



# CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

RESP. MGR.: JESSE MAYS

## FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 WORK PLANS - STATUS UPDATES

### **CULTURAL AFFAIRS** (Office of Economic and Cultural Development)

- **Continue core division functions, including support of the Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC) and its various subcommittees in implementing Cultural Affairs programs and projects.**

Status: Ongoing. The CAC meets monthly with staff support. Recent CAC agenda items included: consideration and input on multiple new public art projects; recommendations for the 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program awards; review of Artist Laureate Katy Krantz's activities; presentations regarding facilities; review of draft General Plan Update, review activities of Culver City Arts Foundation; and recommendations of updates for the Art in Public Places Ordinance. The CAC has nine subcommittees, four of which have been very active: Public Art, 2024 Performing Arts Grant Program, Culver City Arts Foundation Liaison and Artist Laureate. Of these, the Public Art Subcommittee is a standing subcommittee that requires noticing and minutes in accordance with the Brown Act.

In 2023, CAC reviewed two reports, prepared by staff, of Commission-specific activities and accomplishment plus upcoming plans and agenda items. These reports were transmitted to City Council.

Staff regularly attends City Clerk trainings and meetings regarding legislative compliance, Council Chambers operations, Brown Act regulations, agenda preparation, and noticing requirements.

- **Continue to assist and coordinate with other City departments/divisions on programs and projects that require specialized cultural knowledge.**

Status: Ongoing. Staff assisted in preparation of AB1600 Development Impact Fee Report in accordance with the Mitigation Fee Act (Finance and City Attorney's Office). This included providing detailed historical financial data of completed projects funded by developer impact fees. Staff coordinated with Finance Department and with City Attorney to identify and prepare budgets for current and future capital projects to be funded by developer impact fees.



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Other examples of coordination include Summer Sunset Music Series (Economic Development), Town Plaza Use Policies (Economic Development and City Attorney's Office), public art/historic preservation components as relate to new development and remodeling projects (Current Planning, Building & Safety), revising City permit system for historically-designated properties and permanent public art locations (Current Planning, Building & Safety) and coordinating with other City divisions on Creative Economy and Economic Vitality efforts.

- **Continue to implement the Art in Public Places Program (APPP), including commission of new artworks, development of new cultural facilities, completion of major restorations and ongoing maintenance. Review and recommend revisions to Culver City Municipal Code Chapter 15.06 pertaining to the Art in Public Places Program.**

Status: Ongoing.

## New Development and New Permanent Artworks in Progress:

- 12300 Washington Blvd.: proposal for permanent art installation by Jorge Campos/PixelArt that was denied for not meeting the requirement. Staff consulted with building ownership and art consultant to finalize APPP fulfillment options.
- 4520 Sepulveda Blvd.: deaccession of *After Market Wheel* by Paul Tzanetopoulos. Staff identified a permanent artwork that was removed and destroyed. Based upon a review of the original installation plan, and coordination with the building owners, compensatory payment was received.
- 10301-10395 Jefferson Blvd.: approval of concept for permanent art installation by Yoskay Yamamoto.
- Green Open Space at Washington/National Blvds.: Concept for *A Frame for a Tree* by LA based artist Charles Gaines and recommendation to City Council; ongoing progress on Phase I of large-scale art project, including planning, promotion, and artist selection. Negotiation and finalization of contracts with artist and specialists to commence Phase 2, including design development, geotechnical reports, arborist report, surveying, architect, and engineering.
- The Culver Steps and The Culver Studios: Ongoing review and coordination of approved concept by *Marc Fornes/THEVERYMANY* in



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- fulfillment of the percent for art requirement by Hackman Capital Partners. Tracking offsite fabrication and preparation for installation in 2024.
- Continue to assist with approved concept by the Haas Brothers for a project at Shaefer Street and National Blvd. (Redcar).
- Assistance with the Wende Museum's planning and construction of a new cultural facility, Glorya Kaufman Creative Community Center

Staff has begun preparations and coordination for the following additional projects Bastion Development Corporation, REthink Development, 11111 Jefferson Blvd., 3550 Hayden Blvd.

