

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 17, 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. in the Patio Conference Room at City Hall.

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  
Taylor Yates, Administrative Intern

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Jim Clarke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

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

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**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**CAC - Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2022**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022.

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 - (1) Review of Two Quarterly Reports from Culver City Arts Foundation; (2) Discussion Regarding Loan from City to Culver City Arts Foundation; and (3) Make Recommendation to City Council as Deemed Appropriate**

Chair Fleischer introduced the item and invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

Jim Clarke, Chair of Culver City Arts Foundation, discussed the quarterly reports; past and future Foundation activities including fundraisers, events, and programs; Tito's Fiesta Mexicana; the Culver City Book Festival; grants; the uniqueness of the City; important resources; the annual holiday party; the award given to Wally Marks at the end of 2021; the *Projecting Possibilities* installation; new Board Members; additional positions; upcoming elections; the Foundation's Advisory Committee; and he clarified that the Foundation consists of volunteers.

Sehnita Joshua Mattison, Vice Chair of Culver City Arts Foundation, provided a copy of the letter regarding the loan from the City to the Foundation; she reviewed contributions from the Foundation to City programs; discussed additional City Council consideration of the loan; loan reconciliation; continued support of the City; the Artist Laureate Program; the Performing Arts Grant Program and additional projects; concerns voiced that the City would have to provide a similar arrangement to another organization; the uniqueness of the Foundation and the relationship with the City; payments from the Foundation to the City to support programs; City use of the loan repayment; support for programs the City already engages in; City requests for support; continuing the partnership; and she indicated that the Foundation wanted the loan to be considered paid in full.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, noted that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) did not address any specific contributions from the Foundation; discussed absence of language regarding minimum annual contributions, funding priorities, or grants offsetting the original loan; semantics; and City Council consideration of the matter on June 13.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the report; contributions to the community; the feeling that the Foundation exceeded any expectations; appreciation for the support provided by the Foundation; and support for the reconciliation.

Jim Clarke, Culver City Arts Foundation, indicated that they were looking for a letter of support with the Commission recommendation to the City Council, and he asked any

Commissioners who had personal relationships with Council Members to express support as well.

Additional discussion ensued between Foundation representatives, staff, and Commissioners regarding penalties for not paying; the money that is considered a liability and cannot be used; putting the money to good use; making small payments back to the City each year; revenue from the Exchange Club going into the community; the ability of the organizations to multiply the money and give back more; highlighting the intent that the \$35,000 would go back into the Arts Resiliency Fund; the Foundation budget; the grant program; the Artist Laureate program; the recommendation of the City Manager; the speed of growth of the Foundation; origin of the funding of the seed money for the Foundation; the need for the organization; background on the founding of the organization; potential repercussions to the Cultural Affairs Division; fiscal impact; the lack of minimum annual requirements; MOU language; finding a way for the City to fund the arts; the book fair; the Tito's Tacos event; language for the motion; and the difference in tone in language from the motion last year.

MOVED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT IN LIGHT OF THE BENEFIT THAT CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THEIR FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN CITY ARTS PROGRAMS, THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE \$35,000 INITIAL LOAN SHOULD BE OFFSET BY THE \$67,600 IN DIRECT PAYMENTS MADE TO THE CITY. THEREFORE, THE LOAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED REPAYED.

Further discussion ensued between Foundation representatives, staff, and Commissioners regarding the annual workplan for the Foundation; future contributions; Commission input regarding funding priorities; expiration of the MOU; opportunities; solicitation of corporate funding; the Arts District Business Improvement District; the proposed Juneteenth event; and appreciation to the Commission for the support.

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

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal discussed inclusion; areas in the city that are left out of the process; the role of Cultural Affairs; rebuilding after the pandemic; brainstorming; available funding; taking advantage of new venues; opportunities to showcase the city; and she questioned how she would be able to get information and apply for programs.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Neal and Commissioners regarding encouragement for Ms. Neal to reach out to the Culver City Arts Foundation directly; information available on the City website; regular updates from the email list; the Ivy Station mailing list; Culver Steps; jurisdiction; processes; City sponsorship; Town Plaza; Hackman Capital Partners; and encouragement for Ms. Neal to contact Elizabeth Garcia in the Economic Development Department.

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#### **Items from Members/Staff**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported making the budget presentation to City Council; indicated that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> Cultural Affairs would be part of the City Manager's office; she discussed progress on the Washington/National project; new artwork proposed adjacent to the Culver Steps; the agreement with Hackman Capital Partners to site the artwork on City property; incorporation of a performance space; the Wende Museum Creative Community Center; the new development next to the Kirk Douglas Theatre including housing and possibly a performance space; and the approximately 17 development projects ongoing with public art and/or preservation components.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the large development at Jefferson and Sepulveda; lack of affordable housing; and the public art component for the project.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Coordinator, provided an update on restoration work on the *Tree of Life*; discussed

installation of new artworks at Ivy Station; maintenance and relocation of artworks previously installed in the Patacchia Room at City Hall to more easily accessible spaces for the public to view; and website updates for all the public art information.

Vice Chair Williams commented on the FAILE tiled artwork on the elevator shaft at Ivy Station.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding removal of an obstruction to the view of the tile on the elevator shaft; visibility of the hotel ceiling artwork; and appreciation for the public artwork in the city.

Commissioner Pali indicated that his term would be expiring noting that he would not reapply.

Staff and Commissioners expressed regret at the decision of Mr. Pali not to reapply, but appreciation for his insight and valuable perspective.

Commissioner O'Carroll reported that the Creative Economy Subcommittee had participated in a meeting with Economic Development to discuss the Creative Economy; she discussed pandemic recovery; and networking opportunities with different sectors.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding lack of staffing; shifting priorities; and the importance of the Creative Economy in the City.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending the nonprofit convening at the Wende Museum and other recent events; expressed appreciation for the work done on *Tree of Life*; and she indicated participating in the Culver City Arts Foundation meeting last month.

Chair Fleischer reported working on an article for *Culver City Neighbors* magazine and discussed upcoming programs.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Coordinator, reported damage to *The Lion's Fountain* due to recent filming and noted that in the future, Cultural Affairs would be notified of filming to ensure the safety of public art in the City.

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**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 Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

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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 Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

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Date