

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Koosed called the meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Marla Koosed
Vice Chair Regina Klein
Commissioner Len Dickter
Commissioner Thomas Small

Absent: Commissioner John B. Williams

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jen Mulder, Vox Femina Los Angeles.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Koosed invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the commission:

Jen Mulder, Vox Femina Los Angeles, thanked the City and Sony Pictures Entertainment for the grant enabling their free concert on April 26 at the Culver Presbyterian Church and she provided background on the organization.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SMALL AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KLEIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2015.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

AYES: DICKTER, KLEIN, KOUSED, SMALL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: WILLIAMS

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Action Items

Item A-1

1) Review the Proposed FY 2015-16 Cultural Trust Fund Budget for Cultural Affairs; 2) Review of Commissioner Comments and Recommendations; and, 3) Make Summary Recommendations to City Manager for Preparation of the FY 2015-16 Cultural Affairs Budget

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported distributing a four page written summary provided by Julie Lugo Cerra, Culver City Historian and the first Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission upon its creation.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that Commissioner Williams had a scheduled absence and she distributed a revised statement from Commissioner Williams to replace what had been sent out with the agenda packet.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed funding for Other Contractual Services; the NEA grant; Technology

Artists; the revision of the Art in Public Places Ordinance; the Cultural Trust Fund; the Summer Concert Series; Cultural Facilities Enhancement; lighting equipment for Veterans Memorial Auditorium; and, larger restoration projects.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, clarified an error under Art Maintenance; discussed the increase to the amount allocated for maintenance per the revised Art in Public Places Ordinance; money appropriated for the Creative Economy Report; distinguishing art maintenance from periodic restoration efforts; temporary art displays and exhibits; Historic Designation Plaques; larger art restoration projects planned for FY 2015-16; the Community Cultural Plan; and that she would forward revised copies of the proposed Cultural Trust Fund budget for FY 2015-16 to Commissioners via e-mail following the meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding projects that trigger an Art in Public Places Program requirement; requirements for commercial and retail development projects; differences in payments to the Cultural Trust Fund in different years; clarification that staff salaries are paid for out of the General Fund; changes in the Art in Public Places Ordinance; increased amounts allocated to performing arts programs annually; the total amount of money available in the Cultural Trust Fund; clarification that the Cultural Trust Fund is a restricted capital improvement fund; clarification that the City has funds for programs but limited staff resources; the current rate of development in the City; approval for contract assistance to help with administrative tasks for up to 10 hours per week; funding sources for the position; Fund Administration within the Cultural Trust Fund, Conferences and Conventions, and Special Events and Meetings; the amount requested for the next year vs. what is available in the budget; the Americans for the Arts annual convention; City hosting or partnering with other agencies for events; marketing if the NEA Our Town grant is received; adding funds to provide additional assistance; reallocation of funds; notes added to the budget document for the performing arts; Technology Artists; the sculpture on the corner of Culver Blvd. and Duquesne Ave.; cost savings by retrofitting the sculpture with LED lights; adding clarification to the budget that the appropriation for producing a Creative Economy Report is the same account code as that for the Community Cultural Plan; Community Advisory Committees; the Otis report; Commission consideration of the

item; the subcommittee; the process; administrative limits; purview of the Commission; resources for the Foundation Board; clarification that the process has not really begun; actions of the City of Los Angeles with their report; use of a consultant; finding a way to make smarter, better, and more strategic decisions about where to spend resources; the need for an overview; the Community Cultural Plan; the minimum allocation for commissioning public art; review of the ordinance; and subcommittee involvement in the process.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that she would provide clean copies of the proposed budget via email; she noted that it was agreed upon at the March meeting that the Commission would prepare written summary statements; she indicated that staff had provided several recommendations from the comments submitted by Commissioners; and she noted that individual written comments along with agreed upon summary recommendations and an updated version of the proposed FY 2015-16 budget would be forwarded to the City Manager.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the phrase "creative think tank" used by Commissioner Williams in his submitted comments; whether the 10 hours per week of support staff time would sufficiently address issues; that this was consistent with the workload; the Historic Preservation Program; the Creative Economy Report; the need for data from City Hall; the amount of staff time required for the implementation of Granicus; the Foundation Board's submission of private foundation grant applications; updating Veterans Memorial Auditorium; establishing basic templates for documents; the effects of event-driven fundraisers on staff time; anticipating future needs; the Fund Administration category; the NEA Our Town grant; updating the Historic Preservation Ordinance; ensuring proper support for staff; amending the budget; alternative funding sources; the Cultural Trust Fund; making the Cultural Affairs Foundation strong enough to support the work of the Commission; a suggestion to maximize resources to fill in gaps; administration of Foundation meetings; and supporting fundraising events.

