

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 24, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee was called to order at 6:05 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Brenda Williams, Vice Chair
Ehsaan Mesghali, Commissioner

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported no requests to speak.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the July 6, 2023 CAC Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 6, 2023.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Continuation of Review and Discussion of Municipal Code Section 15.06.100 et seq. Relating to the Art in Public Places Program

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding criteria for approving and disqualifying arts concepts; other sources referenced; other communities examined; appreciation for everyone's contributions; addressing the term artistic quality; language regarding discerning between true quality and novelty and decoration; popular appeal; things that represent a time and space; the intent to encourage something more timeless; other considerations included; ensuring that the art has an academic nature; concern that use of digital media could become obsolete; language indicating that novelty may have popular appeal, but could also capture a moment in time; the butterflies at Ivy Station; underlying concepts; and agreed upon adjustments to language to provide specific touchstones to allow for review and analysis.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding conceptual compatibility of the design with the immediate environment to the site and appropriateness to the function of the site; ensuring that the art is not designed to disguise a physical feature of the site, such as an airshaft; making it clear that artwork shall not compete with other defining features of the site, especially those with cultural or historical significance; the previous experience at Ivy Station; renumbering items to reflect changes; acknowledging the broad variety of tastes in the community; use of the term underrepresented vs. minority populations; cultural appropriation; explaining the concept without using a potentially triggering word; concern with siloing people; offensiveness vs. evoking an interesting conversation; sensitivity to the culture the art is inspired by; examination

of the artist as an individual; distribution of an article discussing cultural appropriation from the point of view of a woman of color; and inclusion of general language about the art as being in good taste.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding older, self-taught artists without gallery history; recognition by peers and/or critics; changing the word "shall" to the word "may" in the current definition of a qualified artist to provide inclusivity; disqualifying characteristics of artwork; functional components; adding a requirement that a qualified artist design decorative or functional elements, not the building architect; sustainability; living walls; concern with limiting the artist; allowing for future improvements; sustainability in terms of maintenance rather than in terms of its impact on the environment; retaining the 1% requirement; opposition to removing the exemption for covenanted low and moderate income and senior housing; Art for All; consultation with the Planning Department; the intent to get more art out rather than to have someone write a check; valuation of artwork every five years; the definition of "freely accessible"; ADA (Americans with Disabilities) requirements; accommodating the visually impaired; use of QR Codes; bridging impairments; addressing accessibility in other cities; Braille; honorarium for panelists; adjustments to staffing qualifications; the Los Angeles County Public Art for Private Development Ordinance allowing for a donation to a chosen arts non-profit; the ability to add parameters such as a review and approval by the Commission and adding a statute of limitations; allowing for a direct investment in the community for areas not currently supported through the program; dollar amount; adding language regarding conflicts of interest and established non-profits; donation of the full amount vs. a portion of the amount of money; placing a cap on the amount; tracing or tracking of the money; examination of the program; the mandate to increase the amount of art in the City; providing oversight; allowing for an option so that if the allocation is less than \$75,000 the developer can pay the in lieu fee or donate it to a non-profit; Culver Arts; perception; City Attorney review of the issue; Commission oversight; putting mechanisms in place to prevent scams; requiring organizations to apply; having a list of organizations vetted by the City; and the date and agenda for the next meeting.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding educational activities, and adding clarifying language to indicate that art classes are not run on-site.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned at 7:08 p.m. to a special meeting on September 14, 2023.

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Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK of the City Council of Culver City,
California

APPROVED _____

Brenda Williams
VICE CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Public Art Subcommittee

Minutes Preparation: Kristi Callan