

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 21, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Dan Patacchia Room at City Hall.

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

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theatre Guild, provided background on the organization; discussed the Performing Arts Grant Program process; grant writers; and performing arts venues. He reviewed challenges regarding existing performing spaces in the city such as costs; date restrictions; building regulations; and insurance. Further, he recommended that the City review the possibility of developing other performing

arts spaces and consider providing local organizations the opportunity to perform in those venues without charge.

Andrew Dove discussed the impending eviction and relocation of the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum and he encouraged everyone to go visit before it is gone.

Commissioner Dickter noted that Mark Ridley-Thomas's office has jurisdiction over the matter, not Culver City.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of March 19, 2019

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 19, 2019 CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: VICE CHAIR PALI

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – Consideration of a Proposal for Six New Permanent Artworks at 8824 National Boulevard (Ivy Station) Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced Tom Wulf and Anna Levin from Lowe, as well as Beau Basse and Owen Schmit from LeBasse Projects, and she explained the process for consideration of the item.

Tom Wulf, Lowe, discussed the lengthy process to bring the Ivy Station project forward and he introduced the overall development.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, discussed activating the site; the large amount of open space; different elements of the project; the process for choosing the artists; budget; programming; accessibility; visual impact; culture; the relationship between nature and the city; activating pedestrian thoroughfares; and the timeline.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed the process; previous presentations to the CAC's Public Art Subcommittee; program requirements as included in the Culver City Municipal Code; conservator review; concept approval; and technical details.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, discussed creating as many installations as possible within the budget; previous experience of the artists.

Marla Koosed provided background on herself; noted that she had worked on revisions to the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance; questioned whether the developer had directed LeBasse Projects to require that work within close proximity be complementary to one another; expressed concern that the works do not stand strong on their own, are not adventurous, nor do they show the individuality of each chosen artist; she wanted to see something more grand for Culver City but noted that the proposal meets the basic program requirements; she discussed subjectivity; maintenance and the contingency amount as included in the budget; and suggested setting funds aside in the annual operating budget for upkeep.

Discussion ensued between meeting attendees, Mr. Basse, staff and Commissioners regarding the style of the artists selected; the selection process; the budget; activation of

multiple spaces within the project site; and whether a presentation by the artists is required.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding concern that things get lost in the size and scale of the project; an observation that if all the project needs to do is meet the program requirements, Commission consideration may not be necessary; the subjective nature of the quality of the art; whether the pieces speak to the nature of Culver City; craft vs. design and expression; whether the project is authentic and unique; the lack of a strong central idea, cleverness or playfulness; appreciation for the effort invested into the project; artistic value and quality; disappointment with the lack of diversity with regard to the artists selected; the importance of including an equity statement in the Art in Public Places Program guidelines; the Washington / National TOD Gateway Project; cohesion; acknowledgement of the high expectations for the project; the Los Angeles County's Cultural Equity & Inclusion Initiative; missed opportunities; diversity in Culver City; and the artist selection process.

Beau LeBasse, LeBasse Projects, discussed diversity in the firm; the curatorial process; inclusion of underrepresented artists; past and future projects in Culver City; and the merit-based process.

Further discussion ensued between Mr. Basse, staff and Commissioners regarding the artist selection process; scale of the project; delivering work that is fun, colorful and engaging; connecting Ivy Station to other projects in the city; concern that the art is not forward thinking; experience of the artists; determining the capability of the artists and visual appeal for all demographics; the decision to shy away from high concept art; assessing what work is going to appeal to the neighborhood; impacts; the wide range of people coming in; having the art speak to everyone; size and scope; constraints of the Commission; significance of the project; respect for the work and the artists; insight into the vision for the city; whether the work presented is worthy of the largest and most impactful project in the city; the opportunity to make amendments to the municipal code; conversations with developers regarding

diversity; transparency with regard to the selection process; the spirit of the Public Art Ordinance; having the Commission reflect what they believe Culver City needs to be; parameters on which projects are evaluated; subjectivity associated with the criteria in the code; approving the individual concepts vs. approving the entire package; the ability to revise program guidelines; community benefit; and the extent to which things can be dictated on private property.

