

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 20, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

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

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

Catherine Rotunno led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Dr. Janet Hoult reported on the recent meeting of the Artist Laureate subcommittee and read a poem about Thanksgiving.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin noted that Dr. Hoult serves as Honorary Artist Laureate for Poetry for Culver City.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of October 16, 2018**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 16, 2018 CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING.

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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 2019 Performing Arts Grants Program Subcommittee and (2) a Recommendation to the City Council Related to the 2019 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee**

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Performing Arts Grant Program; thanked Chair Wisnosky Stehlin and Commissioner Fleischer for their work on the subcommittee as well as Janice Pober of Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Cultural Affairs Performing Arts Program Associate, Lee Lawlor for their efforts; she provided a summary of the material of record; and she clarified a clerical change in the grant amount noted in the packet documents.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Myles Lee, Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, thanked the Commission for their consideration and Susan Obrow for her work; discussed a recent performance; addressed

comments regarding connections to the medical community; discussed location of the rehearsal site; new musicians from UCLA who have joined the Symphony; marketing and outreach; the working board; broadening the scope of music played; and he announced an upcoming concert with the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic.

Michael Williams, National Association of Composers USA, provided background on the organization; discussed their proposed program for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend; the diversity challenge; educational outreach to the schools; and the master class.

David Voncannon, Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, provided background on the orchestra; discussed the score competition; diversity; the number of public and non-public concerts scheduled for 2019; and he introduced Benjamin Hoffman, the grants manager for the organization.

John W. Comerford, The Jazz Bakery, thanked the Commission, the City and Sony Pictures for their recognition of the Jazz Bakery; discussed civic support for the performing arts; the planned grant performance; and potential performance opportunities at the Ivy Substation and Culver Steps.

Stephen Turk, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, thanked the City for its support; provided background on the organization; and he discussed the proposed grant performance for 2019 at the Robert Frost Auditorium in April.

Nina Waisman, Society for the Activation of Social Space Through Art and Sound (SASSAS), thanked the City for consideration of the grant, and she discussed the special event planned for their 20th anniversary at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Juliette Jeffers, Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival, thanked the City for its consideration; provided background on the organization; and she discussed the planned grant performance and use of funds.

Mari Riddle, Grand Performances, provided background on the organization and discussed the proposed performance.

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapunktus, provided background on the organization and discussed the planned grant performance.

Nicola Henry, Culver City Public Theatre, thanked the City for the grant; discussed changes to the presentation from previous years; outreach; membership; and organizational support.

Rhianna Pinkus, Culver City Public Theatre, discussed her involvement in the organization.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts in the process; appreciation for the depth and breadth of the grantees; the panelists; serving the community; the cultural equity statement; diversified boards; bringing in new voices; encouragement to take the comments of the panel into consideration; matching grants from diversified sources; marketing plans; facilitation of partnerships with local non-arts related non-profits; encouragement to interact with the School District and its Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA); the 25th anniversary of the Grant Program; the importance of the arts; venues; audience measurement and engagement; improving methodology and performance; audience data; organization grants vs. project grants; new grant candidates; the needs analysis; budget information; grant programs in other area cities; the Cultural Data Project; information available to the panelists; and matching grants.

MOVED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PALI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE 2019 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS BE ALLOCATED AS AMENDED.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding next steps in the process.

**Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

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

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**Items from Staff**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported on recent meetings of the Artist Laureate subcommittee and the Public Art subcommittee.

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**Items from Commissioners**

Commissioner Williams invited everyone to an art exhibition she is curating at the Walter Maciel Gallery on La Cienega Boulevard.

Commissioner Dickter reported on meeting with a Chinese delegation who traveled to the United States to examine how small to mid-sized cities have transitioned themselves into a creative economy mode; he discussed economic development; and he indicated that it was an honor for Culver City to be on the international stage.

Commissioner Fleischer reported on the AVPA inaugural concert at the Robert Frost Auditorium; noted that she would be going to see *Dear Evan Hansen* on November 24 and attending the Activate Leadership Conference on December 1; and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice Chair Pali reported serving on a panel at WestEdge Design Fair at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica; indicated

that he had presented awards at the California Preservation Foundation's Annual Design Awards event; noted that he had attended the Los Angeles Conservancy event; stated that he would be presenting a project at the World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam; and he reported that he had attended the 100 Year Anniversary of the San Pedro YWCA.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin discussed marketing arts supported by Culver City; reported opening *Measure for Measure*; thanked Commissioners and staff for their work; and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:27 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on December 18, 2018 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN  
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