

REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

PRESIDING: CHAIR JAYNE

Call to Order
7:02 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Clement Hanami; Luther L. Henderson, III; Susan Deen; and, Ronnie Jayne.

Excused Absence: Gayle Smashey

Pledge of Allegiance

Mim Shapiro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Staff Present

Christine Byers, Public Art & Historic Preservation Coordinator; and, Susan Obrow, Theatre Coordinator and Special Events Producer.

Item #C-1.

Agenda Posting.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Deen, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

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Item #A-1.
7:05 p.m.

Consideration of Public Art Concept for Park Century School at 3939 Landmark Street.

Ms. Byers summarized the staff report, noting that, although the images of trees and stars were inspired by the school's logo and mission, the themes are universal and blend very well with the surrounding landscape. She advised that Park Century School is spending considerably more than their minimum one percent for public art on this project and that, as the new owners of the site, they will assume responsibility for future maintenance of the art work. She stated that the new facade and art work will enhance the appearance of the building as viewed from Landmark Street and Washington Boulevard.

Ms. Byers introduced Chris Ward, the architect who designed the facade and art work for the building's new main entry in concert with Frank Gehry.

Mr. Ward indicated that the new facade was developed to reflect the mission of the school, with the trees and rising stars representing the children who will eventually graduate from Park Century School, adding that it will be lit at night and provide the neighborhood with something it has not seen for a very long time.

Chair Jayne asked for Commissioners' questions and comments.

Commissioner Henderson inquired if any specific maintenance challenges are envisioned due to the materials selected for the piece.

Mr. Ward answered that the maintenance requirements would be no different than for any other curtain-wall type project. He advised that the glass will project out far enough from the wall to allow the area behind it to be cleaned, adding the school will also most likely incorporate a yearly cleaning schedule.

Commissioner Henderson commented that a number of distinguished architects have graced Culver City with their talents. He noted that Frank Gehry is world renowned and that this particular project will do much to increase and enhance the beauty of the city, saying he very much looks forward to seeing the finished product.

Vice-Chair Deen inquired if any steps are being taken for future protection of the art work from graffiti.

Mr. Ward advised that the glass is very strong and will be coated.

Vice-Chair Deen commented that the CAC Public Art subcommittee posited that the design of individual glass trees and stars lacked a level of complexity and sophistication which they believe should be incorporated into new public art commissions in Culver City. She noted that, while the piece certainly meets all the criteria and requirements and that she personally favors the design, the subcommittee concluded that some revisions to the City's Art in Public Places Ordinance might be in order to better clarify what it is the City is striving to achieve in the area of public art.

Mr. Ward remarked that he believes once the piece is completed its complexity will be reflected through its simplicity.

Commissioner Hanami echoed Commissioner Henderson's comments regarding Frank Gehry, saying he is very excited that this piece is on its way to becoming a part of Culver City's public art collection. He noted the City will likely go to great lengths to promote and publicize this Ward/Gehry piece once it has been completed, saying it will be a tremendous asset to the City.

It was moved by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Vice-Chair Deen and unanimously carried, that the Cultural Affairs Commission approve the Christopher Ward and Frank Gehry design concept for the loggia glass curtain wall and glass sculpture as fulfilling Park Century School's public art requirement for tenant improvements at 3939 Landmark Street.

Chair Jayne commented that the project is going to be terrific, saying the City looks forward to its ultimate completion.

&O

7:19 p.m.

Receipt of Correspondence.

None.

&O

7:19 p.m.

Items From Staff.

Ms. Obrow introduced herself as the new Theatre Coordinator and Special Events Producer formerly with Center Theatre Group and expressed great pride in recently becoming a member of Culver City's Cultural Affairs Division. She advised that her first assignment was the unveiling of The Lion's Fountain which attracted approximately 200 people, noting there were many very young children in attendance who were taught how to drum and roar like lions with the assistance of Norman Jones from Rhythm Child.

She reported that the final concert in this year's Summer Sunset Music Festival was held the preceding week. She noted it was a very moving concert featuring Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys who performed Cajun music and inspired everyone to consider those in the Gulf Coast who were so harshly affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. Obrow reported that September 15th at 5:00 p.m. would be the deadline to submit Performing Arts Grant applications, saying staff anticipates receiving a good number of applications and looks forward to sharing that information with the Commission.

On behalf of Ms. Gerety-Warner, Ms. Obrow announced the upcoming *Art of ...* speaker series on October 19th, noting it will be the 14th presentation in the series and will highlight "The Art of Commercial Interior Design." She urged everyone interested in attending to make a reservation by contacting Ms. Gerety-Warner at (310) 253-5777 or elaine.geherty-warner@culvercity.org.

Ms. Byers reported that she recently traveled to Westlake Village with Public Art subcommittee member Gayle Smashey and City Historian Julie Lugo Cerra to view clay models for the Harry Culver sculpture project. She stated that certain adjustments, summarized in written comments provided by Commissioner Smashey, were identified and the artist, De L'Esprie, immediately began working on those changes. She advised that the foundry director would be sending pictures for review and that the project is scheduled for completion the end of March 2006.

Ms. Byers reported that a catalog listing of the 75-plus pieces of public art in Culver City is nearly finished, saying the information will be presented with pictures and descriptive text and will soon be available on the City's website. She updated the Commission on the ongoing maintenance and conservation efforts taking place.

Commissioner Henderson urged that tremendous care be taken to ensure that the renditions of Harry and Lillian Culver be as accurate as possible. He requested that staff provide the Commissioners with pictures to contrast with the prototypes before the actual bronze casting occurs.

Ms. Byers advised there was absolute agreement that the faces of both Lillian and Harry Culver did resemble their pictures, noting the suggested modifications were merely proportional in nature, i.e. lengthening Harry's leg and adjusting Lillian's torso.

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7:32 p.m.

Items from Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Deen congratulated staff for orchestrating a wonderful event in celebration of The Lion's Fountain and extended wishes for a happy 25th anniversary to the Culver City Historical Society.

Commissioner Hanami expressed gratitude to his fellow Commissioners and staff for making him feel very welcome as a new member of the CAC.

Commissioner Henderson echoed congratulations to staff for The Lion's Fountain celebration, noting it was an excellent event in honor of a wonderful addition to Town Plaza. He requested that staff provide before-and-after pictures to help illustrate from a historical perspective the progress the City has made at that location in the last four-and-a-half years.

Chair Jayne noted she was unable to attend the actual unveiling of the lion but joined the festivities later and was delighted to see the children participating and having such a wonderful time. On a personal note she stated she believed she spoke for the Commission as a whole when she voiced concern for those impacted by the catastrophe which recently struck the Gulf Coast and one of the nation's richest and most vibrant music centers -- New Orleans. She urged everyone to contribute to the many worthy causes providing assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to continue that support into the future, noting it will be a very long period of recovery.

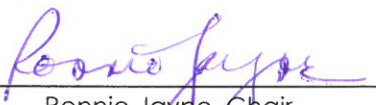
7:36 p.m.

Adjournment.

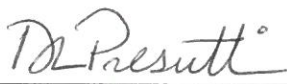
With no further business for the Commission to consider, the Chair entertained a motion for adjournment.

MOVED BY VICE-CHAIR DEEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANAMI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:36 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronnie Jayne, Chair



Debra Presutti, Minutes Reporter