

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 20, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Fleischer called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:03 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Tania Fleischer
Vice Chair Brenda Williams
Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali
Commissioner Leora O'Carroll
Commissioner Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fleischer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meetings of April 18, 2023
and May 16, 2023**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR FLEISCHER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 18, 2023 AND MAY 16, 2023.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – 1) Update from Culver City Artist Laureate Katy Krantz on Projects and Activities for 2023; and, 2) Provide Comments as Appropriate

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, introduced the item.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager reported that no requests to speak had been received.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, provided a presentation on past, current, and projected projects; discussed the Culver City Artist Meet Up event; purpose and goals of the event; connecting artists to each other; and appreciation to the Culver City Arts Foundation for organizing the event and to The Wende Museum for their support.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Krantz and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the work and for the welcoming

and well-organized Artist Meet Up event, and clarification that the ceramics artwork created by attendees was collected for use in the community-wide project.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, discussed the ongoing community art project: "Dear Culver City ..."; the ultimate goal; collection of the components through interactive activities and free ceramics workshops; allowing people to claim their work at the end of the project; brainstorming words by participants to describe the past, present, and future of Culver City; use of letter stamps for the chosen words; the workshop schedule and locations; different responses to the poetry collaboration based on location; participating poets; providing an honorarium for the poets; the project timeline; possible creation of a zine from the poems; desired outcomes; and City Hall as the potential location for the sculptural installation and opening event.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Krantz and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the presentation; support for the engagement with the events; fulfilling the vision of building community, involving the community in art, and bringing the community together through art; support for having the Artist Meet Up event twice per year; appreciation for the thoughtful and engaging project that involves the community; installing the community artwork at City Hall; excitement at the amount of work done in such a short amount of time; areas of the city that are less engaged; inviting people who are not regularly involved in artistic pursuits; work to collaborate with Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS); activities in the parks; ensuring that youth are engaged; adhering to policies required to work with youth; geographic equity; positive feedback from the Culver City Senior Center workshops; and appreciation to Ms. Krantz for being a good educator as well as an artist and for connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Karen Gibson Roc, poet, reported previous activities with students at Culver City High School; spoke about her role in the project; and expressed appreciation for the event at The Wende Museum and for being involved in the project.

Additional discussion ensued between Ms. Krantz, staff, and Commissioners regarding documenting Ms. Krantz's tenure; a

suggestion to have an opportunity to bring the poets together and film the event; an event scheduled with the Culver City Historical Society; a potential open, but protected location for the artwork at City Hall; pop-up events in the parks; and staff-driven conversations.

Katy Krantz, Artist Laureate, discussed "Frost Benches," a project to install a ceramic tile mosaic on the concrete benches in front of the Robert Frost Auditorium, with a theme of poetry and spoken word; collaboration with Karen Gibson Roc who works with AVPA (Academy of Visual & Performing Arts) students; holding tile making workshops at all of the schools; collaboration with the high school ceramics teacher to provide an independent study for advanced students; funding from CCUSD (Culver City Unified School District); complementing the exterior of the auditorium building by working with the existing color palette; keeping the design simple from a distance but providing engagement from up close; providing an interactive experience; incorporating QR codes in the tiles that connect to videos; and timing for the project.

Discussion ensued between staff, Ms. Krantz and Commissioners regarding coordination with the Fiesta La Ballona Committee for a collaborative event; use of hand-made tile for the benches; incorporation of poetry; use of letter stamps to write short poems; reading the bench while sitting; making community work into something artistic and beautiful; appreciation that all school sites are contributing to the project; appreciation for the complementary design; support for the stamping and for creating something that stands out but not too much; bringing in kids who are not in AVPA but want to be involved; community-building; anonymous participation; having a poetry drop-off box and having someone else stamp out the words; opportunities to increase engagement; support for the memory-making legacy project; encouragement to keep an eye on the work of Karen Gibson Roc; appreciation for the opportunity, meeting new people and support; the mock-up of the project; support for using advanced students in the ceramics class; opportunities to do public art; support for filming and documenting the processes; engagement with the AVPA program; funding to cover filming; documentary filmmakers present at the Artist Meet Up event; creating an

advertisement for the Artist Laureate Program; outreach to local universities; soliciting help for each event; concern with asking other people to work without payment; ensuring that people are benefitting from the experience; potential support from Culver Arts; ensuring that a professional videographer is present; working to locate the Artist Laureate booth near the Culver Arts and the City booths at Fiesta La Ballona; and allowing space for an interactive activity or drop in classes for a longer engagement.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received.

