

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

December 8, 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 6:10 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Ehsaan Mesghali, Commissioner
Shona Gupta, Commissioner

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

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Order of the Agenda

Item A-1 was heard before the Consent Calendar.

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Action Items

Item A-1

(1) Consideration of a Request to Approve the Architecture as Art Proposal at 9814 Washington Boulevard by Brooks + Scarpa on Behalf of Rethink Culver, LLC.; (2) Discuss and Provide Comments as Deemed Appropriate; (3) (If Desired) Advance the Proposal to a Separate Professional Panel for Review as Outlined in the Public Art Ordinance #2013-003; and (4) Determine the Final Steps to Complete the Approval Process with the Cultural Affairs Commission

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, introduced the item.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, noted that Culver City had not had an Art as Architecture presentation in a long time and she discussed options in the municipal code for how developers can fulfill their obligation to Culver City for public art.

Lawrence Scarpa, Brooks + Scarpa, provided background on the company; indicated being an artist and shared examples of his art; discussed his public art commissions; providing context for the proposed project with his body of work; architects that are not taken seriously as artists; location; and the proposed project.

Discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding the intent to create a destination; satisfying criteria; the process; the maintenance plan; materials; patterns and reflections; the Kirk Douglas Theater; making the building artistic; the paseo through the property; the static piece that appears to move as the viewer passes by; accessibility of the art to the public; the portion of the art facing the street that is available to the public 24 hours a day every day; and the portion in the paseo that is closed to the public for certain hours of the day.

Additional discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding next steps; the process; logistics; a suggestion to produce a graphic or diagram that isolates the project to highlight the art part; lighting; feedback for moving forward; placing emphasis on the dynamics of the piece; the sculptural aspect of the project; and articulation.

Further discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding color; providing 3-D renderings and visualizations; display of examples of materials; conveying a narrative and tie-in to Culver City; integration; coordination with the Kirk Douglas Theater; background provided in the meeting minutes; the art space; involvement of APPP (Art in Public Places Program) in the process; unique micro-units and artist residences; access to the stairwell; and the construction process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding suggestions for panels; the timeline; the permit process; other departments involved; Architecture as Art; length of the process; involvement of Center Theater Group;

pacing; art as an element of the building; status and reputation of the architect; incorporation of feedback; and agreement that staff get the revised proposal for Subcommittee review at a future meeting.

MOVED BY MEMBER MESGHALI, SECONDED BY MEMBER GUPTA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE:

1. ADVANCE THE PROPOSAL TO A SEPARATE PROFESSIONAL PANEL FOR REVIEW AS OUTLINED IN PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE 2013-003; AND,
2. DETERMINE THE FINAL STEPS TO COMPLETE THE APPROVAL PROCESS WITH THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2025 Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GUPTA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2025 CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

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Items from Members/Staff

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided an update on the status of the MGM sign; discussed efforts to assume the lease; feedback from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and the seniors about the proposed site; an alternate siting location; limited options for the large sign that keep it secure and not climbable; department head review; and exploration of options before bringing back the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding Media Park; using the sign to mark a gateway; the bridge that no one can access; placement in a location that is visible but not accessible; the Creek; jurisdiction; La Cienega

and Washington; next steps; the survey of seniors; the project brought to Cultural Affairs Commission; logistics; building a gateway with an armature; costs; the Art Fund; the tree surrounds; potential options; the Creek; the banners; the bus stop; fundraising models; having Jeff Morrical make the presentation for the tree surrounds; providing community input for the Subcommittee to consider; correspondence received on the item; the damaged tree surrounds in the Helms Bakery area; partial removal of the tree surrounds; the process to rehabilitate and provide uniformity of style; the Cultural Plan; the Public Art Plan; and the rotating art program.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed the recent meeting with five neighborhood representatives; scoring criteria; categories; evaluation guidelines; next steps; non-disclosure & conflict of interest form; 30 days provided to score the applications; Subcommittee review of all applications and approval of finalists before consideration by the full Commission; posting of the Commission agenda; the process modeled after the Performing Arts Grant process; ensuring involvement and buy-in through the process; neighborhood representatives who submitted; the nominal honorarium; he agreed to provide Subcommittee Members with a link to the applications; and he agreed to put person who was trying to give away a print of the original MGM lion in touch with Hope Parrish.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:41 p.m., the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned to a meeting to be held on January 15, 2026.

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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 _____

Ehsaan Mesghali
COMMISSIONER of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
Public Art Subcommittee