

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 16, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams 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 Brenda Williams
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Damon Willick

Absent: Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Willick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that time to recognize the service of Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin to the Cultural Affairs Commission would be allowed as part of Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda.

Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Hope Parrish welcomed new Commissioner Willick and thanked former Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin for her service; discussed extending the showing of Katy Krantz's art installation at City Hall; the collaborative effort; support of the Culver City Historical Society; and announced a presentation at the Historical Society on the one hundred year history of the Culver Hotel on July 23 by graduating Culver City High School interns.

Jim Clarke, on behalf of the Culver City Arts Foundation, commended outgoing Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin for her service; discussed some of her accomplishments; expressed appreciation for her collaborative efforts; anticipated that the Commission would select an equally enthusiastic Commissioner to serve as liaison to the Foundation; hoped that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin would serve as a Board Member of the Foundation; and he announced upcoming plans to honor her at the Annual Holiday Party on December 19, 2024.

Alicia Ide echoed comments made by the previous speaker; indicated that, as a staff member, she had worked with Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin closely; expressed appreciation for her time and effort getting new programs started; and she hoped to work with Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin again in the future as part of the Foundation.

Christine Byers provided background on herself; expressed appreciation to Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin for her efforts while serving on the Commission; discussed her work on the Artist Laureate Program; and she wished Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

Susan Obrow discussed the service of Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin to Culver City for eight years; her background and contributions; and watershed moments.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, read comments submitted by Commissioner Mesghali and from retired Assistant City Manager, Serena Wright-Black, and she expressed her own appreciation to Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin.

Commissioner Fleischer expressed appreciation for her time working with Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin; discussed her accomplishments, leadership, and integrity; her work on the Artist Laureate Program and the Performing Arts Grant

Program; her advocacy for creation of the CBC (Commission, Board, and Committee) Handbook; her efforts to promote the work of the Commission with the public; her fierce advocacy at City Council meetings; turning the tide toward City Council support for the arts and the work of the Commission; work to elevate the arts and expand the Commission's scope of work; dedication; progress in tangible and impactful ways; the legacy of transformation and growth for the Commission and Culver City; she asserted that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin had made Culver City a better place; and she expressed gratitude for being able to serve together.

Vice Chair O'Carroll thanked Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin for her commitment and for bringing forward issues affecting the arts at the state level; discussed speaking at City Council meetings; working together at the Culver City Arts Foundation; her work on the Performing Arts Grant Program and the Artist Laureate Program; she indicated that Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin's humor would be missed; wished her the best in future endeavors; and thanked her for her service.

Chair Williams discussed Ms. Wisnosky Stehlin's contributions; commitment; dedication; humor; energy; and expressed hope that her outstanding qualities would continue into her next endeavor.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement and kind words; welcomed new Commissioner Willick; discussed the importance of the work done by the Commission; willingness of staff to help; gratitude for being able to serve; the transformative power of art and culture in Culver City; enriching resident lives; fostering a sense of belonging; growth from relationships built along the way; numerous milestones and challenges faced during her eight year tenure; she hoped that moving forward, Culver City would keep Cultural Affairs fully staffed and funded; noted the importance of robust and sustainable support for the arts; discussed embedding artists in all departments; the need for additional performing arts venues and more artistic placemaking initiatives; advocacy for art installations; providing welcoming and visually appealing gateways; officially recognizing the Cultural Corridor; reminding everyone that art and culture must always be central to the work of Culver City; bringing back a City Council multi-

Commission working meeting; finding places to intersect; ensuring ongoing support for funding; cementing Culver City's reputation for artistic excellence and cultural vitality; updating the Culver City Cultural Plan; historic documentation of subcommittee work; continued advocacy of Commissioners as subject matter experts; she thanked her family for their support, and City staff for their dedication, hard work, support, and professionalism; and she expressed appreciation to the artists who have served the community, the Cultural City Arts Foundation, the Artist Laureates, and Commissioners past and present.

Commissioners and staff posed for photographs.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that the newsletter from the Culver City Historical Society had been distributed to Commissioners.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Special Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of May 23, 2024

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 23, 2024.

THE MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: WILLIAMS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

ABSTAIN: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLICK

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

- 1) Acknowledgement of Newly Appointed Commission Member; and**
- 2) Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2024 - 2025**

Commissioner Willick discussed the farewell to Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin; his responsibility to continue the good work; and his background noting that he hoped it would bring something to the community and to the Commission.

Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Willick.

Chair Williams nominated herself; discussed her accomplishments while serving and plans for the future; and her collaboration with staff and her fellow Commissioners.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT CHAIR WILLIAMS TO SERVE AS CHAIR FROM JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLYCK

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLYCK THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPOINT VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR FROM JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLYCK

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-2

1) Dissolution and Creation of Subcommittees to Reflect the FY 2024 - 2025 Cultural Affairs Work Plan; and (2) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the importance of retaining the Culver City Arts Foundation Subcommittee; defining the goal of ad hoc subcommittees; the committed goal to support the arts in Culver City; quarterly meetings with the Board or Board representatives to review what is going on; a suggestion to appoint one representative to attend Foundation meetings; staff attendance of the meetings; and support for continuing the subcommittee.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed the value of the subcommittee; the fact that it is not a requirement to attend the meetings; communication; benefits of having two Commissioners attend the meetings; Brown Act Rules; acting as city advocates; the 2028 Olympics; the idea to build a performing arts center; the ability to get items placed on the Foundation agenda; and he indicated that anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Foundation achievements in the past year; support for the Commission; new appointments; interest in serving; those who want to continue their assignments; Members who want to continue to serve for continuity; and clarification that there is no limit on the number of ad hoc subcommittees that one can serve on.

