

JOINT MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL AND THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 18, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Mayor Clarke called the joint meeting of the City Council and the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Len Dickter  
Commissioner Zoltan Pali  
Commissioner John B. Williams  
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Absent: Vice Chair Rich Cherry

Also Present: Jim B. Clarke, Mayor  
Jeffrey Cooper, Vice Mayor  
Göran Eriksson, Council Member  
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member  
Thomas Small, Council Member

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**Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

John Nachbar, City Manager, led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Jeffreys.

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**Community Announcements by Commissioners and City Council Members/Information Items from Staff**

Council Member Small announced that the next set of meetings in the Visioning Process are a Walk Shop and the Bike Shop on May 22 to consider walking and biking in the Transit Oriented District.

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**Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda**

Mayor Clarke invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Cultural Affairs Commission and the City Council:

David Voncannon thanked those involved in the successful Music in the Chambers event on April 15 and he suggested that the event happen again if possible.

Marla Koosed announced that the first 1988 public art performance at *Cloud* would take place at Access Culver City in the TOD featuring Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre on April 23; she reported on the space available at each of the performances, noting that there would be a question and answer session at the conclusion of each performance; and she encouraged anyone interested to RSVP at [heididuckler.org](http://heididuckler.org) as space is limited.

Robin Turner noted that her comments had been planned for the Planning Commission meeting last week that was cancelled; she discussed the original intent of Measure 1, the Height Initiative that she initiated in 1987; she reported that Planning staff had recently approved a project that is over the height initiative with a variance which she felt was a blatant overruling of the law; she questioned what else was not being honored if the height initiative is not being honored; and she asked the City Council to investigate the matter.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that Dr. Janet Hoult had asked her to report that the first Culver City Centennial Poetry Reading had gone well on April 8 and the next one would be on September 9 at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum.

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#### **Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

None.

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#### **Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2017.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, PALI, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: CHERRY

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CC:CAC - (1) Discussion of Potential Next Steps or an Action Plan in Conjunction with Findings of the Creative Economy Report of Culver City; and, (2) Direction to the City Manager as Deemed Appropriate**

Chair Dickter invited Keith McNutt, The Actors Fund, to speak on the item.

Keith McNutt, The Actors Fund, provided background on himself and his work, discussed his report which investigated how local and regional governments support the creative industries in their communities, and provided some summary recommendations.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners, Council Members and Mr. McNutt regarding whether to focus on branding Culver City or working with the County of Los Angeles; formulation of a regional strategy; actions of the City of London; attracting creative individuals; creating a niche; identifying strengths; having a unique mix of

industries to attract talent; having Culver City be the first thing that comes to mind; efforts of Los Angeles to form a coalition; whether Culver City is a member of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; establishing an economic basis with the Creative Economy Report; progress made by the City; tasking the Commission to continue fact finding and return to the City Council with recommendations; actions of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and their recent diversity report; going into the community to speak with arts and business organizations as well as government departments to understand how they connect to the creative economy; finding common threads; providing recommendations on how to protect and grow the creative economy; deepening the level of involvement and partnership between arts, business and government; offering a competitive edge; facts, figures and data; workforce development; entrepreneurial development; schools; connecting artists with affordable health care; non-profits that work to help artists; concern with gentrification; continuing as a thriving arts community; how to keep the artists the City has; using arts as an economic development tool; planning for affordable housing to keep artists in the City; overall affordability issues in the Los Angeles region; national surveys; healthcare and housing as the top issues; efforts of The Actors Fund to develop low income housing for artists; capitalizing on the branding of the Cultural Corridor; retaining organizations through performance space; development of Veterans Memorial Auditorium; keeping performing arts organizations in the City and attracting new ones; making Veterans Memorial Auditorium affordable to rent for performing arts organizations; creating a black box theatre space; showing films in the space; bringing people together; and the positive effects of the arts.

Mayor Clarke invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission and City Council:

Steven Rose, Culver City Chamber of Commerce, agreed that the arts do not speak to business; he noted that the City's Economic Development Division had not been included and no one had talked to the Chamber of Commerce; acknowledged that the arts are an important part of Culver City; discussed the number of business licenses found for

fashion; he felt that the City needed to discuss vetting by the Economic Development Subcommittee before making any strategic change; he expressed concern with transparency; and he congratulated City staff on their winning Westside Urban Forum's Legacy Award.

Tim Robbins, The Actors' Gang, thanked the City for the opportunities to reach out to the community with education in the schools; he discussed teaching artists; outreach; arts programming; free summer entertainment in Media Park; he invited everyone to upcoming events; discussed benefits of the arts to the community; and he indicated that they were looking forward to signing their next lease agreement with the City.

Simon Hanna, The Actors' Gang, congratulated everyone on their efforts to create the Creative Economy Report; noted that the reputation of Culver City is growing; discussed the LA County Arts Commission Intern Program and the Creative Career Pathways Program; he noted that Culver City is acknowledged as a leader in the arts; discussed the partnership with the City and the County of Los Angeles as well as the state; he discussed the LA Promise Neighborhood Initiative; and he asked how they could help facilitate mentorship and leadership.

Discussion ensued between staff, Commissioners and Council Members regarding quick wins to assist City marketing and promotion; increasing the performing arts footprint; establishing a subcommittee to formulate recommendations; policy, programming and partnerships; galvanizing the community; the relationship between arts and business; creation of practical policy recommendations; City Council approval of the Commission work plan; harnessing the results of the Otis Report; and using the existing CAC Creative Economy Subcommittee.

Robin Turner spoke about theatre in the City; demographics and who is being served; and she suggested discounts for Culver City residents.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners and Council Members regarding an upcoming meeting between Commissioners and Otis College of Art and Design; input from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; next steps in the process; making final edits to the report as soon as possible; having a

public launch of the report with the arts at the center of the event; long-term goals; sponsorship; making the intent of the City to turn Veterans Memorial Building into an arts complex into a concrete goal; funding resources; leveraging funding; redoing the General Plan; inclusion of the arts; developing a new Community Cultural Plan; work with the Economic Development Subcommittee; reducing film permit fees; thriving areas; affluent people moving into an area; the correlation in merging the creative economy and the business economy; advantages Culver City has over the City of Los Angeles; collaboration with the Economic Development Division and the Chamber of Commerce; more direct outreach; cross promotion to introduce people to different art forms; support for Town Hall meetings; components to be vetted by the Commission; truly understanding the impact; included industries; the broader definition of the creative economy; attracting the creative industries and creative individuals; translating the report into concrete action; individual entrepreneurs; identifying artists working out of their home or studio; work of the subcommittee; identifying long range issues; ensuring that the item is in the FY 2017-2018 work plan; arts in public and private schools; the Robert Frost Auditorium; the newness of the creative economy model; interpretation; creating synergy; and policy and partnerships.

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Item A-2

**CC:CAC - Update on the Subcommittee's Work Pertaining to Revising the Structure of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation**

Mayor Clarke discussed the reconstitution of the Cultural Affairs Foundation; approval of the concept by the Cultural Affairs Foundation Board and the City Council; joint committee meetings held on the item so far; development of new bylaws and an MOU with the City; and next steps in the process.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin received clarification that the Foundation Board had voted to explore the idea but it had not made a recommendation yet.

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

Mayor Clarke invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

None.

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**Items from Staff**

None.

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**Items from Commissioners and Council Members**

None.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:47 p.m., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned its meeting to Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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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  
CITY CLERK

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Date