

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 27, 2022  
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee was called to order at 5:17 P.M. in the Patio Room at City Hall.

Present: Brenda Williams, Vice Chair  
Ehsaan Mesghali, Commissioner\*

\*Commissioner Mesghali joined the meeting at 5:28 P.M.

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

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Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, introduced meeting attendees and discussed ground rules for the meeting.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1  
(Out of Sequence)

**1) Consideration of an Art Concept by Marc Fornes/THEVERYMANY for The Culver Steps/Town Plaza; 2) Provide Comments; and, 3) Make Recommendation to the Cultural Affairs Commission**

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, provided photos and background on the project as well as a rendering of the work; discussed the project location; the artist selection process; funding; the budget; City Council approval of the site; feedback; goals for the project; the selected artist; the sculpture concept; the influence of the jacaranda trees in the neighborhood; portals that allow for community events; and activation spaces.

Commissioner Mesghali joined the meeting.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, discussed City Council consideration and support of the project, and collaboration with the Current Planning Division.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, clarified that the City Council had seen the renderings but had not formally taken action on the concept; she noted that the flat plaza area was actually City property; discussed the agreement with IDS and Hackman Capital Partners; and she clarified that the City Council was deferring to the Commission in terms of the concept.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, discussed the footings of the artwork; engineering that has gone into the project; shape of the structure as based on where supports could be landed; reduction of the scaled footprint in response to comments from Current Planning; views and renderings from the hotel; Historic Preservation; the Culver Hotel; technical details; the lighting plan; the budget; design fees; contingency dollars; and the timeline.

Alexey Steele, Artist Laurate, expressed appreciation for the public art throughout the city and enthusiastic support for the concept.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided background on Alexey Steele and on Marla Koosed.

Marla Koosed indicated that she had been waiting for the project for a long time; noted that she would have wanted to see the proposals from the other artists; she received clarification that IDS oversees property management for Hackman Capital Partners for The Culver Steps; and she asked about colors and materials used, other projects by THEVERYMANY, and lighting.

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, clarified that powder coated aluminum would be used; he indicated that the structure would be very durable and that the final color palette had not been determined; he discussed variations; shades of green; revised engineering; and changes to scale, dimensions, and proportions.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Koosed, project consultants, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding the stripe on the bottom of the tree bases; potential trip hazard warnings; private projects vs. City commissioned process; developer choice of the artist; scale and complexity of the project; making refinements through the process; providing a secondary update to the Commission or Subcommittee about color; the lowest point of the structure's branches; concern that people would climb the structure; onsite security; rejection of permanent seating at the base of the tree trunks; and birds.

Mark Fornes, the artist, discussed height; color; materials; previous projects; and birds.

Sarah Cha, IDS, discussed 24/7 security on the site; The Culver Steps; and addressing bird issues at Culver Pointe.

Additional discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding a suggestion to make the sculpture interactive with an interior stairwell to the top; providing shade in an open space; experimenting with a pixelated gradient color; understanding the color in context; appreciation for the renderings; annual inspections; lack of a dedicated Public Art Coordinator; the need for an advocate; maintenance; year-round management of the Plaza by Hackman Capital Partners and IDS; the self-cleaning design; incorporation of maintenance of the public art into the operating budget; reimbursement by the City for operating costs associated with the Plaza area; water management related to rain; drainage; and next steps.

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Item A-2

**Consideration of a Concept for a Permanent Art Installation by The Haas Brothers Toward Fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places Program Requirement for a Project at 3512-16 Schaefer St. and 8570 National Blvd.**

Beau Basse, LeBasse Projects, provided renderings and background on the project; discussed the aim to treat the art component as a single concept since the properties are

connected; the artist selection process; the selected artists; the project concept; materials and engineering; similar sculptures that have been realized in the past; maintenance; lighting; location; the timeline; and the mandated budget vs. projected costs.

Discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding the mural; agreement by Redcar to exceed the budget; scale of the sculptures; the planned rooftop garden; lighting; landscaping; the height exception review with Current Planning; custom design of the address numbers by the artists; appreciation that the artists have a personal connection with the city and for the whimsical art; a suggestion to add a matching lighting component to the second (standing) sculpture; ingress and egress; color; and installation.

Marla Koosed expressed support for the joyful art; discussed the contrast of the art with the building; and support for adding lighting to the second sculpture.

Alexey Steele discussed the contrast between the art and the architecture; the difficulty of making whimsy work; placement; the light fixtures; and he expressed support for the project.

Additional discussion ensued between project representatives, staff, and Subcommittee Members regarding naming the project; placement; project materials; wiring; electrical; and next steps.

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## **Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

### **Approval of Minutes of the June 13, 2022 CAC Public Art Subcommittee Meeting**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MESGHALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2022 CAC PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AS WRITTEN.

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**Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission Public Art Subcommittee adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California  
EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK of the City Council of Culver City,  
California

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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Brenda Williams  
VICE CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission  
Public Art Subcommittee

Minutes Preparation: Kristi Callan