

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 16, 2022  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager  
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Mesghali led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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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:

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theatre Guild, discussed idea of greater access to local theatrical venues; the financial feasibility for use of such venues; and sound issues related to use of outdoor venues.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding encouragement for Mr. MacDonald to attend the August 17, 2022 Performing Arts Grant Workshop, and creation of the Creative Community Center at the Wende Museum.

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theatre Guild, suggested a more extended class to assist participants to follow through on the grant writing workshop.

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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 July 19, 2022**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSLY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 19, 2022.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CAC - Update from Culver City Arts Foundation Including Consideration of a Quarterly Report for the Period April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022**

Sehnita Mattison, Culver City Arts Foundation, reported on the recent election of Board and Advisory Board Members; discussed potential expansion of the Board; the upcoming Board retreat to discuss the Foundation's long-term vision; she summarized quarterly events; the Second Annual Small Book Festival; the Juneteenth Celebration; fundraising; loan reconciliation; the third round of Arts Resiliency Funds; the focus on arts non-profits; continuing the commitment of the Foundation to the City with the Performing Arts Grant and Artist Laureate Programs; concern expressed by Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult regarding permanent City support of the Artist Laureate Program; the difficulty of staffing a Foundation booth for all three days of Fiesta La Ballona and a proposed partnership with the Sister City Committee and the reDiscover Center; the upcoming Board retreat in September; and upcoming events.

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theatre Guild, received clarification regarding the arts networking events.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentation and for the arts and artist community; the Tito's Tacos event on October 4; support for the Foundation; three funding opportunities happening simultaneously; and agreement regarding the importance of continued funding for the Artist Laureate Program.

Sehnita Mattison, Culver Arts Foundation, asked about joint promotion of all the art related grants in one place.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, confirmed that no motion or action was necessary for Item A-1.

Additional discussion ensued between Sehnita Mattison, staff, and Commissioners regarding engagement at Fiesta La Ballona; signs; planters; the Culver City Resilient lawn sign program; the activity table; the raffle and gift basket; promotion of

the Resiliency grant; and the importance of helping grow the arts in the City.

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

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that there was no further Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.

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**Items from Members/Staff**

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, discussed the response to email outreach for the 2023 Performing Arts Grant Program application guidelines; the upcoming workshops; she indicated being available to answer questions from organizations and the public; noted that the application deadline is September 16, 2022; distributed copies of guidelines to Commissioners to share with performing arts organizations; and she announced upcoming performances noting that information on performances was available on the City website.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, welcomed Commissioner Mesghali to the Commission; reported that outgoing Commissioners would be recognized by the City Council at the August 22 City Council meeting and she encouraged Commissioners to attend; indicated that she would be reaching out to members of the Public Art Subcommittee to schedule meetings; discussed recent productive Artist Laureate Subcommittee meetings; and she indicated that the Overview and Guidelines for the 2023 Artist Laureate application would be announced in September.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin welcomed Commissioner Mesghali; indicated that she would be unable to attend the August 22 City Council meeting; reported attending a recent Culver City Public Theatre performance in Carlson Park; discussed the Artist Laureate Program and subcommittee meetings; and she was looking forward to the new applications for Performing Arts Grants.

Commissioner O'Carroll welcomed Commissioner Mesghali to the Commission.

Commissioner Mesghali provided background on himself and expressed excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Vice Chair Williams welcomed Commissioner Mesghali and expressed eagerness to work together.

Chair Fleischer welcomed Commissioner Mesghali; reported attending the Creative Community Center event which she felt would be a wonderful addition to the arts community and the community in general; discussed plans to attend upcoming performances; the productivity of the Artist Laureate Subcommittee meetings; and she reported on her summer travels to towns with strong arts communities that have created an important and valuable creative economy.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:39 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 20, 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