Staff is continuously coordinating with Current Planning on new permit applications that trigger the APPP requirement. Staff is continually managing the payment of in-lieu fees for projects that select that option for meeting the APPP requirements.

## **Farragut Passageway (new project, not included in original work plans for FY 23-24)**

Based on a request from the Public Works Department, Cultural Affairs is managing the selection, commission, and installation of a new public art component at the "Farragut Connector," the passageway connecting Jasmine Avenue to Jackson Avenue. This multi-year project began December 2023 with an invitation to professional visual artists or artist teams to submit credentials for a two-stage competitive process. Staff will coordinate all aspects of the application, assessment panel, and artist coordination. \$75,000 from the Cultural Trust Fund has been committed for this project. Fabrication and installation are anticipated to begin in 2025.

## **Tree of Life at Carlson Park**

This City-owned artwork was recently repaired and restored in consultation with the artist's family. In order to maintain it for the future, and to protect the public that uses the park, staff is managing the design, fabrication, and installation of a new railing on the raised platform. Staff is also coordinating with Public Works for new landscaping and ongoing maintenance.



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## **Almost Invisible Boxes**

Staff is managing the refreshing and re-wrapping of many of the utility boxes in downtown. The original artist, Joshua Callahan, has been hired to create and install replacements for 19 boxes of various shapes and sizes. The new contract has been completed in 2023 and work on the photographic murals is expected to begin in Spring 2024.

## **Temporary Artwork**

*Culver Current*, a digital temporary artwork created and installed at City Hall in 2019 by Nate Mohler, continues to operate in the courtyard at night. A new digital show has been created and will launch in Spring 2024.

Katy Krantz's *Dear Culver City*, a temporary earthenware, artwork installation, will be installed at City Hall in 2024. Exhibition dates opens April 15 and ends June 10, 2024; opening reception is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, from 4pm to 6:30pm.

## **Artwork Collections Management:**

Staff managed, or assisted with, the following projects related to existing artworks in the collection. Staff oversees the work and manages contracts with multiple contractors that specialize in art maintenance and restoration.

- Completed relocation of permanent artwork, *Studio Pass* by Jim Heimann, to a new site at The Culver Studios by Hackman Capital Partners.
- Completed restoration and relocation of permanent artwork at 8620 Hayden Place, *KING KONG GONE* by Jim Heimann.
- Completed restoration of artwork at intersection of Robertson and Washington Blvd. (*Light Wave* by Laddie John Dill) Culver City Honda/Toyota.
- Consultation with Turning Point School regarding two artworks in need of maintenance, and installation of plaques.
- Ongoing assistance for the restoration and movement of three permanent artworks within the Westfield Culver City mall.
- Routine maintenance of the following City-owned artworks.
  - *Moving Pictures*, seven zoetropes cleaned and repaired, including replacement of lost tiles.
  - *Path of Life*, annual cleaning completed.



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- *Homage to Ballona Creek*, cleaning and repairs completed.
- *The Lion's Fountain*, annual cleaning completed.
- *Film Strip USA*, annual draining, and cleaning (ongoing)
- *La Ballona*, annual draining and cleaning (ongoing)
- *Hanging Garden*, annual cleaning (ongoing)
- *Truth or Fiction*, repair (ongoing)

## Art in Public Places Ordinance

Updating the CCMC regarding the Art in Public Places Program has been ongoing with detailed review by Cultural Affairs staff, Commissioners, and City Attorney staff. Staff has discussed specific sections of the ordinance with CAC Subcommittees and presented a draft of updates to the full CAC. Research is ongoing regarding the history of the ordinance, current City priorities, use of the funds, alignment with the current cultural programming needs of the community, similar visual and performing arts programs in other municipalities, and potential risks associated with ordinance changes. Recommendations by the CAC, final edits to the ordinance, review by the City Attorney's Office, and approval by the CAC is ongoing. CAC's recommendation will ultimately be sent for approval to the City Council.

