be satisfied, wondering if there will be some means of identifying the piece as sculpture that has a sustainable nature.

Mr. Southland noted, while they are certainly prepared to commit to doing so, they have not yet thought through the best means to convey the maximum amount of information in an appropriately attractive fashion. He indicated they are discussing a variety of options to make certain the explanation is done in a way that will get people excited about what is taking place.

Mr. Goldberg commented that, while he recognizes there will be a great deal of curiosity and that there is some responsibility to

provide a mechanism for people to gain information, if knowledge is provided too easily, individuals are not allowed to push their own imaginations. He indicated he would prefer something which does not provide too much data initially but would permit those people really interested to work a little to collect all the information. He suggested that pamphlets might be provided inside the building for those Curious George-type individuals.

Ms. Byers advised that informal conversations have taken place suggesting the possibility of Symantec and the City providing further information regarding the project on their websites.

Chair Jayne inquired about maintenance and whether there are plans in place to deal with the possibility of something happening to one of the solar panels.

Mr. Southland indicated that he believes the project has been designed for minimal maintenance, noting Mr. Goldberg will provide a list of instructions on the care and maintenance which will be incorporated into the building's maintenance schedule.

Mr. Goldberg advised that the stone portions of the project will be fabricated in Italy, saying much of that work is controlled by computerized machinery and that he has made arrangements to save those computer programs so they can be re fabricated without doing the research over again in the event something happens. He explained that he will provide explicit instructions for a routine maintenance program.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE BRAD GOLDBERG'S *ILLUMINATION*, A PUBLIC ART CONCEPT TO INCLUDE BETWEEN SEVEN AND NINE SOLAR POWERED LIGHT SCULPTURES, AS FULFILLING SYMANTEC'S PUBLIC ART REQUIREMENT FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTION AT 800-900 CORPORATE POINTE.

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**Item #A-2.
8:13 p.m.**

Review of Ralph M. Brown Act.

Ms. Iker provided an overview of the staff report.

Chair Jayne inquired if there were any questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Hanami requested clarification of "serial meetings."

Ms. Iker explained that a serial meeting is when three or more Commission members discuss the business of the Commission outside of the public. She advised this could occur if two members discuss a business item and then one discusses it with a

third because three would have now discussed the matter. She cautioned this could also occur through telephone conversations and e-mails and noted it is very important when receiving an informational e-mail from staff which requires a response to hit the "Reply" button rather than "Reply All" button. She further explained that, if staff engaged three or more members about an item and received direction from them outside a public meeting, that would also be considered a serial meeting and would be a Brown Act violation. She advised that oftentimes staff will respond to questions from Council or Commission members on particular agenda items prior to the meeting, saying that is perfectly acceptable as long as the public is advised that questions arose and answers were provided.

Ms. Iker mentioned that individual contacts between Commissioners and applicants are acceptable as long as the information in those private conversations is disclosed publicly. She reminded that the public is entitled to know on what the Commission's decisions are based and the point of holding the meetings in public is to ascertain that the discussion of the business of the Commission is done openly.

Commissioner Henderson requested information on public noticing requirements.

Ms. Iker advised that the legal noticing requirement is for all regular and adjourned regular meetings is posting notices in a place openly accessible to the public 72 hours in advance. 24-hours notice is required in the event a special meeting is required. She remarked there are many procedural noticing requirements which can get very convoluted, saying staff is very familiar with these matters and generally takes care of them.

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8:31 p.m.

Receipt of Correspondence.

None.

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8:31 p.m.

Items From Staff.

Ms. Byers reported that several of the plaques which explain the City's zoetropes and include a map of all their locations have been installed; that the final two utility boxes – the fountain control box for *The Lion's Fountain* and the box on the northeast corner of Culver Blvd. and Duquesne Ave., adjacent to the Kirk Douglas Theater, are scheduled to be wrapped on October 13th.

Ms. Obrow reported that today the review panel had met for the City's 2006 Performing Arts Grants. She advised that Vice-Chair

Deen and Commissioner Henderson attended as subcommittee members and that the five panelists included Dolores Chavez, who until recently was a coordinator for Center Theatre Group; Joel Kimmel, a playwright and Director of Development for The Actors' Gang; Mercedes Paz, a member of The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and former Deputy Director of the California Arts Council; Janice Pober, Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs at Sony Pictures Entertainment; and, David Young, Principal Bassist for the Los Angeles Opera. She indicated it was a very successful event and that she looks forward to returning to the CAC with a full report.

Ms. Obrow reported that plans are underway for the upcoming *Music in the Chambers* series, noting the concerts will likely occur in February and March of 2006 and that the schedule of performances will be announced soon.

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8:35 p.m.

Items from Commissioners.

Commissioner Smashey congratulated staff for the success of *The Art in the Plaza* series, noting she was disappointed to see it come to an end.

Vice-Chair Deen remarked that she is quite pleased to see the sculptures at the City of Angeles Veterinary Clinic installed because they are such happy pieces. She continued by informing those present that she recently attended a performance of *All Wear Bowlers* which she thoroughly enjoyed, was thrilled by Mr. Goldberg's presentation for *Illumination*, and noted that Westfield was planning a major expansion at the Fox Hills Mall and that they would be making a presentation the next week to the Culver City Homeowner's Association and that she would be sure to ask them about their public art requirement.

Commissioner Henderson spoke briefly about the comprehensive review of nine applications during the review panel's six hour meeting earlier that day and that a recommendation would be coming forward to the CAC in November. He continued by saying that the Fundraising subcommittee also met that day to discuss progress on the 501(c)(3) for Cultural Affairs. Commissioner Henderson noted that the 2005 Music in the Chambers Series program was in the planning stages and that the performances were being changed from Thursday evenings to Friday evenings. Commissioner Henderson concluded his comments by thanking staff for their efforts in organizing and facilitating the review panel for the Performing Arts Grants.

Chair Jayne also noted that the Fundraising subcommittee had met that day and that progress is being made on the 501(c)(3).

Commissioner Smashey asked staff if there was any additional

information regarding the upcoming Los Angeles Country Arts Commission forum for commissioners.

Ms. Byers said that she may have received another e-mail update and that she would forward this to the CAC.

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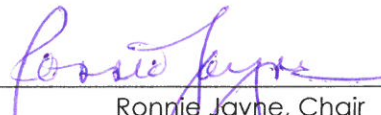
8:38 p.m.

Adjournment.

With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR DEEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:38 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronnie Jayne, Chair


Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter