

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 15, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Dickter called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Len Dickter
Vice Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin
Commissioner Tania Fleischer
Commissioner Williams

Absent: Commissioner Zoltan Pali

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marla Koosed.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Laura Boccaletti, Culver City Public Theatre, thanked the Commission for the performing arts grant; detailed what the grant would allow them to do; and she urged people to attend their last week of free performances in Carlson Park.

Dr. Janet Hoult spoke of the Culver City-themed poetry going into the time capsule being put together by the Centennial

Committee; announced the final reading of the Centennial Poetry Contest on September 9 at the Mayme A. Clayton Library; and she spoke on viewing the solar eclipse with her telescope at the park.

Marla Koosed, 1988 series producer, provided background on the 1988 series and announced their final performances on September 9 in the City Hall Courtyard.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meetings of May 16, 2017 and July 18, 2017

MOVED BY CHAIR DICKTER AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 16, 2017.

THE MOTION CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WISNOSKY STEHLIN, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: PALI

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 18, 2017.

THE MOTION CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: WISNOSKY STEHLIN
ABSENT: PALI

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - 1) Consideration of Draft Guidelines and Application for an Artist Laureate Program; 2) (As Appropriate) Provide Comments and Direction to Staff and the CAC Artist Laureate Subcommittee; and 3) (As Appropriate) Make a Recommendation to the City Council

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult noted the tendency of the City Council to question the amount of money to be given; discussed funding sources; she reiterated that award recipients are expected to do something for the benefit of the City; suggested a minor modification to wording; and she hoped the item would be completed in the Centennial year.

Chair Dickter thanked Dr. Hoult for her work on the item and for her service as Honorary Artist Laureate.

Marla Koosed praised the current Artist Laureate, Dr. Janet Hoult, and thanked the ad hoc subcommittee members for their efforts; expressed concern that additional work needed to be done before moving forward; questioned the timing of the item; whether funding was available from the General Fund for a contract program coordinator given that Cultural Affairs is understaffed; discussed current staffing levels and responsibilities; making the arts part of the General Plan update to provide funding for additional staff; responsibilities of the contract program coordinator; the proposed program's requirement that only City residents are eligible to apply; benefits to opening up the program to all artists; concern with the workload for setting up review panels for three different art disciplines; the general nature of the criteria; she

suggested that the criteria complement findings in the Creative Economy Report; discussed duties and responsibilities of the Artist Laureate; asked for clarification on the purpose of the stipend; she observed there was nothing tangible left behind for the community; and she suggested using the performing arts model or incorporating the item into the Performing Arts Grant Program.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record and addressed the question of funding the program.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed having one Artist Laureate; the state program; publicity; agreement that expectations be clarified in the guidelines; potential community impact; the overview; the need to serve the diverse Culver City community; award categories; self-nomination; additional wordsmithing in the award category descriptions; nominations vs. applications; the process; the desire for finding candidates of the highest caliber; and she suggested another subcommittee meeting to work out additional details on the artist statement.

Vice Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported on her experience with the subcommittee; asserted the program would further the creative economy of Culver City; she noted that while the City regularly funds performing arts organizations, this program would support individual artists; she expressed support for having only one award rather than three; discussed the timing of the program; the residency requirement; giving back to the community; term length; allowing flexibility for what the Artist Laureate does; and the nomination/application process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Artist Laureate responsibilities; different terms used to describe the position and disciplines; support for one artist award rather than three; attendance and visibility at community events; involvement with Culver City schools; social media presence; support for the self-nomination aspect; wordsmithing; support for a two-year term; support for opening the process to all in order to attract top artists; letters of recommendation; budget concerns; other cities with similar programs; award categories; rotating disciplines; allowing flexibility; multiple categories as

potentially limiting creativity; references; further responsibilities of the Artist Laureate; the importance of making expectations clear; concern with relying on the Cultural Affairs Foundation; corporate sponsorship possibilities; the purpose of the \$2,500 award; funding a contract staff person; a one year check-in on a two-year term; maintaining a standing Artist Laureate subcommittee; and looking beyond the Centennial.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: REQUEST THAT STAFF AND THE AD HOC ARTIST LAUREATE SUBCOMMITTEE MAKE CHANGES TO THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS AS PROVIDED AND RETURN TO THE CAC FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WISNOSKY STEHLIN, WILLIAMS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: PALI

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Dickter invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reminded everyone that Fiesta La Ballona was coming up on August 25-27, and she announced upcoming Centennial-themed performances by Performing Arts Grant Program recipients, The Actors' Gang in Media Park, every Saturday and Sunday in August.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, announced City Council commendations for former Commissioners including Rich Cherry and John B. Williams scheduled for August 28; reported on distribution of key cards for the new parking system which is planned to go into effect on August 29; discussed the link to the Cultural Affairs work program in the adopted City budget that she forwarded to the Commission; highlighted the importance of wrapping up the Artist Laureate Program recommendation, the Creative Economy Report and the potential restructuring of the Cultural Affairs Foundation; she discussed starting the update the Historic Preservation Program; the budget item for a temporary art program celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Public Art Program with a Request for Proposal process for a consultant; and she alerted Commissioners to an anticipated permanent public art concept coming before the Commission within the next few months.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided a presentation on the relocation of certain public artworks due to construction; discussed progress on the Heritage Park restoration; the *La Ballona* public art restoration; the relocation of the *A Moment in Time* sculpture; she provided a report on the development of a downtown walking tour for public art and historic sites; and she discussed conformity of plaques.

Chair Dickter noted that the Harry Culver monument has received more attention since it has been moved.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed the desire of the Culver Hotel that the Harry Culver monument not be placed in storage during Parcel B construction; attention garnered by the statue; the temporary relocation; and the Zoetropes.

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Items from Commissioners

Vice Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported attending a myriad of recent performances, noting that art brings people together.

Commissioner Fleischer reported attending the 1988 performance at Platform as well as The Actors' Gang's production of *The Mighty Morphin Midsummer Night's Dream*; she commended the work done by the Performing Arts Grant Program subcommittee; expressed appreciation for the efforts of Jim Clarke on the successful Non-Profit Fair; reported touring the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum and helping them with the restoration of a piano; and she commented on Culver City as a City of Kindness.

Chair Dickter reported attending the 1988 performance at Platform and the Centennial Celebration Committee's talk featuring the great grand-niece of Louis B. Mayer; cited a *Los Angeles Times* feature on the City that spoke of the vibrant creative community in Culver City; and he reported buying tickets for *Spamilton* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:40 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on September 19, 2017 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

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.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date