

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 20, 2020
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. via Webex.

Present: Chair Tania Fleischer
Vice Chair Len Dickter
Commissioner Zoltan Pali
Commissioner Brenda Williams
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate

o0o

Chair Fleischer thanked the City Council for the Proclamation in honor of National Arts and Humanities month.

o0o

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

o0o

The following item was considered out of order

Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2020

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

o0o

Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed discussed ongoing City Council consideration of rezoning and ways to increase housing; the Historic Preservation Program updates and length of the process; she inquired when the process would be complete; and she expressed concern with Community Development moving forward on rezoning and planning without a revised Historic Preservation Ordinance available to them.

o0o

Order of the Agenda

The Consent Calendar was considered prior to Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda.

o0o

Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - Consideration of a New Permanent Art Concept by Alex Prager Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program Requirement for a Project at 8888 Washington Boulevard

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed fulfillment of the Art in Public Places Program requirement by the Runyon Group, the developer for a project located at 8888 Washington Boulevard; Subcommittee support for the general concept; concerns raised about materials as initially proposed, method of installation and lighting; agreement that Commissioner Pali work with staff and the developer's team to address concerns; and resolution of concerns at the beginning of October.

Jack Nathan provided background on the Runyon Group, discussed projects developed in Culver City; the focus on design and creating an interesting ground floor retail experience; he provided additional details on the project including location; presented project renderings; and he wanted the art to represent the company, the building, and the Culver City community.

Bianca Collins, the Art Consultant for the project, discussed the artist selection process and the artist chosen, Alex Prager, noting that this would be her first permanent public art installation and was meant to be experiential.

Alex Prager, the Artist, provided background on herself and discussed her interest in the space between reality and fiction; her concept for the artwork; creation of life-sized pictures for the installation; the importance of details; and scale of the figures vs. the background.

Jack Nathan, Runyon Group, discussed honoring the artist's intention and maintaining the integrity of the project; installation of the photograph at the highest resolution possible; appreciation to the Public Art Subcommittee for their feedback to achieve the best result; installation; creating an immersive experience; lifespan of the piece; materials used; maintenance; the anti-graffiti coating; UV protection; the lighting plan; the sun/shadow study; the schedule; project

benchmarks; fees and permits; costs; and the Conservation Maintenance Plan.

Discussion ensued between project representatives, staff and Commissioners regarding materials used; appreciation for the presentation; evolution of the project; confirmation that requirements for the project were met; visibility; lighting; the rendering vs. the actual piece; clarification that the photos were staged; use of images created in 2015 that were not made especially for this project; references to Los Angeles vs. focusing on Culver City; how the piece fits into the landscape of Culver City or is unique to the City; clarification that the piece is more about people vs. being specifically about Culver City; the film industry; fluidity of people between neighborhoods; infusing the past with the present at the same time; representation of a cross section of Los Angeles; specific details in the photo that create connections; creating timelessness; collective memories of different periods; characters that are universally American; use of brand names on the artwork; creating universality; support for the subtlety of the project; representation of post-war America; subject matter and integration; and use of the brick wall.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PALI, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE A NEW PERMANENT ART CONCEPT BY ALEX PRAGER TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM REQUIREMENT FOR 8888 WASHINGTON BLVD; AND,
2. THAT THE APPLICANT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE LIGHTING AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY BY STAFF AND/OR THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE PRIOR TO RECEIVING CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.

o0o

Item A-2

CAC - Update on 1) The Status of 2020 Performing Arts Grant Program and Performances; and, 2) The 2021 Performing Arts Grant Program Guidelines and Application

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding creation of an alternative plan in response to the pandemic; appreciation to staff for their efforts; encouragement to applicants to think of alternative ways of engagement; opening the process up to more artists and performing arts groups; fiscal receivership; and addressing equity and inclusion.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE 2020 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AND GRANT PERFORMANCES, AND THE UPDATE ON THE 2021 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION.

o0o

Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

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

o0o

Receipt of Correspondence

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

o0o

Items from Staff

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, encouraged everyone to view *Projecting Possibilities* at the Helms Design Center, and she indicated that she would be virtually attending the Culver Arts Board Meeting on October 21.

Chair Fleischer noted that Artist Laureate, Alexey Steele was also participating in *Projecting Possibilities* at the Helms Design Center.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, reported that The Actors' Gang would be presenting a Halloween program as a

test in preparation for their grant performance holiday program in December; she announced that Benita Bike Dance Art would be partnering with the Senior Center for *Let's Talk Dance* on November 14 via Zoom with reservations available at danceart.org; and she noted that information about additional events supported by the City, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and the Culver City Arts Foundation would be coming soon.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, announced that on October 22, 2020 Otis College of Art and Design would be holding a webinar on Race and The Creative Economy; she discussed the three-part live drawing session with Artist Laureate Alexey Steele drawing Dr. Janet Hoult on October 6, 8 and 10; attendance numbers; additional events planned in the future highlighting the role of seniors in the community; the upcoming City Council Economic Recovery Task Force agenda item; direction regarding establishing a Virtual Performance Center on the City website; and statistics pertaining to artist/architect representation in the City's extant permanent public art collection.

o0o

Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams reminded everyone to continue to wear masks and social distance; she asked people to consider AEDI: Anti-Racism, Equity and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; she noted that all lives can't matter until Black Lives Matter; expressed gratitude to all essential workers; and she encouraged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Pali reported that he had voted.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin thanked Christine Byers, Alicia Ide, Alexey Steele and Dr. Janet Hoult noting that she had virtually attended one of the Artist Laureate drawing sessions; she indicated that she would be attending the Culver Arts Board meeting noting that the Commission is always on the agenda; reported on the Arts for LA State of the Arts Summit; discussed the Together LA: A Virtual Stage Festival; she echoed Commissioner Williams in encouraging people to wear masks and to vote; and she thanked staff and Commissioners for their work and willingness to serve.

Vice Chair Dickter discussed the Creative Economy Subcommittee presentation to the Economic Recovery Task Force; the Arts and Culture Subcommittee; ways to support the local economy, corporate partners, arts and culture, the community and citizens; he reported voting; and he expressed hope for the future.

Chair Fleischer discussed the live drawing session with Alexey Steele and Dr. Janet Hoult; support for the Artist Laureate; the State of the Arts Conference hosted by Arts for LA; LA Partners for Education; she thanked the Arts for LA organizers for their work; indicated that Arts to Work had made the Eligible Training Provider List as an approved program; and she reported voting and receiving confirmation that her ballot had been received and counted.

o0o

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:32 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on November 17, 2020.

oOo

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 Green
CITY CLERK

Date