

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 17, 2023  
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**

Alexey Steele 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:

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate for Culver City, was excited to get started on her work and to see the presentation from Alexey Steele.

Chair Fleischer indicated her excitement for Katy Krantz to serve as the next Artist Laureate for the City.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

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

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**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 20, 2022**

MOVED BY COMMISSIOENR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CAC - 1) Update from Culver City Artist Laureate Alexey Steele on Projects and Activities for 2022; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate**

Chair Fleischer introduced the item.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, pointed out a clerical error on page 3 of the written report, noting that in number 17, the word "during" should instead read "in preparation for".

Alexey Steele provided a presentation on the final year of his tenure as Artist Laureate for Culver City; discussed previous perception of the program; defining and building the program; response to the pandemic; proving that art is an essential service; the war in Ukraine; inter-disciplinary collaborations; art in global crisis response; the importance of having an artist delivering their own art; being in the position to advocate for all arts; artist recognition at the Bowers Museum; the Arts for All Program; the Love My Neighbor series; Art Walk & Roll Festival; concern with the loss of art in the city due to gentrification; the role of the City in rectifying losses to the artistic side of the community; the connection between artistic visionaries and the Creative Economy; the General Plan; the importance of the ambassadorial function of the position; outreach; United Against Hate; the pop-up art installation at Village Well; collaboration with the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD); the Culver Arts Spotlight Award; emergency work; advocacy; recommendations for the General Plan recognizing the need for a City gallery; important collaborations; key takeaways; the work of his father; hope for establishing positive relationships with other countries; the future; he presented a turtle gifted to him from the former Honorary Artist Laureate, Dr. Janet Hoult, to be passed along to future Artists Laureate; and he indicated willingness to support the new Artist Laureate and continue to work with the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding significance of the turtle as the mascot; appreciation to Mr. Steele for his creativity and enthusiasm; congratulations to the Artist Laureate Subcommittee on selecting an outstanding Artist Laureate; appreciation for the presentation; and the importance of the arts.

Additional discussion ensued between Alexey Steele, staff, and Commissioners regarding creating a municipal art gallery; collaboration with the Culver City Arts Foundation; providing a version of the presentation on the City website; location of the artwork created for the program; art at City Hall; and appreciation for the meaningful support from the City.

Item A-2

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

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced the item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding adding the word "networking" before the word "events" under the bullet for the Creative Economy; adding the words "and retreat" at the end of the bullet for Culver City Arts Foundation; request from Council Member O'Brien regarding the creation of a mural for Project Homekey; the work plan; origin of the Artist Laureate position; the modest honorarium paid to the Artist Laureate; Commission purview; expanding the purpose of the Commission; media and film; changes to the municipal code in 2019 affecting the role of the Commission; language currently in the municipal code regarding powers and duties of the Commission; a request to add language to the biannual report to allow for unexpected or new opportunities that relate generally to cultural issues; providing flexibility in trying to match what the Commission does now and in the future; reviewing powers and duties in the work plan including being cultural ambassadors; agenda items for upcoming meetings; providing flexibility with wording; allowing the Commission to be responsive to new or ad hoc opportunities that arise in different areas relating to the purview of the body; benefits to itemizing and putting things in writing; appropriate support for neglected arenas; lack of cinemas in the city; incorporating film into other events; public art; the Artist Laureate Program; film festivals; providing cultural opportunities; brainstorming; cultural venues in the city; items currently being juggled by staff; history and context; providing time and space to consider items; the Economic Vitality Task Force; the Art in Empty Storefronts/Business Program; collaboration between Economic Development and Cultural Affairs; Performing Arts Grant Program grantee performances; ongoing need; the Public Art Subcommittee; ensuring a nimble process; the work plan schedule; budgeting for the creation of a new Community Cultural Plan; the adopted department work plans; the Historic Preservation Program update; using the General Plan

Update as the starting point for a new Cultural Plan; City Council tabling of the proposed performing arts space in Media Park; items for the February agenda; the framework; carryover items; allowing a time and space to discuss new items and provide meaningful input into the work plan; and new wording.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER O'CARROLL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

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

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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 Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda.

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**Items from Members/Staff**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported that the City Council had appointed Katy Krantz as Artist Laureate on January 9, 2023; she invited Commissioners to attend the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting where Alexey Steele would receive a commendation; and she discussed the pop-up art exhibit at the Village Well bookstore and acknowledgement by Council of the student collaborators.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Associate, announced upcoming Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program performances.

Commissioner Mesghali wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin discussed SB (Senate Bill) 1116 to fund small performing arts companies throughout the state; outreach for funding; and benefits to performing arts organizations if funding comes through.

Commissioner O'Carroll thanked Culver City Arts Foundation Board Members who came out in the rain in support for Katy Krantz.

Vice Chair Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported that UCLA had selected her to discuss five of her favorite things in their *You See LA Newsletter*.

Chair Fleischer was looking forward to the upcoming Creative Economy Subcommittee meeting and she thanked Commissioner Mesghali for his efforts in getting things moving.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:06 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

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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