

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 19, 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 Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Absent: Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Staff: Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate

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Pledge of Allegiance

Alexey Steele, Culver City Artist Laureate, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Chair Fleischer acknowledged collective sorrow at the loss of Public Art Coordinator, Louise Coffey-Webb, and received Commission consensus to adjourn the meeting in her memory.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Alicia Ide provided background on herself; spoke on behalf of the Culver City Arts Foundation thanking the Commission for their support and advocacy; and she reported that the City Council had voted to write off the \$35,000 loan to the Foundation which allows the money to be invested back into the community.

Alexey Steele, Culver City Artist Laureate, thanked the Commission for their support; discussed the pandemic; money raised in collaboration with the Artist Laureate Program for humanitarian relief on the frontlines in Ukraine; the importance of prioritizing art; the *Projecting Possibilities* installation; art as a part of the collective to get through difficult times; he thanked Culver Arts for their support; he reported that work from his "Love Thy Neighbor" series was part of an exhibition in the Bowers Museum of art in Santa Ana until August 21, 2022; and he asserted that together they could do anything.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding putting information about the Bowers exhibition on the City website; sending out a GovDelivery announcement regarding inclusion of the Culver City Artist Laureate's work in the exhibition; appreciation for the way Mr. Steele discussed the importance of art in the community and throughout the world; and gratitude to Mr. Steele for his work as Artist Laureate.

Sehnita Joshua Mattison, Culver City Arts Foundation, thanked the Commission for their support with the City Council; discussed the legacy of Louise Coffey-Webb; and continued support for the arts.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that correspondence had been received from Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin read a poem in honor of Louise Coffey-Webb submitted by Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2022

MOVED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 17, 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – 1) Acknowledgement of Newly Appointed Commission Member; and 2) Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, reported that Ehsaan Mesghali had previous plans to be out of the country before being appointed to the Commission, but had met with staff and Chair Fleischer.

Chair Fleischer read a letter from Commissioner Mesghali providing background on himself and expressing eagerness to serve.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding nominations and willingness to serve.

MOVED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT TANIA FLEISCHER TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND BRENDA WILLIAMS TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-2

CAC - (1) Dissolution of the Ad Hoc 2022 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; (2) Creation of the Ad Hoc 2023 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee and Ad Hoc Art in Vacant Storefronts/Businesses Subcommittee; and (3) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, provided a summary of the material of record and she indicated that Commissioner Mesghali had expressed interest in serving on the Public Art Subcommittee.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the virtual Performing Arts Center, and Commissioners indicated interest in serving on specific subcommittees.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. DISSOLVE THE AD HOC 2022 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE; AND,

2. CREATE THE AD HOC 2023 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE AND AD HOC ART IN VACANT STOREFRONTS/BUSINESSES SUBCOMMITTEE; AND,

3. MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:

AD HOC ART IN VACANT STOREFRONTS/BUSINESSES - VICE CHAIR
WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

AD HOC ARTIST LAUREATE - CHAIR FLEISCHER AND COMMISSIONER
WISNOSKY STEHLIN

AD HOC CREATIVE ECONOMY - CHAIR FLEISCHER AND COMMISSIONER
O'CARROLL

AD HOC 2023 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM - CHAIR
FLEISCHER AND COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN

AD HOC CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION LIAISON - COMMISSIONER
O'CARROLL AND COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN

AD HOC HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PROGRAM UPDATE -
VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER MESGHALI

STANDING PUBLIC ART - VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER
MESGHALI

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-3

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

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

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding
appreciation to staff for their efforts to prepare the report;
clarity in Commission accomplishments, and work to be done
moving forward; work done by the Commission outside of regular
meetings; capturing the work of the Artist Laureate by
including specific accomplishments; use of active language
vs. passive language; the Economic Recovery Task Force;

additions and clarification added to Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee activities and accomplishments; additional review of the document by staff; and acknowledgement of the work put in by Louise Coffey-Webb.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE BIENNIAL REPORT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES WITH CHANGES AS DISCUSSED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: MESGHALI

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding additional review of the document by Cultural Affairs Manager, Christine Byers.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, indicated that no requests to make additional comment had been received.

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Items from Members/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, announced upcoming Performing Arts Grant Program performances; reported that applications for the 2023 Performing Arts Grant Program would be posted on August 9, 2022; and she read a tribute to Louise Coffey-Webb submitted by Cultural Affairs Manager, Christine Byers.

Commissioners shared memories of Louise Coffey-Webb.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:10 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of Louise Coffey-Webb to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

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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 Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date