Hope Parrish, Culver City Historical Society, indicated that she wanted to be part of the Historic Preservation Ordinance review process.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that ad hoc subcommittees can only be comprised of Commissioners, but members of the public are allowed to participate in discussions.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. DISSOLVE THREE (3) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES INCLUDING: ART IN VACANT STOREFRONTS/BUSINESSES, FIESTA LA BALLONA ENTERTAINMENT, AND 2024 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM; AND,
2. CREATE AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE WITH THE FOLLOWING LIMITED SCOPE: 2025 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM; AND,
3. MAKE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025:

STANDING:

PUBLIC ART - MESGHALI, WILLIAMS

AD HOC:

ARTIST LAUREATE - FLEISCHER, WILLIAMS

CREATIVE ECONOMY & CULTURAL PLAN - FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL

CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION LIAISON - O'CARROLL, WILLICK

2025 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM - FLEISCHER, WILLICK

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE & PROGRAM UPDATE - MESGHALI,

WILLICK

2028 OLYMPICS - MESGHALI O'CARROLL

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLICK

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-3

Consideration of (1) Proposal from Artist Laureate Katy Krantz Regarding Phase II of Temporary Art Project at 11029 Washington Blvd.; (2) Provide Comments as Appropriate; and, (3) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, thanked former Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin and Commissioner Fleischer for their support and efforts to get the program started; discussed Phase II;

the art activation; community interest in creating a community celebration at the former gun store; she suggested filling in the trapezoid areas with salvaged tile and glass mosaics; complementing the existing color scheme and design; detail and variation; community engagement; ideas generated by the community; and presenting the project as a temporary installation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the need for more research, design ideas;, engaging the communities; building relationships with neighborhood entities; use of salvaged materials with elements of community-made tile; working through the artistic process; and a suggestion to provide an example or mock up for the City Council to consider.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE PHASE II OF THE TEMPORARY ART PROJECT BY ARTIST LAUREATE KATY KRANTZ FOR THE CITY-OWNED BUILDING AT 11029 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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Item A-4

1) Review of a Cultural Affairs Commission Biannual Written Report to the City Council, including Accomplishments During the Period January through June 2024, and an Update on the Upcoming July to December 2024 Plans; and (2) Authorization of Transmittal of the Report to the City Council

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding specific edits and suggested changes in the text of the report.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLYCK AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE BIENNIAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AS AMENDED; AND,
2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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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, reported on the review of the three art concepts for the art component of the Farragut Connector project; the recommendation to the Commission in August or September; he expressed appreciation to all involved in the process; and he reported on conservation maintenance efforts of Culver City artworks.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed upcoming grant-sponsored performances in Culver City.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, welcomed Commissioner Willyck; discussed City Council approval of the budget, noting that it was available at culvercity.org; changes to the budgeting process; appreciation to Lee Lawlor for her effort noting that changes to the process this year had created extra work; gratitude to Sam Lee for the well-run and thorough artist selection process for the Farragut Connector; appreciation to the final selection jury; the extension of "Dear Culver City" through December; upcoming events; she

invited everyone to the closing ceremony watch party for the Paris Olympics on August 11 in front of the Culver Steps; discussed attending the meeting of the California Arts Council related to reduced state funding; an update on research to analyze allocation for other "Percent for Arts" programs in area municipalities; analyzing how cities use funds for the performing arts; funding restrictions; access to budget documents; direct donation to performing arts by developers; percent used for performing arts vs. visual arts; in lieu fees; nexus studies; and cities that are most comparable to Culver City.

Commissioner Fleischer discussed attending a performance of LA Choreographers and Dancers at Ivy Substation; plans to attend Culver City Public Theater and Actors' Gang performances; attending the Book Festival at the Wende Museum; the Love Local Makers Market at the Helms District at the end of June; support for more such events to activate different areas of Culver City; she reported attending the first concert of the Summer Concert Series; and expressed appreciation to staff for their research.

Vice Chair O'Carroll reported attending the meet and greet for applicants of Commissions, Boards and Committees (CBCs); discussed the number of people who want to volunteer their time to Culver City; the Otis Creative Economy Report presentation at Sony Studios; impacts of the writers' strike; recovery by fine and performing arts sectors; data presented; the Economic Development Creative Economy Roundtable at Sony; the short documentary commissioned by Tito's Tacos; the Fiesta Mexicana fundraiser for the Culver City Arts Foundation; attendance of a Mainly Mozart concert at an outdoor amphitheater at UCSD (University of California at San Diego); she was looking forward to seeing Top Shelf Brass as part of the Summer Concert Series; and she expressed appreciation for the vinyl wraps on the utility boxes.

Chair Williams expressed appreciation to staff for the report on performing arts and public art expenditures; discussed the meeting she attended on the Farragut Connector project; she welcomed Commissioner Willick to the Commission; reported attending the opening presentation for the artists at the new Clippers Stadium; and she discussed the artists involved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:24 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 20, 2024.

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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