

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

November 11, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Chair Gayle Smashey
Vice Chair Marla Koosed
Commissioner Clement Hanami
Commissioner Ronnie Jayne
Commissioner Luther Henderson

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joan Potter, Vox Femina.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Elizabeth Doran, The Actors' Gang, introduced herself as the new Managing Director, announced upcoming events, and discussed their educational outreach efforts in the City.

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Item C-1

**Consent Calendar
Agenda Posting**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KOOSD, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA.

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Item C-2

Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Koosed felt the first paragraph of page 6 should be amended to indicate that "Further discussion included: ... whether additional artists were consulted;...".

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2008 AS AMENDED.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of 2009 Performing Arts Grant Awards as Recommended by the Cultural Affairs Commission Grants and Artist Services Subcommittee

Matthew Hetz, President of the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, thanked the Commission for their recommendation and he reported on recent and upcoming activities of the Orchestra. He noted technical difficulties with the application process but felt that the process overall was a good one.

Jennifer Stevenson, The Definiens Project, thanked the Commission for their support and reported on upcoming events.

Louise Reichlin, Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers, appreciated being recommended again and she reported on current and upcoming projects. She also reported technical difficulties with the application process but thanked Administration and Special Projects Coordinator Jeremy Green for her help with the process.

Joan Potter, Vox Femina, thanked the Commission for their support.

Amy Tofte, Rogue Artists Ensemble, thanked the Commission for their recommended funding, explained the mission of the Ensemble and announced upcoming projects.

Arlene Cardenas, Culver City Chamber Orchestra, thanked the Commission for recommending their award and she commented on a suggestion that the Orchestra diversify its

programming noting that they were working toward that but are constrained by the amount of people they can use due to costs associated with using all professional musicians. She also reported on work toward programming for children.

Chair Smashey commended the applicants for going through the new California Data Project application process.

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Susan Obrow provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion between the Commission and staff included: the number of applicants for 2008 vs. the number for 2009; the impact of the California Data Project on the process; the increased number of dance applications; an observation that a number of Culver City arts organizations had signed up with the California Data Project but had not applied for a grant; the business license requirement; a request for the individual scores for the applicants; the fact that two organizations were awarded more than they requested; and benefits of the California Data Project.

Responding to Commissioner Hanami, Arlene Cardenas from the Culver City Chamber Orchestra explained that since they would not receive the full amount requested they would not be able expand the members of the orchestra or expand programming.

Further Commission and staff discussion included: encouragement to spread the word so that additional organizations will apply next year; an observation that there was greater diversity and larger organizations applying; acknowledgement of the work of the subcommittee and the panel; clarification that performances are required to be in Culver City and that half of the Modern Om building, suggested for use by Dancescence, is located in Culver City; carryover funds; and encouragement to arts organizations to take advantage of the varied publicity efforts of the City.

Benita Bike asked about how to get copies of the City's promotional materials.

Donna Sternberg asserted that the Cultural Affairs staff was very helpful and generous with their time.

Nobuko Miyamoto, Great Leap, thanked the Commission for their recommendation and described their proposed performance and the organization.

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Obrow indicated that staff would contact everyone when the pocket calendars are available and she added that staff would go over the marketing plan with recipients.

Diana Tanaka, We Tell Stories, noted that they had received funding from Culver City since the 1990s which had allowed them to create projects especially for Culver City.

Commissioner Henderson encouraged applicants to come before the City Council when the item is considered on December 8.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANAMI TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE GRANTS BE AWARDED AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

Chair Smashey announced a community meeting about the master plan for the Veterans Memorial Park Complex on November 15 at the Senior Center. She noted that the master plan would hopefully include performing arts spaces and she encouraged people to attend to let them know that additional performing arts spaces are needed in the City.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

None.

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Items From Staff

Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Christine Byers reported City Council approval of participation in the 2008 California Biennial by allowing the temporary installation of a sculpture and allocating funds to support

that. She reported meeting with Commissioner Hanami, Vice Chair Koosed and Westfield representatives regarding the mall expansion project to discuss public art for common areas in the mall and she reported on the progress of the repair of the supporting framework for Ed Carpenter's "Hanging Gardens".

Performing Arts and Special Events Coordinator Obrow reported on the last of the 2008 grant performances and also on upcoming events in the City including *Speak Easy* with Patrice Rushen and Sandra Tsing Loh. She indicated that the Culver City Music Festival was undergoing internal review and news would be reported back to the Commission as soon as possible.

Administration and Special Projects Coordinator Jeremy Green responded to a previous request from Commissioner Henderson with an update on the impacts of the economy on the Cultural Affairs budget noting that the City had currently implemented a hiring freeze; ceased overtime; and began a review of contract and part time employees as well as consultants, but currently all Cultural Affairs budgets and work programs remain unaffected.

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Items From Commissioners

Responding to Commissioner Jayne, Administration and Special Projects Coordinator Green indicated that they were awaiting a new date for the Council/Commission subcommittee meeting.

Several Commissioners wished everyone a Happy Veterans Day and acknowledged the hard work of Veterans.

Commissioner Henderson asked about the Council/Commission subcommittee meeting noting the importance of ensuring the quality of applicants to the Commission to provide strong and competent Commissioners.

Responding to Commissioner Henderson, Public Art and Historic Preservation Coordinator Byers updated Commissioners on the status of the City-wide historic structures survey and historic preservation ordinance update.

Vice Chair Koosed thanked staff, the peer review panel and the subcommittee for their hard work on the grants; she thanked the Council for their unanimous vote supporting participation in the California Biennial; she reported attending *Spring Awakening*; and she reported spending five days in New Orleans at the Prospect 1 Biennial, an effort to revive cultural tourism in New Orleans.

Chair Smashey reported hearing a piece about the California Biennial installation in Culver City on NPR and she questioned whether Westfield would set aside performance space within the expanded mall.

Vice Chair Koosed reported that nothing had been put aside for performance space but she felt as the economy worsened there would be more vacant space available that could possibly be used.

Commissioners expressed disappointment, frustration and concern at not receiving the promised information about the Culver City Music Festival, noting that they first asked about it on May 13 and time was running out for the 2009 Music Festival.

Discussion between Commissioners and staff included: the importance of considering input from Commissioners; an assertion that scheduling conflicts would preclude receipt of an answer this week; a request to have the comments of the Commission conveyed to the City Manager; the review being focused on the 2008 festival and future producer selection; the role of the Redevelopment Agency and Commission subcommittee and the role the Commission and Agency will have in the future; acknowledgement that time is getting short and assurances that answers about the process would be imminent; and different ways for the Commission to express their concerns to the City Manager.

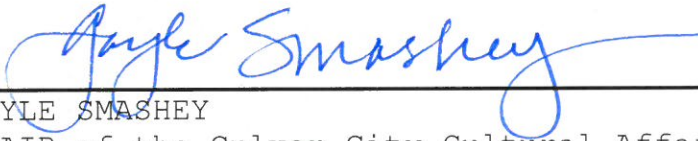
MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JAYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM REGARDING THE 2009 CULVER CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL PROCESS AT THE DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:08 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a Regular Meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on December 9, 2008 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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GAYLE SMASHEY

CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission

Minutes Preparation: Kristi Callan