

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

February 16, 2021  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 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**

Lauren Bruniges, Culver City Public Theatre, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

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

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**CAC – Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2021**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CAC – Consideration of (1) a Recommendation from the Ad Hoc 2021 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee Pertaining to the 2021 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards; and (2) Make a Recommendation to the City Council**

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Elizabeth Huston, Synchrony, discussed the proposed performance at the Ivy Substation and noted the value of the grant to the arts community.

Deborah Brockus, Brockus Dance, thanked the City for their continued support of the arts; she discussed their proposed project regarding the effect of COVID on humans; and the exploration of how arts can heal the community.

Joshua R. Lamont, The Actors' Gang (TAG), provided background on the organization; thanked the City for their partnership;

discussed past programming; collaboration in December to provide the *Hot Chocolate Holiday Club*; he indicated that they had missed the application submission deadline for the 2021 Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program; discussed the crucial nature of the support from the City noting that the series was in danger of being cancelled altogether; and he asked the Commission to save the 2021 Shakespeare in the Park series for families as the series could be used as a pathway to safely gather together again.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding opportunities to support TAG; the inability to re-open the application period; the Special Events Grant Program; appreciation for TAG's service to the community; a suggestion that TAG approach the Culver City Arts Foundation; encouragement to reapply in the fall for the 2022 grant cycle; and a suggestion to investigate the California Community Foundation grants for organizations affected by COVID-19.

Christina Cordano, MashUp Contemporary Dance, provided background on the organization; thanked the City for their continued partnership; discussed National Women's Equality Day; the proposed performance and panel discussion; and she expressed support for creating relationships across the region.

Lauren Bruniges, Culver City Public Theatre, thanked the City for the continued support; discussed online programming; the pre-recorded production of *The Bully of Baker Street*; plans to do a season in the park; new sound system for the community performances; safety officers; and safety protocols.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding the hopes for live performances in the park again.

Alicia Ide spoke on behalf of the Culver City Arts Foundation thanking those organizations who had submitted applications; acknowledging the challenging times and the importance of the arts; and she encouraged TAG to reach out to explore funding possibilities.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, provided a summary of the material of record; expressed appreciation to the Subcommittee and the 2021 Performing Arts Grant Peer Review Panel for their efforts in the process; she discussed funding;

applications received; scoring criteria; the process; hopes for in-person events before the end of 2021; and she reported that the City Council would consider the item on March 8, 2021.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin thanked all of the applicants as well as Sony for their support and participation in the process; discussed the ideas submitted for live and virtual performances; work with staff and the Peer Review Panel; and she acknowledged the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program.

Chair Fleischer thanked everyone involved in the process; discussed the evolution of the grants; the change in emphasis in how points are awarded for equity and diversity; cultural equity; addressing structural racism; and intentionality of the work and centering the work around issues.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding appreciation for the program and to everyone involved in the process.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AD HOC 2021 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2021 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS AND RELATED GRANTEE CONTRACTS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT, AND RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE RELATED PERFORMANCES AS CITY-SPONSORED.

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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 for Items Not on the Agenda.

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#### **Receipt of Correspondence**

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

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### **Items from Staff**

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, indicated that she would have a report at the next meeting.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, provided an update on 2020 Performing Arts Grant Performances that had been extended for three months due to COVID-19 delays.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported on the start of the budget process; she congratulated the Commission on their accomplishments which she noted would be shared at the annual presentation in March along with the coming workplan for FY 2021-2022; she noted that development in the city had not slowed down with COVID; discussed approval of three permanent public art concepts since July; new development projects that where the applicant intends to fulfill the APPP requirement with permanent public art; the Washington/National TOD Gateway Project; metrics to track diversity, equity and inclusion which are among the top priorities of the project; an upcoming webinar for artists new to public art; the deadline for the Request for Proposals (RFQQual) on March 4; and the number of submissions expected.

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### **Items from Commissioners**

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin felt that things were looking up.

Commissioner Williams observed that a few more galleries in the city had gone out of business or moved to other neighborhoods.

Vice Chair Dickter reported attending meetings of the Art and Culture Working Group of the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF); indicated that he had been asked to speak about the Creative Economy and ways to support the arts through the continued pandemic period; and he noted that he would provide a report next month.

Chair Fleischer announced a webinar on February 17 by the LA Arts Recovery Fund sponsored by the California Community Arts Foundation on the grants process for multi-year operating support for small and medium sized arts organizations impacted by the pandemic.

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**Adjournment**

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

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK

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Date