

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 18, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:06 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

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, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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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:

Greg Shane, ArtsUP! LA, provided background on the organization; invited everyone to the opening of *Romeo Rocks the 80s* on April 21 at The Blue Door Theater performed by the only blind theater company in the country; and he discussed working with musicians with disabilities.

Chair Fleischer thanked ArtsUP! LA for their contribution to the community.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported distributing email correspondence to Commissioners.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 21, 2023

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2023.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – Deaccession of a Permanent Artwork Titled, *After Market Wheel* by Paul Tzanetopoulos, Located at 4520 Sepulveda Boulevard (Pep Boys)

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record noting that even with checks and balances in place, things happen, and she pointed

out the importance of having staff to make regular visits to sites where public art is located.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion to insert language to require periodic appraisals of public art into the process; annual inspections for artwork on private property; subcommittee consideration; advertising vs. art; contradictory statements; the decision to pay the fee and have the art deaccessioned; ensuring that collections management is part of the duties for the new staff member; the caliber and variety of artists represented in the city; the unique experience of providing art throughout the city; the opportunity and public benefit provided; the importance of collections management in a city with a robust public art program; other artworks that have been deaccessioned in the past; the number of pieces of public art in Culver City as compared to other comparable cities; art on public (City) vs. private property; events and festivals; tearing down and building new vs. maintaining what exists; appreciation expressed by artists to the City for maintenance; United States Copyright Law; and removal of references to the artwork from the City website.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: APPROVE PEP BOYS' REQUEST TO DEACCESSION AN ARTWORK BY PAUL TZANETOPOULOS (*AFTER MARKET WHEEL*) ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED UNDER THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4520 SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD.

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Item A-2

**CAC - Update from Staff on the Proposed FY 2023 - 2024
Cultural Affairs Work Plan**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record noting the importance of balancing the general with the specific, and she discussed items added to the work plan.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed a new sentence added regarding identification and facilitation of performance venues in the Performing Arts Grant Program section; the difficulty of using the stage only at Veterans Memorial Auditorium due to high demand for use of the full auditorium space; use of The Culver Steps as a performance venue; ongoing construction of the Gloria Kaufman Community Cultural Center at The Wende Museum; use of church spaces; time necessary to find and cultivate new venues; and the flexibility of performing arts groups in using and finding space.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed the addition of an item regarding promotion of the creative economy through participation in the Creative Economy stakeholder meetings and implementation of initiatives pertaining to Cultural Affairs; the letter provided by Culver Arts; adding specificity to plans for temporary art in empty storefronts and businesses; future networking events; continuing improvement of outreach, visibility, and promotional efforts; creation of an interactive map for public art; the partnership with the WESTAF Public Art Archive; public art on the City website; different ways to present and process information; the interactive map component; and use of an on-call photographer for public art.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed the news page of the City website; the community calendar; tracking promotional efforts; email subscribers; social media posts; grant performance evaluations, attendance, and photos of grant performances.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed exploring cultural connections; planning efforts for the

2028 Olympics; continued partnership with Advance Planning on the General Plan Update; and the timeline for the General Plan Update and the FY 2024 City budget.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the public art archive; providing a list of available performance venues on the City website; the community calendar; a suggestion to add wording to include the formation of an Olympic Subcommittee; Commission consensus was achieved to agendaize consideration of forming an Ad Hoc 2028 Olympics Subcommittee at the next meeting; scheduling and location for the May Commission meeting; City programs using Veterans Memorial Building; use of the basketball court; use of photographers for events; inclusion of only City-sponsored events on the calendar; meeting and performance space possibilities with the large corporations that have moved into the city; the atrium at One Culver; the upcoming Culver City Arts Foundation meeting; allowing room for ideas; staff capacity; ensuring an arts component in planning activities for the Olympics; embedding artists in different divisions of government; work plan updates; accountability to what is listed in the work plan; the comprehensive collections management tool for public art; highlighting an "Artist of the Month"; coordination with the Public Art Archive; development of a cultural plan; and the General Plan as a long-term planning document.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Jim Clarke, Culver City Arts Foundation (Culver Arts) reported that there would be a plaque ceremony on April 22 for Louise Coffey-Webb and he indicated that the Culver Arts Board had voted to establish an annual scholarship in her name.

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Items from Members/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, thanked Greg Shane from ArtsUP! LA for attending the meeting and is proud that the City has supported them with a grant; she discussed performances in May and June; the new Artistic Director at Center Theatre Group; and an article in *Culver City Neighbors* magazine about some of the upcoming concerts.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Creative Economy Subcommittee and she spoke about the life and legacy of Julie Lugo Cerra.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported purchasing one of Julie Lugo Cerra's books about the city when she moved to Culver City; expressed appreciation for the tribute to her; discussed Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month; the low ranking of California in arts funding in the country; establishing the Creative Core, a state funded arts internship program; and she reported attending the all-female cast performance of *1776*.

Chair Fleischer reported visiting Luna Ikuta's *Eternal Garlands* and she congratulated the Public Art Subcommittee on their efforts to assist in the project; she indicated that she was looking forward to the Creative Economy Subcommittee meeting; and she reported meeting with Artist Laureate Katy Krantz, who would be sharing her plans soon.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF JULIE LUGO CERRA.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:35 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of Julie Lugo Cerra to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

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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