Commissioner Dickter suggested withdrawing the "creative think tank" language from the motion.

Chair Koosed discussed the process of prioritization; her wish that staffing be reinstated to ensure a fully supported Commission; Cultural Trust Fund support of programs; the lack of staff to support programming; underutilization of the Cultural Trust Fund; specific recommendations; the different perspectives, statements and concerns of Commissioners; making a recommendation to the City Council and the City Manager; she suggested a motion to address staffing issues along with the four Commissioner statements; and she did not want to see the statements condensed and reduced to bullet points.

Chair Koosed proposed that the motion read that the Cultural Affairs Commission respectfully request that the City Manager and City Council consider the recommendations below with attached Commissioner statements when preparing the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 proposed budget for Cultural Affairs:

1. Provide either one additional full time person or two part time contract staff at minimum, until funding can be found for full time staff.

2. Additionally the Commission recommends one part-time graduate student for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to focus on the City's public art collection, the Cultural Affairs Commission, the Cultural Affairs Foundation website, and all Cultural Affairs Commission and Foundation administrative tasks associated with managing the Commission and Foundation be delegated to other City staff.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding staff intent to include the full statements; wordsmithing; the strength of the individual statements; functions of the contract person; efficiency; graduate student interns; consistency and expertise; training; other projects; the role of the Commission; clearing the backlog of work; being ready to move forward; Commission purview; removing the reference to specific tasks for graduate students in the motion; the balance between being vague and specific; and a request for a quick recess to consider the text.

Recess/Reconvene

The Cultural Affairs took a brief recess from 8:53 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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Item A-1
(Continued)

1) Review the Proposed FY 2015-16 Cultural Trust Fund Budget for Cultural Affairs; 2) Review of Commissioner Comments and Recommendations; and, 3) Make Summary Recommendations to City Manager for Preparation of the FY 2015-16 Cultural Affairs Budget

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding wording for the motion; rules governing the Cultural Trust Fund; impacts to the General Fund to hire one full-time staff member; funding for general contract staff; Fund Administration; addressing three years of backlogged work; previous staff funding; whether to specify the appropriate level of staffing; moving money within project areas; the Art in Public Places Ordinance; concern with asking for the impossible; whether it is more effective to propose part-time staff; the importance of leading the conversation; contract staff vs. full-time staff; ongoing legacies for the City; the commitment to Cultural Affairs; economic development; the future; the goal of being self-funded; whether to add wording to indicate what functions staffing would support; a suggestion to attach a summary of the functions of Cultural Affairs; the importance of being clear and concise; and areas that are suffering.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR KLEIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: REQUESTS THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION, TOGETHER WITH THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER WRITTEN STATEMENTS FOR THE FY 2015-2016 CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET: PROVIDE ADEQUATE LEVEL OF STAFFING TO SUPPORT THE VARIED FUNCTIONS AND GOALS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE FOUNDATION. CONTRACT STAFF AND/OR GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNS ARE OPTIONS, AS IS APPROPRIATE TO THE FUNCTIONS AND TASKS PROVIDED. THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES EITHER ONE ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME STAFF PERSON OR TWO PART-TIME CONTRACT STAFF (AT A MINIMUM) UNTIL FUNDING CAN BE

FOUND FOR FULL-TIME STAFF. THIS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE CONTRACT LABOR RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE CITY MANAGER.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, KLEIN, KOUSED, SMALL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: WILLIAMS

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Koosed invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, announced a free concert by Vox Femina Los Angeles at Culver City Presbyterian Church on April 26; a free performance by Benita Bike at the Culver City Senior Center on May 3; she reported that Commissioner Williams was performing in *Words by Ira Gershwin* at the Colony Theatre from April 18 - May 17; and she indicated that Janet Hoult had provided information regarding her new collection of poems.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that the City Council would be issuing a proclamation on April 27 in honor of May as Historical Preservation Month; she announced the quarterly general meeting of the Culver City Historical Society on April 15 with Albert Vera, Jr. as guest speaker; and she reported on the restoration of *Truth or Fiction*, a permanent artwork located across from City Hall.

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Items From Commissioners

Vice Chair Klein expressed appreciation for the new music on Channel 99; announced a book signing at Arcana by William

Hackman on April 15; and the opening of *Loopholes: A Pain in the IRS* at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood with music by former Cultural Affairs Commissioner Ronnie Jayne.

Chair Koosed reported attending the recent Heidi Duckler performance at the Morphosis Architects offices in Culver City; announced that April 14 is Arts for L.A. Day and discussed the proclamation presented in recognition thereof; civic engagement and the arts; she wanted to see an Arts for Culver City Day; and she reported attending the Prison Project in Norco.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:45 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on May 12, 2015 in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

MARLA KOUSED
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.

Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK

Date