- **Continue to implement the Historic Preservation Program in conjunction with new development projects. Continue review of Historic Preservation Program and recommend updates as appropriate.**

Status: Ongoing. Staff continues to identify and advise on development projects involving historical resources to conform with the City's Historic Preservation Program and CEQA. Staff regularly coordinates with Current Planning staff and developers, provides specialized knowledge, and references to other experts. Current projects include Scenic Arts Building at Sony Studios, The Culver Studios, 9814 Washington Blvd. (REthink Development), American Legion Building and Helms Bakery Complex. Work involves coordinating and monitoring improvements in conformance with the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.



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Updates to the CCMC pertaining to the Historic Preservation Program are ongoing. After CAC review and approval, staff anticipates returning to Council in FY 24-25 with recommendations for an overall ordinance update.

Staff regularly responds to inquiries from the Current Planning Department and the public regarding historic preservation of buildings, signage, architectural features, and referrals to experts.

- **Continue to implement and promote the Performing Arts Grant Program (PAG) and focus on recruiting new and culturally diverse applicants and increasing the engagement with audiences. Continue to identify and facilitate where feasible (e.g., through the Art in Public Places Program) new performance venues.**

Status: Ongoing. During 2023, Staff administered contracts and promoted performances on behalf of 28 grant recipients. Based on evaluation reports collected from the grant recipients, over 8,000 people attended PAG performances.

Staff continually monitors contract compliance, advises grantees regarding venues, coordinates scheduling, assists grantees with permits, oversees promotion, and provide ongoing City support, referrals, and information.

Grants for the 2024 season have been awarded to 30 performing arts organizations for in-person music, theatre, and dance events from January to December. Vendor set-up, contracting, and program promotion is ongoing.

Grant funding from the LA County Department of Arts and Culture was used to hire a part-time Cultural Affairs intern from Santa Monica College. Staff coordinated recruitment and hiring with the Human Resources Department. Staff prepared and supervised intern projects and learning objectives from August 2023 through February 2024.

## **Music in the Chambers (new project, not included in original work plans for FY 23-24)**

Staff is investigating options and opportunities for public performances in the Council Chambers. Technology Artists has met with staff to discuss the venue potential and has prepared a pricing quote for lighting gear, technicians, equipment, and controls. Staff is researching the past programming in the space, expenses, staffing needs, and audience requirements.



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- **Continue the Artist Laureate Program including new public programming and activities.**

Status: Ongoing. Artist Laureate Katy Krantz proposed, and began public outreach, for a participatory community art project, "Dear Culver City..." Staff assisted with organizing and promoting more than 12 in-person events where community members can learn basic ceramics techniques, create a piece of art for the project, and contribute words for a poetry collaboration. Staff is organizing a sculptural installation at City Hall that will showcase the works by Ms. Krantz and the community. An opening celebration will take place in April 2024 and the exhibition will remain on display for 4-6 weeks.

In June 2023 and January 2024 Ms. Krantz provided the CAC with a summary report of activities.

**Temporary Mural by Katy Krantz at 11029 Washington Blvd (new project, not included in original work plans for FY 23-24)**

Katy Krantz was motivated by the City's purchase of a former gun store, and by requests from the community to celebrate the event, with the creation of a large-scale temporary mural. In November/December 2023, Ms. Krantz and staff prepared a proposal, budget, and project timeline for CAC recommendation and City Council approval. With assistance from other artists, Ms. Krantz began the mural installation in January 2024. The painting work is ongoing, and the design includes input from neighboring businesses and residents. Cultural Affairs is providing administrative, financial, and logistical support for the project.

- **Continue to promote the Creative Economy, participate in Economic Vitality Task Force meetings and implement initiatives as pertain to Cultural Affairs. This includes planning/coordinating future networking events and developing/implementing a program for temporary art in empty storefronts and businesses.**

Status: Ongoing. CAC Subcommittee and Cultural Affairs staff are working with Economic Development staff to plan and implement Creative Economy activities and networking events. Staff and CAC continue to be participants and partners on Economic Vitality Task Force meetings and projects. Planning for the installation





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of temporary art in empty storefronts and businesses is ongoing. Staff have drafted a process for selection and implementation that is scheduled to begin in 2024.

