

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 20, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Williams called the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Dan Patacchia Room at Culver City Hall.

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

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

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Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that Commission seat number three was currently vacant.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Williams invited public comment.

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

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of February 18, 2025

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, indicated that he had corrected two typographical errors.

Chair Williams noted that under Items from Commissioners/Staff at the end of the meeting, comments on the banners in Westwood had been confused and she asked that the wording be changed from "announced", to "agreed" with.

Vice Chair O'Carroll agreed to provide a change to wording on page 4 of 9 under Creation of Ad Hoc Fiesta La Ballona Entertainment Subcommittee to staff.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AS AMENDED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Consideration of a Recommendation from the CAC Artist Laureate Subcommittee to Appoint Victoria Marks as Culver

City Artist Laureate for 2025-2027; and 2) Make Recommendation to the City Council

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced the item; and she provided a summary of the material of record.

Victoria Marks thanked staff and the Commission for their consideration; discussed being an artist who contributes health and well-being to a civic space; a project she started with veterans in West LA; methodology and goals; and a video of her previous work with pregnant teens.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Marks, staff, and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentation and eagerness to work together; the onboarding process; meeting different departments and residents; support from the subcommittee and staff; proposed projects; and looking at what meaningful contributions can be made to Culver City.

Chair Williams invited public comment.

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

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL, SECONDED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINT VICTORIA MARKS AS CULVER CITY ARTIST LAUREATE FOR JULY 2025 - JUNE 2027.

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Item A-2

Consideration of a Concept for a Permanent Art Installation by Geoff McFetridge Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program Requirement for Associated Projects at 8432 Steller Drive and 3592 Eastham Drive

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record.

Catherine Forsythe, LeBasse Projects, provided a presentation on the proposed concept at 8432 Stellar Drive and 3592 Eastham

Drive in the Hayden Tract area; discussed the two buildings across from each other being treated as a single artwork; site location; she presented samples of work by the artist; discussed the artist concept and statement;; and maintenance and conservation.

Discussion ensued between Catherine Forsythe, staff, and Commissioners regarding the tilemaking process; installation; the Los Angeles-based Canadian artist; appreciation for instances when an artist is present to discuss their work; the industrial area; a suggestion that a lighting plan be developed; prioritization of the Hayden Tract in the General Plan Update; potential improvements to the area; accessibility requirements; appreciation that the art connects the two separate buildings; and clarification that each project is a stand-alone so if one development does not happen, the other one will move ahead anyway.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPROVE AN ART CONCEPT BY GEOFF MCFETRIDGE TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE APPP REQUIREMENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PROJECTS BY REDCAR PROPERTIES AT 8432 STELLER DRIVE AND 3592 EASTHAM DRIVE.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Williams invited public comment.

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

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that she did not have an update on the budget as it was in process; discussed the declaration of a fiscal emergency by the City; pursuit of a sales tax increase in August; the request for the department to present offsets; salaries as the only part of the budget that comes out of the General Fund; the request to extend the term for the Public Art Coordinator for another

year; examination of the next budget cycle in the fall; the proposal to use carryover or existing funds for the Capital Improvement Projects; the request for a rollover for Historical Preservation work that is grossly out of date; reactivation of the Historical Preservation Subcommittee; independent survey funding for the Hayden Tract by the Planning Department; an upcoming meeting with Jim Clarke to discuss the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Culver Arts Foundation; Music in the Chambers on September 7 by Sakura Cello Quintet; a Yoshiko Masuda performance at the Wende Museum; scheduling; the pilot program; the May 27 Public Hearing for the approval of the installation and fabrication stages of the Charles Gaines piece at the Washington TOD (Transit Oriented Development) site; encouragement for Commissioners to attend the City Council meeting; the Request for Proposals (RFPs) and scope of the project for the Cultural Plan; the Request for Qualifications process; potential consulting firms; use of carryover funds; costs for the Parks Plan; drawing upon the processes of the previous plans; regular meetings regarding the Olympics and Paralympics; the arrangement with LA28; MOU negotiations with New Zealand to move into the town center component of the City; the Open Plan Hospitality House; potential programming; other Hospitality Houses in negotiation; West Hollywood's Implementation Plan; the meeting with Jeff Morrical proposing to preserve the tree surrounds in the Arts District; data gathering; the proposed public engagement process to obtain community feedback; costs; and formulation of a recommendation to the City Council.

Vice Chair O'Carroll recognized the efforts of Sally Unsworth at the March 4 City Council Work Plan meeting and discussed the cancellation of an upcoming Monty Alexander concert presented by the Jazz Bakery at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center.

Commissioner Fleischer felt that the Sakura Cello Quintet were perfect for the pilot Music in the Chambers program; she clarified that Yoshiko Masuda plays in a piano trio that performed at the Wende Museum; and she discussed an upcoming meeting with Edgar Varela regarding the Summer Concert series.

Chair Williams suggested that they get a Bhangara performance; reported attending a talk where Alexandra Grant and Jeffrey

Gibson discussed an exhibition at the Broad; and she noted the number of cultural events happening in Culver City.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:50 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

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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