Marla Koosed relayed her previous experience serving on the Public Art Subcommittee; expressed support for amending the code; and she pointed out the ability of the Public Art Subcommittee to keep sending the project back.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding previous Subcommittee consideration of the project; options available to the Commission; the ability to add conditions; technical refinements; the need to be specific with regard to a denying the application and making specific findings based on municipal code guidelines; comments on the project from Metro; useful things that have come out of the conversation; the need to make adjustments to the code; the appropriate level of detail; and going before the City Council on appeal.

Tom Wulf, Lowe, discussed priorities and goals of the Art in Public Places Ordinance.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding grounds for disqualification, and approval on the condition that the Subcommittee writes an equity statement for the future.

Commissioner Dickter moved to approve the project and explained his intention that the process be updated for the future, with clarification on the mission of the City and a written statement provided to the City Council.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding meeting criteria of the municipal code; aesthetics; expertise; and agreement that procedures were followed.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER AND SECONDED BY CHAIR
WISNOSKY STEHLIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE TWO PROPOSED PERMANENT ARTWORKS BY TOMOKAZU
MATSUYAMA TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC
PLACES PROGRAM REQUIREMENT FOR THE IVY STATION PROJECT AT
8824 NATIONAL BOULEVARD; AND

2. APPROVE THE TWO PROPOSED PERMANENT ARTWORKS BY SAGE
VAUGHN TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES
PROGRAM REQUIREMENT FOR THE IVY STATION PROJECT AT 8824
NATIONAL BOULEVARD; AND

3. APPROVE THE TWO PROPOSED PERMANENT ARTWORKS BY FAILE
TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE CITY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES
PROGRAM REQUIREMENT FOR THE IVY STATION PROJECT AT 8824
NATIONAL BOULEVARD.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: PALI, WILLIAMS

Additional discussion ensued between staff and
Commissioners regarding creating a cultural equity and
inclusion policy; forwarding concerns to the City Council;
limitations faced by the Subcommittee; making the position
of the City with regard to cultural equity and inclusion
clear; the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE);
the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; concern
with being a rubber stamp Commission; and further
discussion of the issues raised.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Items from Staff

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported that approval had been received for a second edition of the Downtown Cultural Walking Tour; she announced the LA Conservancy Walking Tour in October and the Art Walk and Roll on October 12; and she indicated that the new edition of the walking tour book would include minor corrections, as well as improvements and new photos of the two murals that have been recently restored.

Commissioner Williams reported forwarding information to staff regarding a friend who had artwork installed in front of their business and wanted it included in the guide.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that, in conjunction with the Artist Laureate Subcommittee, the timeline for implementing the program had been revised and a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Coordinator had been issued.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding response to the RFP.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed the Creative Economy Phase II; reported meeting with Yolanda Gorman to review logistics and points of discussion for the upcoming Subcommittee meeting; she distributed the updated calendar for Performing Arts Grant Program performances and summarized upcoming events; and she highlighted several performances noting that additional information was available on the City website.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding establishment of a Public Relations Subcommittee; information

available on the homepage of the City website and the Cultural Affairs page; regular emailed updates regarding cultural events for those who subscribe; establishing a separate Cultural Affairs Facebook page; increasing visibility and attendance at events; responsibility of the grantee to promote the events; other cities that give out organizational grants; a suggestion that the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee work on increasing visibility; follow-up email reminders about performances; the inability to do advertising throughout the City; and advertising outside of the City.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams reported that her mother had passed away.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Lizzie Thomas, Commissioner Williams's mother.

Commissioner Fleischer announced that she had completed her Arts for LA Activate project; discussed Arts to Work; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with West LA College; work with Council Members and subcommittees; and she invited everyone to attend the AVPA Spring Concert on May 22.

Commissioner Dickter reported working with the LA County Arts Commission on the Vermont Avenue Project.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported that the Cultural Affairs Foundation Subcommittee had met; she discussed money raised; amplifying arts in the city; the Artist Laureate Program; the Performing Arts Grant Program; she reported that she and Commissioner Fleischer had attended the Meet and Greet for new commissioners; and she discussed identifying additional venues in the city for theatre groups to find a place to perform.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:43 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of Lizzie Thomas to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on June 18, 2019 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN
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