

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 21, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Dickter called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Bilski.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hault indicated that she would provide a report to the City Council on the Artist Laureate Program in February; congratulated staff and Commissioners who worked on the Program; indicated that her poetry books were connected with what is going on in Culver City and she suggested that future Artists Laureate do the same; she reported that proceeds from her poetry book featuring dogs would go to the Culver City

Dog Park; and she read a poem titled, "Where Did Thanksgiving Go?"

Chair Dickter thanked Dr. Hoult for her efforts as Artist Laureate for Poetry.

Tommy Lee, American Cancer Society Senior Development Manager, provided background on himself and distributed information to Commissioners; reported on ACS events in Culver City; announced an upcoming event featuring food and wine on July 22; suggested that the Cultural Affairs Commission might want to sponsor local entertainment at one of their events; discussed art installations; site-specific artworks at the Sony Pictures Studio lot; and creating a kickoff event to engage local businesses.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding engaging with organizations; forming a beneficial partnership; agreement by staff to meet with Mr. Lee; the City's Special Events Grant Program; timing; and City policies.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 19, 2017 and October 17, 2017

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AND OCTOBER 17, 2017.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC - Consideration of (1) A Recommendation from the Ad Hoc 2018 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; and, (2) A Recommendation to the City Council Related to the 2018 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards

Chair Dickter introduced the item.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record and read the list of proposed grant recipients.

Chair Dickter invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Myles Lee, Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, thanked the subcommittee for their recommendation and Susan Obrow and the staff at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; discussed positive experiences at Veterans Auditorium; increased visibility with networking at Chamber of Commerce morning meetings; and renewed efforts with the Culver City School District.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, thanked Susan Obrow, the City and Sony Pictures Entertainment; discussed the planned concert at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; parking charges; he requested a waiver or a reduced parking rate; and he discussed outreach and promotion.

Chair Dickter thanked Mr. Hetz for his comments on parking.

Daniel Corral, Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound (SASSAS), appreciated the opportunity to present a performance in the City at the Baldwin Hills Overlook, and he discussed the past performance in October and the planned performance in 2018.

Louise Reichlin, Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers, provided background on the organization; thanked the subcommittee for their recommendation; and she discussed the planned project.

Donna Sternberg, Donna Sternberg Dancers, discussed the importance of grants for arts organizations; planned performance; and she thanked the City for the support.

Jennifer Mulder, Vox Femina, provided background on the organization; reported being invited to perform at the Women's March in Pershing Square; discussed their expansion of youth education and outreach; expressed appreciation for previous grants; thanked Susan Obrow; and she invited everyone to attend their planned grant performance.

Nicola Henry and Lauren Bruniges, Culver City Public Theatre, noted that 2018 is the 20th year that Culver City Public Theatre has provided free theatre in Carlson Park for children and adults, and she thanked the City for all of their support.

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapunktas, provided background on the organization, and thanked staff for their assistance and the City for their support.

Jeff Gauthier, Jazz Bakery, reported celebrating their 25th anniversary in the City; expressed appreciation for the grant, to the City for the support and to staff for the ease of the process; and he discussed the proposed grant performance.

Chair Dickter thanked former Commissioner John B. Williams for his role in the process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to Subcommittee Members and those involved in the process; the balance of art forms in the City; diversity in the City; engagement; cultural equity; programming; acknowledgement that the grants often act as a stepping stone for younger organizations;; outreach to the schools; and first time recipients vs. repeat recipients.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR DICKTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AD HOC 2018 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE 2018 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS BE ALLOCATED AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

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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

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported receipt of correspondence from the Senior Citizen's Association.

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Items From Staff

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, expressed gratitude to Gayle Smashey for her help in the Performing Arts Grant Program process, and she announced the Westside Youth Orchestra Concert on December 9 at Park Century School.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided an update on conservation and restoration efforts relating to artworks in the City.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided an update on The Culver Studios Comprehensive Plan No. 7; reported an upcoming meeting of the Public Art Subcommittee on November 30 on the One Culver project; and she discussed a recent visit to Judson Studios in Highland Park.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Williams discussed attending recent cultural events in the City.

Vice Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported being invited to join the advisory committee for the Culver City High School Career Technical Education Pathway and attending Community Day at The Wende Museum; she thanked Commissioners for their service on the Commission and the City for supporting the Commission and the Performing Arts Grant Program; and she wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Dickter reported attending the second meeting of the LA County Arts Commission on the Vermont Avenue project; reported attending the Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre *Ultra Marine* Performance; he congratulated Justin Jampol for his hard work to establish The Wende Museum; reported steady progress with the Creative Economy work plan; discussed meeting with the LA County Arts Commission; and he congratulated all of the Performing Arts Grant Program recipients.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:58 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on January 16, 2018 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