

REGULAR MEETING: NOVEMBER 14, 2006
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Presiding: Susan Deen

Call to Order
7:01 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

-0-

Roll Call

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

-0-

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joan Potter.

-0-

Staff Present

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

-0-

7:02 p.m.

Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

None.

-0-

Item #C-1
7:03 p.m.

Agenda Posting

Moved by Vice Chair Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Secretary's Report regarding the agenda posting for this meeting.

-0-

Item #C-2

September 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Smashey, seconded by Commissioner Jayne and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of September 12, 2006 as written.

-0-

Item #A-1

Consideration of 2007 Performing Arts Grant Awards

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Orchestra, thanked the Commission for their consideration noting that a grant would help fund the "On Our Way Up" concert which is dedicated to the winners of the Parness Fund Young Artist Concerto competition and features pre-teens to age 17. He announced upcoming concerts and noted that they perform on the floor rather than on the stage due to space and noise considerations. He indicated taking the panel's comments to heart and noted that he would convey them to the Board. He stated that it would be helpful if the budget would accommodate additional sound barriers as there are not enough at present at the Veteran's Auditorium which creates various sound issues.

Responding to Chair Deen, Mr. Hetz explained that the sound barriers were standard and ideally they could use between 4-6 more to help the players hear and to direct the sound more to the audience. He pointed out that they are typically white but he suggested having them painted to improve them visually.

Vice Chair Henderson suggested that a moveable type of shell that could accommodate a chamber orchestra or a full symphony would greatly enhance the performance space at the Veteran's Auditorium.

Ryan Zwahlen, Definiens Project, thanked the Commission for their continued support which has allowed them to continue to grow over the years.

Joan Potter, Vox Femina Los Angeles, thanked the Commission for their support and she reported that they were working to expand their outreach to the community.

Chair Deen commented that scoring was not done by the Commission but rather by a panel of professionals.

Vice Chair Henderson pointed out a Vox Femina project featuring Hildegard, a female composer from the Middle Ages.

Jonathan Shue, Three Chairs Theatre Company, introduced

himself noting that the Company was founded by UCLA students and has been in the City for three years. A core part of their philosophy is working with children. He reported that they work with Cheolseung Kim who has worked at West Los Angeles College and Culver City High School.

Gale Cohen, We Tell Stories, thanked the panel and Commission for their support, noting that they had a great time at the Julian Dixon library.

Susan Obrow provided a summary of the material of record.

Responding to Commissioner Smashey, Ms. Obrow explained that applicants are alerted when the Cultural Affairs Commission meeting is scheduled so they can read the staff report which contains a summary of the panel's comments.

Commissioner Smashey thanked the panel for their hard work, noting that she was very excited about the challenging and interesting venues this year. She encouraged recipients to keep Commissioners aware of when events are taking place and she asked for a schedule of events to be compiled for Commissioners.

Ms. Obrow announced that the Cultural Affairs Division would be creating an accordion style pocket calendar to include a listing for each performance by grant recipients which will be available to the public. She indicated that recipients should contact staff two months before their performances so marketing plans can be coordinated.

Responding to Commissioner Hanami, Vice Chair Henderson explained that the panel felt that those applicants who scored 95 or above should get 100% of their request and those with a lower score would be judged individually. He added that the panel was comprised of professionals in the field who spent a lot of time to make the best recommendation for use of the City's funds and he encouraged recipients to provide the best performances possible so they would receive positive feedback.

Chair Deen added that all aspects of the application were considered, it was not an exact science and they did not use

a strict mathematical formula. Other sources of programming, how many programs, and total budget were factors that were all considered and she indicated that they sought to provide a variety of performances for the City.

Vice Chair Henderson indicated that the main criterion was artistic excellence which they sought in various genres.

Commissioner Hanami clarified that he was trying to ensure transparency in the process, not questioning the judgment of the panel.

Commissioner Jayne commented that artists are not always the best business people but everyone had compiled professional grant applications. She encouraged others to apply and she expressed appreciation for the work that went into the applications.

Chair Deen was encouraged by the quality of the applications noting that those applicants who attended the workshop seemed to have more complete and better written applications.

