

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 15, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alexey Steele, Artist Laureate, provided a report on his collaboration with the Los Angeles County on LA vs. Hate; discussed United Against Hate Week; his *Love My Neighbor* portrait of Candance Pilgram-Simmons; the Wende Museum's 20th anniversary event and exhibition; support from Supervisor Mitchell; the Proclamation at the November 14 City Council meeting; the importance of confronting hate; the significance

of art in addressing issues and bringing people together; and he invited everyone to the reception at the Village Well on November 16.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Order of the Agenda

Action Item A-1 was considered before the Consent Calendar.

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Action Items

Item A-1
(Out of Sequence)

CAC – Consideration of (1) a Recommendation from the 2023 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee Pertaining to the 2023 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards; and (2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapunktus, expressed appreciation for the support provided during the pandemic and discussed recent and upcoming performances.

Bryan Caldwell, ArtsUP! LA, provided background on the organization; expressed appreciation for the venue eligibility updates; discussed inclusion in the community; producing programs for the visually impaired as well as for those on the autism spectrum; a web series; and he expressed appreciation to the City for their support.

Deborah Brockus, BrockusRED Dance, thanked the City for their support; provided background on the organization; discussed performing at Fiesta La Ballona; and expressed appreciation for being able to expose community members to high quality dance.

Dr. Shweta Saraswat, Indian Performing Art Center, provided background on herself; thanked staff for their support and the Commission for their consideration; discussed the proposed dance event; underfunding of the traditional arts; correcting historic inequities; and she emphasized the importance of investing in art forms based on cultural heritage.

Ifunanya Nweke, Jazz Hands for Autism, thanked the City for its commitment to the arts and for the support; provided background on the organization; discussed the importance of creating access for different individuals; being a good neighbor; celebrating and bringing awareness to neurodiversity; their concert series; programs offered; the commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI); providing hybrid events to allow accessibility for those who cannot attend in person; appreciation for being able to hold outdoor events; community connections; job assistance offered; creation of alliances with other organizations; donation only concerts to remove cost barriers; family friendly events; the hope to expand their impacts; and she invited everyone to their upcoming performance on November 19 at The Culver Steps.

Sikivu Hutchison, Black Skeptics Los Angeles, provided background on herself and the organization; discussed her play *White Knights, Black Paradise*; the difficulty of finding backing and support; and the abysmal statistics for plays produced by Black women.

Trevor Barrett, International Children Education Association, (ICEA), provided background on the organization and discussed successful ICEA community events and programs.

Jimei Cherico, ICEA, provided background on herself; discussed challenges of the pandemic; the importance of bridging understanding; and encouragement of language development and fluency through the arts.

Monika Ramnath, Leela Dance Collective, provided background on the organization; discussed programming; the importance of integrating diverse art forms into the community; and she expressed appreciation for being able to be back in the city.

Joan Ford, Angel City Chorale, provided background on the organization; discussed diversity; using music as a uniting tool to create communities; cultural exchange; creation of a children's choir that is focused on marginalized communities; performances at public and private events; and she expressed appreciation to staff and the City for their support.

Stacy Young, Angel City Chorale, provided background on herself; discussed members who live in Culver City; their performance at Fiesta La Ballona; connecting with the community; the Angel City Youth Chorale; and outreach.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, explained procedures to validate parking.

Chair Fleischer thanked all who came to speak for their work and for sharing their vision.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the applications received; the collective and personal experience of the performing arts; congratulations to those who applied; the increased amount available for the grants; helping the community return to live performances; support for the performing arts organizations; appreciation for the resilience of the organizations and to the Subcommittee and staff for their efforts; exploration of new performance spaces; appreciation for support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and Culver Arts; panel discussions; tips for the next application process; continued commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and JEDI; the importance of enriching and unifying the community through the arts; and excitement at attending the numerous proposed performances.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2023 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2023 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS AND RELATED GRANTEE CONTRACTS AS

OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT; AND RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE RELATED PERFORMANCES AS CITY-SPONSORED.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022

Commissioner O'Carroll noted that pages 5 and 8 of the minutes referenced a letter that she had read when in fact she read a statement, as it did not become a letter until later.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation for the minutes.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AS AMENDED.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that there was no further Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda.

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Items from Members/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, discussed recent and upcoming Performing Arts Grant Program performances noting that information was available on the City website in the News Section.

Christine Byers discussed the restoration and installation of *Studio Pass* by Jim Heimann; an article in the January 2023

issue of *Culver City Neighbors Magazine* on the public art of Jim Heimann; the 20th anniversary celebration for the Wende Museum; the live *Love My Neighbor* drawing session with Alexey Steele and Candance Pilgram-Simmons; the proclamation presented at the November 14 City Council meeting; a pop-up installation at Village Well; and the work done at the Artist Laureate Subcommittee meeting on November 14.

Commissioner Mesghali discussed reviving efforts to bring the creative community together; providing networking opportunities; and highlighting Culver City businesses.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Creative Economy Connect; the upcoming retirement of the Economic Development Manager; items that must be tabled pending staffing vacancies; the Special Events Coordinator recruitment; staff agreement to follow up with Assistant City Manager Jesse Mayes on staffing issues; and the Management Analyst position for Cultural Affairs.

Commissioner O'Carroll expressed support for providing opportunities to bring the creative community together.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin expressed appreciation for the follow up on staffing issues; thanked staff and Commissioners for their efforts; she supported holding networking events for the creative community; discussed creating a directory of creative artists in the city; the Alexey Steele United Against Hate exhibit at the Village Well; the Louise Coffey-Webb memorial service at Helms Design Center; the recent opening weekend for her theatre company; the recent meeting of the Artist Laureate Subcommittee; and she was looking forward to the meeting on November 30 to see Artist Laureate candidate presentations.

Vice Chair Williams reported attending the memorial for Louise Coffey-Webb and she congratulated everyone at the Wende Museum for their 20th anniversary celebration.

Chair Fleischer reported attending an a cappella concert on the east coast; discussed her recent performance with two Culver City percussionists on a piano piece inspired by Salsa music; she expressed gratitude to staff, Commissioners, and Culver Arts for their efforts; she was pleased with the passage of Proposition 28 to provide a dedicated funding source for K-12 arts education; and she thanked everyone who values

democracy and the democratic process, and those who help elections run smoothly.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:20 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

TANIA FLEISCHER
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