

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 18, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:16 P.M. via Webex.

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

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

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

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2020

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 21, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – 1) Presentation on the General Plan Update Including Areas Pertaining to Cultural Affairs; and, (2) Discussion and Provide Comments as Appropriate

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, read written public comment submitted by:

Marla Koosed: expressed support for the Commission sharing comments and recommendations with staff in order to provide the General Plan Update consultants with a Cultural Affairs point of view; noted that the lack of staffing would continue to prevent successful completion of goals; discussed outreach and creative solutions; length of time the department has endured inadequate staffing levels; necessary staffing to take advantage of resources at the City's disposal; facilitating Creative Economy and General Plan Update goals; stakeholder interviews; acknowledgement of financial challenges faced by the City; sustaining current functions; enhancing the City's role in the creative sector; and demonstrating a civic commitment to arts, culture and the creative economy.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced the item.

Ashley Hefner Hoang, Advance Planning Manager, provided background on herself and an overview of the General Plan Update (GPU); discussed work completed to date; upcoming activities; the arts, culture, creative economy and historic preservation components; informing the process going forward; aligning arts policies with equity policies; and aiding the creative sector to adapt to and recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the lack of performing arts spaces in the City; promotion of grant recipients; gaps and shortfalls; lack of cohesive scheduling for arts and cultural events across the City; the Cultural Affairs Foundation; downtown businesses; opportunities for collaboration; donations; sponsorships; fundraising; venue hosting; the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; grant opportunities; Creative Economy workplan recommendations; addressing equity of opportunity; increased Performing Arts Program grants; the inability to move forward without adequate staffing; providing access for everyone; dissemination of information; stakeholder interviews held before COVID; updated information; the CPG existing conditions report based on 2019 data; pandemic data; ramifications of COVID; economic recovery for arts organizations going forward; crafting policies to ensure resilience; the fact that art is usually present in certain parts of the city; finding ways to bring public art to where people are in all parts of the city; finding creative ways to bring performing arts to different kinds of venues; the importance of supporting already established programs; including film under the Commission's purview; stakeholder engagement opportunities; marketing to the city and the region; tourism; creating a marketing plan for the website; the Communications Subcommittee; bringing artists into the planning process; embedding artists in various City departments; mitigating tensions with changing neighborhoods through art; adding arts equity to cultural policy; creating fellowships and internships; including all of the arts sector in infrastructure investments; public/private partnerships with the business community to rebuild; including artists in the outdoor dining program; involvement of the Artist Laureate in the Economic Recovery Task Force; job training for artists; privatization of cultural fundraising;

the importance of the arts in the Culver City economy; the national issue of providing proper funding for the arts; access to the internet; reflecting the value of the arts in funding; and additional information available on the project website.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE INFORMATION AND COMMENTS AS PRESENTED RELATING TO THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE.

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Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

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

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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

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, reported on the continuing process to move and refurbish Don Merkt's *Crossed Currents*; discussed enhancements to *The Lion's Fountain* for increased safety; continued requests for the downtown public art and cultural walking tour books; and the City of Seattle's report, "Capacity Building for Racial Equity in Public Art".

Commissioners requested additional information regarding the Seattle report.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, announced online Performing Arts Grant Program funded events including the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra's summer festival at www.ladso.org; a live streaming event in celebration of Women's Equality Day by Mash Up Contemporary Dance on August 23 at mashupdance.com; and zoom performances by Culver City

Public Theatre from September 9-20 with registration available at www.ccpt.org.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding increased attendance of online events; tracking attendance numbers; evaluation requirements; the change in philosophy traditionally focused toward Culver City participation; broadening the reach of the program; and re-thinking the traditional performance model.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, announced that Dr. Yolanda Gorman would be presenting the Creative Economy Connect Report at the August 24 City Council meeting; expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Dickter for his help with the staff report; and she indicated that the developer for Brick & Machine had provided a glass sample for the public art project by Veronika Kellndorfer.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Pali reported that he had received the glass sample from Germany for Brick & Machine and the project is moving forward.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin reported that the City Council had approved the request from Culver Arts to delay repayment of funds until 2021; the Artist Laureate Program Subcommittee met and received an update from Alexey Steele on his work to date in 2020; the Performing Arts Grant Subcommittee had met and was considering ways to move forward and also discussed the task for artists to use their creativity to find a way forward within the crisis.

Chair Fleischer suggested inviting the Artist Laureate to provide an update to the Commission; thanked the Commission for their advocacy in delaying the repayment of the loan to the Culver Arts Foundation; discussed Theatre Communications Group's Advocacy Day on August 21 to advocate for funding for the arts; and a recent editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* that artists need to be paid as the arts are essential.

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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 16, 2020.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED _____

TANIA FLEISCHER
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