Moved by Vice Chair Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Jayne and unanimously passed to recommend to the City Council that grant awards be allocated as outlined in the staff report.

-0-

Public Comment

None.

-0-

Receipt of Correspondence

None.

-0-

Items from Staff

Ms. Obrow announced that the Los Angeles Philharmonic would be presenting a neighborhood concert to celebrate

Mozart's 250th birthday on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 8:00 P.M. at Robert Frost Auditorium at Culver City High School. She noted that it was the first time the LA Phil was presenting in Culver City. The event is free, no reservations are necessary, and more information is available at www.culvercity.org or by calling the Cultural Affairs Hotline at (310) 253-5716.

Ms. Obrow pointed out that the regularly scheduled Cultural Affairs Commission meeting on December 12th would be canceled so everyone can attend the concert. The next Cultural Affairs Commission meeting is scheduled for January 9th and will be a Town Hall meeting.

Ms. Byers reported that the Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary public art item scheduled for the December agenda would be continued until January.

Ms. Byers reported that staff had met with Kyungmi Shin, the Washington Boulevard project artist, who indicated that she is moving forward with content research for the various banners that she has proposed along the 2.5 mile section of the street between Sepulveda Blvd. and Walnut Ave. She added that Julie Lugo Cerra had been working with Ms. Shin, and Ms. Byers commented that she had learned new facts about Culver City in the process.

-0-

Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Smashey reported discussion about providing live-work residencies for artists at the recent Arts Commissioner Forum. She encouraged Culver City to provide something similar to what Santa Monica is considering which is providing some percentage of housing for artists in the City.

Commissioner Smashey recommended seeing a film entitled *Tocar y Luchar* about the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, considered by many to be one of the most successful youth orchestras in the world. More information is available at www.tocaryluchar.com

Commissioner Jayne also enjoyed the Arts Commissioner Forum and was pleased that the City could host it.

Vice Chair Henderson was pleased that the Los Angeles Philharmonic would be performing in the City on December 12. He thanked Cultural Affairs staff for arranging the event and he hoped they would be back to perform again. He encouraged residents to attend the January 9th Town Hall meeting and also to assess the Community Cultural Plan that was passed by City Council to review the past year's accomplishments. He noted that it was a working document which provides a status report as well as direction for the future. He felt that community input was vital and noted that the plan is readily available and can be downloaded from the website.

Vice Chair Henderson questioned the status of Cultural Affairs e-mail list.

Ms. Obrow reported that staff had an e-mail blast list with over 200 names on it that they use for all Cultural Affairs events. Staff is always adding to the list and has started a performing arts directory for Culver City performing arts organizations.

Vice Chair Henderson questioned the status of the 501(c)(3) for the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Ms. Obrow responded that they had received their paperwork from the Secretary of State and were about to submit it to the Federal government.

Responding to Vice Chair Henderson, Ms. Obrow indicated that staff would announce the Chamber Music Series on March 9, 16, and 23 by the end of the year or in January. She added that in late winter the Council Chambers are transformed into a chamber music venue.

Vice Chair Henderson reported completing the ethics training course per AB 1234 and he encouraged everyone to comply with the requirement that all Commissioners, elected, and appointed officials take a course in ethics by December 31, 2006.

Commissioner Smashey indicated that she had not been aware of the requirement previously.

Ms. Byers indicated that Commissioners should have received communications from Assistant City Manager Martin Cole and she indicated that there was an online course option available.

Vice Chair Henderson reported recently hosting the Los Angeles Commission on the Arts with many cities attending and he found it illuminating to see what other cities are doing as far as cultural affairs.

Chair Deen thanked Vice Chair Henderson for the ethics reminder noting that the online course took about 90 minutes.

Vice Chair Henderson explained that when he completed his course he was told that the certification would be valid for two years.

Chair Deen wished everyone Happy Holidays.

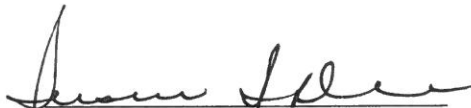
8:02 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Moved by Commissioner Jayne, seconded by Commissioner Smashey and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, City Hall.

-0-


SUSAN DEEN, CHAIR

KRISTI CALLAN
Minutes Reporter