

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 16, 2021  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:05 P.M. via WebEx.

Present: Chair Tania Fleischer  
Vice Chair Brenda Williams  
Commissioner Leora O'Carroll  
Commissioner Zoltan Pali  
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

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

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Chair Fleischer explained procedures for making public comment and discussed the life and legacy of Maestro Frank Fetta of the Culver City Symphony who passed away last month.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda**

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Alexey Steele indicated that in January he would be providing a report on his accomplishments as Culver City Artist Laureate; invited everyone to his next public session of the *Love My Neighbor* series on December 2; and he expressed gratitude to Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin and staff for their work and support.

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**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**CAC - Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meetings of September 21, 2021 and October 19, 2021**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 AND OCTOBER 19, 2021.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: 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 (1) a Recommendation from the 2022 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee Pertaining to the 2022 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards; and (2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council**

Chair Fleischer introduced the item.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed messages from grateful grant candidates; the number of candidates; new and repeat applicants; the increase of 13% in recommended grant awards; new ways to support organizations; appreciation to Subcommittee Members and the 2022 Performing Arts Peer Review Panelists for their work on the grant program; contributions in support for the program; grant guidelines; information in the attached staff report; and application requirements.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapunktus, thanked everyone for their support and discussed virtual events produced over the last year.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin thanked everyone involved in the process and expressed support for the recommendations in the staff report.

Chair Fleischer thanked everyone involved in the process; congratulated the grantees; she provided tips for engaging in a better application process; discussed the peer review process; the importance of submitting relevant samples; cultural equity; and she expressed support for the recommendations in the staff report.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2022 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2022 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS AND RELATED GRANTEE CONTRACTS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT; AND RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE RELATED PERFORMANCES AS CITY-SPONSORED.

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Item A-2

**CAC - 1) Update of a Conceptual Plan for the Revitalization of Media Park; and (2) Provide Comments as Deemed Appropriate**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced the item.

Elaine Gerety-Warner, Economic Development Project Manager, provided an update on the concept design and conceptual plan development for the Media Park project.

Gerdo Aquino, SWA, provided background on the project and a presentation on the concept design and conceptual plan for Media Park.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Marla Koosed expressed support for the project but concern that Cultural Affairs had not been contacted directly during the preliminary process; she discussed the importance of being able to provide feedback early in the process; and including the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission and Cultural Affairs Commission in the process moving forward.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Aquino; staff and Commissioners regarding bringing more tourism into the City; the specialty swings; public restrooms; coming to an agreement with a concessionaire; maintenance; the stage; the sloped lawn; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; parking; providing seating options; funding; genesis of the project; activating the space; the process; the Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to prepare conceptual plans for Media Park; concern with trying to include too many elements at the site with this project; size of the park; including applicable City Commissions in the process; next steps; continued development of the plan; openness to feedback; inclusivity; parking; the loading area; the need for additional performance spaces in the city; refining the stage design; the canopy structure; retention of the trees; the café; the buffer between

Venice and the park; the problematic nature of the performance space; the importance of working with consultants for the performance space; missing items; unanswered questions; nearby restaurants; allowing pop up businesses; activating the space when performances are not taking place with the introduction of a café; the importance of providing seating in the park; using the space as a platform for different types of activities; the art walk; the public art component; the shared space with the City of Los Angeles; support for a more permanent art presence; the art component as a way to bring people into the park; the proposed walkway in front of the stage; the importance of Commission input; ensuring that a usable space is developed; the canopies; use of a bandshell; sound and lighting equipment; logistics; placement; costs; the need for additional information; the next phase; real budgets; continued input from different groups; concerns with adjacent performing arts spaces interfering with each other; the raised deck; the fig tree; support for having a space that is just a park; sharing the public space with The Actors' Gang; and a suggestion to seek input from grantees.

Commissioner Pali agreed to work with the consultants.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)**

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that no public comment had been received.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

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

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**Items from Members/Staff**

Taylor Yates, Performing Arts Intern, reported on past and upcoming grant performances and she discussed her internship so far.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, announced upcoming grant performances.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Coordinator, read a comment from local public artist May Sun about the recent site-specific grant performance by Donna Sternberg & Dancers at City Hall; discussed the interaction between the performing arts grant recipients, public art, and the artist; the evaluation form; and *Culver City Neighbors* magazine.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed plans for the Wende Museum Creative Community Center; the completed entry canopy for the Haven site by Luna Ikuta; and the installation of the two murals at 8888 Washington Boulevard by Alex Prager.

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, announced her retirement from the City; expressed appreciation to Commissioners for their dedication to the community; and introduced Jesse Mays who will be taking over her duties in support of the Commission.

Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager, noted the big shoes to fill and he indicated that he was eager to work with the Commission.

Commissioner O'Carroll discussed attending the recent Culver City Arts Foundation meeting.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin congratulated Serena Wright-Black on her retirement and thanked her for her assistance; she welcomed Jesse Mays; and she announced upcoming events and holidays.

Commissioner Williams congratulated Serena Wright-Black on her retirement and welcomed Jesse Mays.

Chair Fleischer congratulated Serena Wright-Black on her retirement; reported attending the opening of *Questionable History* at the Wende Museum; indicated that she would be attending several upcoming grantee performances; discussed

MOVE Culver City and the asphalt art component; the opening event for MOVE Culver City planned for November 20 at City Hall; she indicated that she would be attending the virtual Congressional briefing presented by The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture on the Creative Community and Jobs of the Future; she discussed things she is grateful for; and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:03 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK

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Date