

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

July 19, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

### **Call to Order & Roll Call**

Vice Chair Dickter called meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Vice Chair Len Dickter  
Commissioner Rich Cherry  
Commissioner John B. Williams

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### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Jeffreys.

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### **Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda**

Vice Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult announced that the Word Painting Poetry Contest and Readings would be part of the Centennial celebration.

Laura Boccaletti, Culver City Public Theatre, thanked the City for its support; reported on the first weekend of their children's performances and of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in Carlson Park; and she invited everyone to attend their 18<sup>th</sup> season of free theatre in the park.

Angus MacDonald, Monarch Theatre Guild, provided background on the organization; discussed recent productions; and he

asked for access to the Ivy Substation when that facility is dark so that they can produce their productions there.

Discussion ensued between Mr. MacDonald, staff and Commissioners regarding collaboration between artistic groups in the City; common cause; Commission purview; underutilization of facilities; The Actors' Gang; facilitation of communication; grant performances in the space; encouragement to apply for a grant; and the Ivy Substation vs. the Ivy Station development project.

Michelle Bernardin, Culver City Historical Society, announced the upcoming Historical Society General Meeting on July 20 and the Founder's Day Picnic on September 18; she encouraged everyone to visit the ARC on the first and third Sunday every month and to become a member of the Culver City Historical Society; and she offered assistance from the Historical Society in fulfilling the tenets of the Cultural Affairs Commission.

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This item was taken out of sequence.

#### **Action Items**

Item A-1

#### **Administration of the Oath of Office to Appointed/Re-Appointed Commission Members**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioners Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin and Zoltan Pali.

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#### **Presentation**

Item P-1

#### **Presentation by Keith Jeffreys on the United States Veterans' Artists Alliance (USVAA)**

Keith Jeffreys, Executive Director of the United States Veterans' Artists Alliance, provided background on the organization; discussed their current location; invited everyone to come down and visit; discussed the focus on professional development of artists in all fields; finding opportunities for veterans; generating operational revenue; the learning curve; he encouraged everyone to visit [www.usvaa.org](http://www.usvaa.org) for additional information; he discussed the art component; veterans throughout history involved in the arts; the humanities component; contextualizing military service; the *Pen, Brush and Sword* documentary series; he discussed past performing arts grant support from the City; the California Arts Council Veterans Initiative in the Arts; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Veterans Make Movies program; and memorializing November 1st as Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and audience members regarding hours and days of operation; contact information; the budget; the California Arts Council grant; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission grant; participation in the intern program; government participants in the creative economy roundtable; roundtables focusing on veterans getting involved in the creative economy; roundtable participants; opportunities for veterans; holding a conference in Washington D.C.; and a suggestion to hold the event in Culver City.

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## **Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

## **Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Dickter pointed out a typographical error.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2016 AS CORRECTED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: CHERRY, DICKTER, WILLIAMS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: PALI, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

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### **Order of the Agenda**

No further changes to the order of the agenda were made.

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### Item A-2

### **Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHERRY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT LEN DICKTER TO SERVE AS CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

MOVED BY CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPOINT RICH CHERRY TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

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### Item A-3

**(1) Dissolution of the Ad Hoc 2016 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; (2) Creation of the Ad Hoc 2017 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; and (3) Assignment of Commissioners to Ad Hoc and Standing Subcommittees for Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION DISSOLVE THE AD HOC 2016 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR CHERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CREATE THE AD HOC 2017 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding assignments to subcommittees; previous service; time commitment; workload; the Foundation; and acknowledgement of the number of subcommittees that Commissioner Williams is serving on.

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

1. APPOINT CHAIR DICKTER AND VICE CHAIR CHERRY TO SERVE ON THE CULVER CITY CREATIVE ECONOMY REPORT SUBCOMMITTEE; AND
2. APPOINT CHAIR DICKTER AND COMMISSIONER PALI TO SERVE ON THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PROGRAM UPDATE SUBCOMMITTEE; AND
3. APPOINT COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN TO SERVE ON THE 2017 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE; AND
4. APPOINT COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN TO SERVE ON THE ARTIST LAUREATE SUBCOMMITTEE; AND
5. APPOINT COMMISSIONER PALI AND COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE.

