

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:02 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

Alexey Steele, Artist Laureate for Culver City, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rolando Cruz, Chief Transportation Officer, provided a presentation on the MOVE Culver City Quick-Build Project; he indicated that they wanted to introduce an art element and was seeking input from the Commission; discussed City Council direction; City departments and bodies involved in the process; the intent to provide different transportation options; community outreach and ongoing public engagement; different design versions presented; phases of the project; the art-inspired placemaking effort; the installation period; planned completion for Earth Day, April 22, 2021; length of the pilot program; monitoring and evaluation of the mobility lane; community feedback; key performance indicators; evaluation rounds; and findings and recommendations at the conclusion of the program.

Diana Chang, Transportation Planning Manager, discussed placemaking elements to enhance aesthetics; she provided

examples of potential elements and of mobility lane design; discussed gateway mobility stop locations; sidewalk treatments; solicitation of ideas from the public through the website; upcoming Community Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) and Business Roundtable meetings; and presentation of design concepts at the CPAC workshop on February 18.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the report; community input to ensure that their design represents the character of the City; clarification that Street Plans is commissioned to do the work; city and street branding; providing a point of unification between the street and modes of transportation; concern with overall appearance being too cartoonish; Commission input; the temporary nature of the project; the goal of moving people through the city efficiently; reallocation of public space; the community nature of the project; aesthetics; the intent to allow the Commission to submit designs; creative placemaking; psychological aspects of taking away a lane of traffic; concern with asking art and design people to solve an urban planning issue; raising awareness; bringing in professional expertise to assist with inclusion of public safety, cross media cohesion, wayfinding and appropriate branding to establish something that people want to see become permanent; integration into the street landscape; successful projects by the consultant throughout the world; additional information available to address concerns; making the Commission aware of the process; encouragement for Commissioners to speak with the consultants and become involved in the process; location of the project; art and placemaking toward the downtown corridor; whether the intent of the project is to reflect the different neighborhoods; traffic and congestion in the area; concern with taking away a lane of travel; the return to pre-pandemic conditions; performance measures for the pilot program; confusion with the changes related to the outdoor dining program; signage; encouragement for Commissioners to view the full presentation to the City Council; City Council direction; the process; outreach and public comment; challenges; the MOVE Culver City website; costs; grants; purview; measuring the effectiveness of creative placemaking; the survey; and staff agreement to provide information regarding upcoming meetings and events related to the project.

Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

No public comment was received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – 1) Update from Culver City Artist Laureate Alexey Steele on Projects and Activities for 2020 and 2021; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, read a public comment submitted by Dr. Janet Houlst regarding establishment of the Artist Laureate Program in Culver City; the selection of Alexey Steele as the first official Artist Laureate; guidelines for being a cultural ambassador; inclusion of all of the arts; funding; the Culver Arts Foundation; making the Artist Laureate Program a permanent part of Cultural Affairs programs; continued recognition of all of the creative arts in

the city; and she provided a poem entitled: "Art in Community Resiliency".

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced the item and displayed images to supplement the verbal report from the Artist Laureate.

Alexey Steele, Artist Laureate, thanked staff and the Commission for their support; discussed his transformation during the pandemic; the creative force that will rebuild the world; the need to embrace change; the Zoom portrait sessions with Dr. Janet Hault; the "Love My Neighbor" project; art made by children at the beginning of the pandemic that accompanied food delivery and relief efforts; the instructional video with guidelines for development of the children's art program; "Singing Street"; community impact; providing safe and distant performance art; the increased difficulty of creation, but wider impacts; amplification of efforts; art scaled up to become public art; innovative adaptation of the practice of creating portraits from interacting in person with the subject; the opening of the Village Well bookstore; and he expressed gratitude for the Commission, staff, and for the artistic community.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Steele, staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to the Artist Laureate for his efforts to guide the community through difficult times via the arts; appreciation for the extensive report; support for the optimism and unflagging energy of Mr. Steele; laying the foundation for the future; the feeling that the bar has been set high for future Artists Laureate; appreciation for the performance of public service; inclusion of the arts in the General Plan Update; the Creative Economy Report; appreciation for the number of innovative projects that have been accomplished during the pandemic; support by the Commission and staff; the pandemic as illustrating that art is not an accessory, but an essential part of the city; appreciation for the inspiration and motivation of the Artist Laureate; the process to nominate additional unsung heroes of the community; collecting the stories of special neighbors; and identifying overlooked segments of the population.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT.

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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

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, announced a virtual grant performance by Kontrapunktus Baroque Chamber Orchestra, and she discussed the application process for the 2021 Performing Arts Grant Program.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, discussed attending virtual Performing Arts Grant Performances; public art at the Village Well bookstore; the mosaic with sights of Culver City created by a non-profit called *Piece by Piece* with more information available at piecebypiece.org; she discussed videos about public art made by Darrell Fusaro (www.darrellfusaro.com); and she reported the selection of four conservators and restorers to maintain City-owned public artworks.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin discussed making origami at the Culver Arts event; efforts to highlight the arts and resiliency in Culver City; reported attending online performance events; the coming change across America; the Field of Flags on the National Mall; and the COVID Memorial on the National Mall honoring those who have died.

Commissioner Williams expressed appreciation for the Field of Flags and the COVID Memorial, and she was looking forward to a changed narrative.

Commissioner Pali quoted Sir Isaac Newton: "We build too many walls and not enough bridges"; discussed the Elysian Valley Arts Council; the bridge; and inspiration from the movie *Rumble Fish*.

Chair Fleischer discussed California Arts Council grant applications; the upcoming meeting of the 2021 Performing Arts Grant peer review panel; thanked Lee Lawlor for her efforts; expressed excitement about the upcoming inauguration and was pleased about the public art on the National Mall; she commented on damage done to and the loss of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; she wanted to see a cabinet level position for the arts and humanities; and she noted that it was the last day in history that the United States had never had a female Vice President.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:47 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

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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