- **Continue to improve outreach, visibility, and promotional efforts (e.g., adding photos and artworks data to prominent publicly accessible database; initiating professional photography of public art, architectural elements, performing arts, and other city events; encouraging public participation in Artist Laureate activities; and promoting Cultural Affairs programs).**

Status: Ongoing.

- Downtown Cultural Tours Booklet – Staff published a Third Edition of the “red book” containing two walking tours, with the addition of two new artworks in downtown, updates to existing text and photos, and other timely edits. 3000 printed copies of the book have been delivered and a new digital version is available on the City website. Staff distributes the book to the public at multiple locations including City Hall, City facilities, City events, hotels, and other tourist destinations. The Culver City Historical Society is sharing the books with their visitors and participants. Staff also began drafting text, and collecting photos, for a potential third walking tour to incorporate eastern sections of Culver City.
- Otocast Mobile Phone App - Revisions to the mobile app were made in conjunction with the revised Downtown Cultural Tours booklet.
- Culver City Neighbors Magazine – Four articles were published, written by the Cultural Affairs staff. Additional articles featuring Artist Laureate activities and highlighting city arts activities were published with input from Cultural Affairs.
- Public Events – Cultural Affairs materials are distributed at events such as Fiesta La Ballona, Art Walk & Roll Festival, and those sponsored by Culver City Arts Foundation.
- City Website News and GovDelivery Bulletins - Cultural Affairs staff update and add promotional information on the City website weekly. Staff send frequent email bulletins to subscribers about City-sponsored performing arts and visual art events. The public is regularly informed about cultural activities, is invited to participate in cultural experiences, is encouraged to visit public art, and is encouraged to attend local music, theatre and dance events.





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- Public Art Archive - In partnership with Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), staff is managing a database of artworks. This site provides a collections management tool for artworks under the purview of the APPP, and simultaneously increases public awareness of Culver City's art collection in the online Public Art Archive, the only database featuring public art throughout the US.
- **Explore cultural connections regarding plans for the 2028 Olympics and commence planning efforts.**

Status: Ongoing. The CAC formed an Ad Hoc 2028 Olympics Subcommittee focusing on cultural planning efforts for the Olympics. Staff participated in meetings with the City Council Subcommittee and staff attended events organized by City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture in preparation for the arts components of the Olympics and Paralympics. In July 2023, staff assisted with planning a public event acknowledging the 5-years countdown to the opening of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. Staff and CAC attended the event and gathered feedback from the community regarding planning of arts festivals and cultural events.

- **Continue to partner with Advance Planning on the cultural and preservation elements of the General Plan Update.**

Status: Ongoing. Worked with Advance Planning staff and the GPU consultants on completing tasks related to the General Plan Update as they relate to Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy (Element 3) and Historic Preservation (Element 10). Staff reviewed and revised multiple sections of the draft plan including implementation actions, timeframe, goals, maps, photos, goals, and policy framework.

- **Continue partnership with Culver City Arts Foundation on programs and projects, and to raise additional funds and promote awareness of the City's cultural programming.**

Status: Ongoing. Culver Arts made a \$10,000 donation in support the Artist Laureate Program and actively participated in the recruitment and selection process. Culver Arts Board members provide ongoing support and promotion of Artist Laureate activities and the Cultural Affairs Commission. Culver Arts reports regularly on their activities at the CAC meetings. Staff is working with Culver Arts Board members and the CAC on drafting a revised MOU.



2024/2025  
PROPOSED BUDGET

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- **Develop a new Community Cultural Plan for Cultural Affairs that aligns with the Cultural Element of the General Plan Update and includes a Public Art Master Plan.**

Status: On hold and ongoing. This project will be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 workplan and will commence once the GPU is near completion. Research has begun to identify comparable plans in other cities and to identify a consultant for this project.

- **Review CCMC language pertaining to the Cultural Affairs Commission's powers and duties to ensure that it reflects the work of the CAC.**

Status: COMPLETED. Per request of CAC, staff coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Clerk to revise the CAC's powers and duties and to reinstate prior language. The recommended language was presented to City Council and was approved in October 2023.