

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 18, 2022  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 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  
Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager  
Taylor Yates, Administrative Intern

o0o

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Alexey Steele led the Pledge of Allegiance.

o0o

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

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that neither of the attendees had requested to speak.

o0o

**Receipt of Correspondence**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported correspondence received for Item A-1.

o0o

**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**CAC – Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021**

Chair Fleischer asked to amend language on page 10 indicating that "Commissioner Pali had agreed to work with the consultant about the Media Park plan." to clarify her intent by instead indicating: "Chair Fleischer suggested the consultant reach out to Commissioner Pali regarding the performance venue and Commissioner Pali agreed to engage with them."

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PALI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021 AS AMENDED.

o0o

**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

o0o

**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CAC – 1) Update from Culver City Artist Laureate Alexey Steele on Projects and Activities for 2021; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate**

Chair Fleischer introduced the item.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, read public comment submitted by Dr. Janet Hoult discussing the Artist Laureate program, and Alexey Steele's "Love My Neighbor" program.

Alexey Steele, Artist Laureate, provided a presentation on his service as the first official Artist Laureate of the City; presented images from his "Love My Neighbor" program in 2021 as well as three major oil paintings that he created; discussed his goal to reaffirm the unique position of art in the past, present and future of the city; collaboration with staff and the Commission; the article in *Culver City Neighbors* magazine; engagement and reach of the events; the diverse group of artists in the city; the significance of the General Plan Update and providing input into the document; his ambassadorial engagement; an art gallery in Russia founded by his father; the rising international status of Culver City; the importance of art; opportunity for a direct connection with Culver City on a high profile international project; Culver City as a global brand; the need to connect the different parts of the creative economy; collaboration with the Culver City Arts Foundation (Culver Arts); showcasing the Artist Laureate Program at the annual holiday event held by Culver Arts at Village Well; appreciation to Janet Hoult as the originator of the Artist Laureate Program; and the response in Russia to the collaborative multi-media concept that he is developing in a public art format.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the thorough report and efforts of Mr. Steele during his tenure; the art and Sister City project; the vast body of work by Alexey Steele; the true spirit of the program; giving back to the community; the importance of art; building bridges between local and international communities; the need for an arts center in Culver City; appreciation for Mr. Steele's infectious energy; a request for a photograph of all the "Love My Neighbor" participants with their portraits; appreciation that Mr. Steele could also follow his own artistic process during his tenure; congratulations to Mr. Steele on the exhibition of his paintings; and appreciation for the work of Mr. Steele as a cultural ambassador as well as to Dr. Janet Hoult, Culver Arts, Village Well and staff for their support of the program.

Alexey Steele felt that creation of an arts center was important; discussed art and the international angle; filling the void of the receding commercial model of galleries; the success of his father's gallery in Russia; and he acknowledged

the importance of collaboration for success of the arts in the future.

o0o

Item A-2

**CAC – (1) Review and Discussion of Biannual Report of Cultural Affairs Commission Activities; and, (2) Authorization for Transmittal to City Council**

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

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

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification of other duties; language used in the municipal code; the addition of language regarding equity in the Art in Public Places Program ordinance; the process to modify language in the ordinance; the role of Commissioners as cultural ambassadors; identifying how projects benefit the community; revitalization of Media Park; adjusting language in the Media Park section of the report to include impacts to the community at large; City Council consideration of Media Park in February; work of the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee to amend the ordinance in future; review of ordinance changes by the Public Art Subcommittee; the Art in Public Places Program; and staff agreement to adjust language in the Art in Public Places Program section of the report to indicate that the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee and the Public Arts Subcommittee would be working with staff to complete updates to the ordinance.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE BIANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AS AMENDED; AND,
2. AUTHORIZE TRANSMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL.

o0o

**Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)**

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

o0o

**Receipt of Correspondence**

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

o0o

**Items from Members/Staff**

Louise Coffey Webb, Public Art Coordinator, discussed the first monthly article in *Culver City Neighbors* magazine about the Cultural Affairs Division; conservation and maintenance of City sculptures; and she reported regular requests for the little red Culver City cultural tours book.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that staff would be working remotely as much as possible for the next several weeks and she indicated that staff was enjoying getting to know Jesse Mays and the different perspective he brings.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that the Commissioners' City email accounts would be subject to two-factor authentication as of January 24, 2022; provided updates on Performing Arts Grant Program performances; noted that the Kirk Douglas Theatre would be re-opening for live performances in March; and expressed hope for more in-person performances and other venues re-opening soon.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin discussed the upcoming Culver City Arts Foundation Board meeting; Black History Month; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; and Valentine's Day.

Commissioner O'Carroll discussed City Council approval of the Wende Museum proposal for a creative community center; project components; and she indicated that proposed creative

economy industry-based networking events had been temporarily put on hold.

Chair Fleischer discussed live events that were cancelled due to the Omicron variant; an upcoming outdoor children's concert; the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival; and she wished everyone a Happy New Year.

o0o

|

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:10 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

o0o

---

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