

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

February 11, 2025
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 6:00 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Brenda Williams, Chair
Ehsaan Mesghali, Commissioner

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

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the October 29, 2024 Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 29, 2024 CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

**1) Consideration of an Expansion of the Utility Box Program;
2) Provide Comments; and, 3) Make Recommendations to the
Cultural Affairs Commission**

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the Olympics; integrating the Utility Box Program into the Work Plan beyond a single event; becoming part of the bigger picture of Culver City; costs for the program; the person who already installs wraps for Culver City; branding; the opportunity to provide work to artists; those affected by the fires; the project as one of many workforce development initiatives; the video on the wraps by Dustin Klemann, Communications & Public Information Manager, on the Culver City YouTube channel; and a presentation on potential artists.

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Item A-2

1) Consideration of a Rotating Public Art Program for 3-Dimensional Art; 2) Provide Comments; and, 3) Make Recommendations to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed creation of a program modeled from that of Pasadena, which commissions artists to create rotating sculptural pieces placed in specific locations for 3 to 5 years and then rotate them out to allow another group of artists to be displayed.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding temporary loans; commissions; many areas outlined in the Parks Plan and the General Plan where art is being sought; budget; potential sites; coordination with Economic Development as well as Planning and Development; maintenance and repair; having fresh things to look at; not watching pieces degrade over time; opportunities for emerging artists; the many objectives accomplished with the one project; utilizing the trust; pieces on loan vs. pieces that are commissioned; arts activations in the parks noted in the General Plan; the conservation aspect; ensuring the piece conforms to the environment; use of the word rotating rather than temporary;

and support for including the project in the potential Work Plan for the Commission.

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Item A-3

1) Consideration of a Commemorative Poster Program Celebrating Culver City; 2) Provide Comments; 3) Make Recommendations to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, introduced the item; discussed using a model that has been used by other agencies; the working title of the poster series, *Celebrating Culver City: Colorful Communities*; the 15 neighborhoods in Culver City; posters used by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority; commissioning a different artist to create their unique perspective of each neighborhood; providing opportunities for local artists; and placement of the artwork on buses as potential.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding collectable posters; bus wraps; the pieces as part of a digital art collection; hard and digital art as part of the permanent collection; bus stops; creating community engagement; digital assets; augmenting the Olympics; hard art and digital art; collectable municipal art; storage; framed art at City Hall that is part of the permanent collection; coordination/collaboration with Transportation; the startup budget; stipends; production; printing; equity issues; production of commemorative books and posters; the in-house production; framing of the winning artwork; payment to the finalists; the two year process; the cost breakdown; having a pilot year to learn from; best practices; reproduction of the work; choosing which neighborhoods to highlight first; the honoraria for the selection committee; the proposed budget; the legal contract with the artist; replication of the art; allowing use of the image; caution not to tie in with NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens); formalizing the ownership process; commemorative posters during the handoff in Paris; different interpretations; variation in design; support for inclusion in the Work Plan; and creation of a digital archive of art that is part of the City brand package.

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Item A-4

1) Consideration of an updated Deaccession Procedural Policy for the Art in Public Places Program; 2) Provide Comments; 3) Make Recommendations to the Cultural Affairs Commission

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed the need to address the police fountain; the recent full façade update to the police station; timing; consideration of the entire collection; best practices; creation of a policy; inventory; maintenance issues; freeing up space; and what is involved with taking a piece out of the collection.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding looking at the total process; cost for getting *Truth or Fiction* updated; lighting elements and technology installed in the 90s that are deteriorating; developers who want to deaccession pieces; providing permission for people to remove public art; changing the covenant with developers; communication with the artist; adding an audit to the Work Plan; long range planning; course correcting; taking a step back to consider the whole scope of what there is; establishing language to justify removal; opportunity for public comment; updating the process; conducting regular audits; rules that guide collection practices; curating the collection; the responsibility of Cultural Affairs; and support for moving forward by the Subcommittee.

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Items from Members/Staff

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the tree surrounds on Washington Boulevard under the purview of Public Works, not Cultural Affairs; maintenance and cost issues; a letter writing campaign that caused the removal process to be halted; City Council direction for the Public Art Subcommittee to consider the tree surrounds; concern with removing infrastructure that lights the street and promotes branding; installation of the tree surrounds in the 1990s; information to be collected before presenting to the Subcommittee; the Public Works job that is now a Cultural Affairs conversation; collection of public feedback; concern with making a decision without including the community in the process; being

realistic about what is possible; the proposal to re-envision the tree surrounds because of their connection to the Olympics; costs; funding; and the complicated issue with many different factors.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the ambitious plan; increased artist engagement; contributing to the creative work force during difficult times; the need for three full time staff members; and Commission support.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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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
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Public Art Subcommittee