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Item A-4

#### **Update on the Cultural Affairs News Column**

Chair Dickter reported that his column had been published in the *Culver City News* and he indicated that the next article is due in the near future.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the process; topics; scheduling; and Commissioner Williams volunteered to write the next article.

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#### **Receipt of Correspondence**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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

Chair Dickter invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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#### **Items From Staff**

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, distributed Performing Arts Grant performance calendars to Commissioners and discussed upcoming performances; she announced that the 2017 grant application would be available next week and would include performances for the Centennial; she discussed promotion of the grant opportunity; the process and schedule; she provided an update on renovation of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium; and she discussed the schedule of events for Fiesta La Ballona August 26-28 and encouraged everyone to attend.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced Administrative Services Director Serena Wright-Black, noting that she had taken on the task of studying cultural affairs and working to obtain more assistance for the existing staff.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that Mari Sullivan had joined Cultural Affairs as a contract employee

working a maximum of 30 hours per week on performing arts projects, and she added that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission intern would be helping this summer and she was very appreciative of the assistance.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed the transition of Gayle Smashey and completion of various projects; recruitment of a part-time contract employee; duties of the new position; a recent donation from the Syd Kronenthal estate for the technical enhancement of Veterans Memorial Auditorium; installation of the permanent public art for the Access Culver City project; the fog component of the sculpture; total water usage; impacts of the proposed remodel of the Sony Pictures Plaza building to the existing permanent art pieces located at the site; distribution of the current year budget; and effects of the transition to the new legislative management system and the new website on the archives.

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#### **Items from Commissioners**

Chair Dickter expressed appreciation for the Syd Kronenthal donation and for the addition of Ms. Sullivan.

Commissioner Williams received an update on the opening of The Wende Museum; asked about status of The Jazz Bakery; and he welcomed new Commissioners Wisnosky Stehlin and Pali.

Vice Chair Cherry received an update on the cost and status of the lighting upgrades, stage rigging and emergency upgrades for Veterans Memorial Auditorium, as well as next steps in the process; clarification on the applicability of the Getty Multi Cultural Internship Program; and the rate of pay for the part-time position.

Chair Dickter reminded new Commissioners to nominate their candidate for the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board; reported attending the Centennial Arts and Cultural subcommittee meeting, as well as the Los Angeles County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative Town Hall; discussed the Performing Arts subcommittee; wrapping the Centennial into the overall programming schedule; and he reported receipt of an email

requesting him to join an Audience and Participants Working Group.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin agreed that the roundtable was excellent; reported that she is part of the Executive Director Arts Affinity Program through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; discussed cities looking at separating the Foundation from the city and those looking to connect; she was interested in how the Commission could be more involved in the Centennial in an official capacity; and she reported attending the performance of the Culver City Symphony Orchestra at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

Chair Dickter provided background on the formation of the Centennial Committee; discussed Brown Act issues; and additional ways to assist the Committee appropriately.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding forming a new subcommittee to help with the Centennial; the Performing Arts Grant Subcommittee; the desire for collaboration; permanent art; clarification that the money raised has been for marketing and promotion but not for programming; public art; previous consensus to agendize a discussion regarding the Foundation; City Council review; Commissioner consideration; the process; the intentions of the Mayor; inclusion on the August agenda; and the focus on the Commission's position on the memorandum.

Chair Dickter proposed a motion to agendize a discussion and recommendation to the City Council regarding transferring the Cultural Affairs Foundation to a private 501(c)(3) with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cultural Affairs Commission.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding agendizing a conversation and returning with a recommendation; concern that time is of the essence; including others with an opinion on the matter in the conversation; Foundation Board members; adding the item to the agenda for the August meeting; having an open-ended discussion; clarification that staff would not provide information on the item; timing of City Council consideration of the item after Commission consideration; communication; and clarification that a motion is not necessary to agendize an item.



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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:46 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on August 16, 2016.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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LEN DICKTER

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 Green  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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Date