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Items from Members/Staff

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed upcoming grant performances; reported work on the upcoming 2024 performing arts grant application; and indicated that new guidelines would be posted in early August with award recommendations brought forward to the CAC in November 2023.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a presentation on behind-the-scenes work in the Cultural Affairs Division; discussed public art collections management; annual cleaning and maintenance of various permanent artworks; a vehicle that damaged some pavers and underlying pipes and solenoids at *The Lion's Fountain*; quotes for repairs; buildup of mineral deposits on the sculpture; landscaping; repair and updates to lighting; art on private property; the importance of maintaining complete and accurate permanent files; appreciation from property owners for help from the City; the update and reprinting of the red walking tours book; the unexpected passing of artist François Bardol and his artistic contributions to the City; the Culver Arts MOU (Memorandum of Understanding); meetings of the CAC Public Art Subcommittee; update of the Art in Public Places Program ordinance; meetings with the City Council 2028 Olympics Subcommittee; the initial

work plan submitted to the City Council; the proposed community kickoff on July 22nd; restoration of the American Legion Building; the General Plan Update; permit tracking; in lieu fees; coordination with property owners; and City Council approval of a full-time, benefitted, limited-term, Cultural Affairs Analyst position through June 2024.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the importance of understanding the scope of work necessary to handle the work of Cultural Affairs in the city; the many projects and priorities; and involvement of Cultural Affairs in numerous other departments and divisions in the City.

Commissioner O'Carroll reported attending the recent Culver City Arts Foundation meeting; discussed the Artist Meet Up on June 15; the networking event for the Creative Economy; a recent Zoom presentation by the manager of LA28 for the Olympics providing an overview for the Olympics Subcommittee; and budgeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a kickoff event in July seeking community input, and identification of top community priorities.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin discussed the recent AVPA Java Gala event; the recent Culver Arts meeting; and the Community Calendar on the City website.

Vice Chair Williams reported attending the CAC Public Art Subcommittee meeting and noted discussions about updating the ordinance.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding additional work to be done at the subcommittee level; City Attorney review; consideration by the full Commission; and City Council approval.

Chair Fleischer reported on events and performances she attended; discussed attending a recent PRCS meeting; and a suggestion for a joint meeting of the CAC and the PRCS Commission.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion to hold the joint meeting on a regular meeting date; ensuring that the meeting is substantive with robust

discussion; agenda formulation; overlap between the two Commissions; consideration of work plans of the departments and divisions; brainstorming on opportunity for collaboration with PRCS; ensuring majority availability; consideration of a new performance space; the General Plan Update; lack of prior consultation on the potential Media Park performance space; the Veterans Memorial Complex; the process for dealing with historical sites; the noteworthy architect for the original design of VMB; cultural significance; adaptive reuse; remodeling; Brown Act limitations; the time-consuming and expensive nature of open and transparent government; and plans for publicly noticed quarterly meetings of the various Olympics subcommittees.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported meeting with Hope Parrish, President of the Culver City Historical Society; discussed plans to change the Historical Society meeting schedule so that it does not conflict with Cultural Affairs Commission meetings; work being done with interns at the high school; and the Getty Multi-Cultural Internship Program.

Chair Fleischer reported that she and Commissioner Mesghali had visited the Bioscience LA building which used to be the Mayme Clayton Museum; discussed indoor/outdoor space that could be a possible location for a Creative Economy networking event; discussed Third Wednesday events in the City noting that the map included on the DBA website only reflected a partial list of public art and should be updated; she expressed support for anything that activates the downtown area; and she reported that the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee had met about the Summer Concert Series.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:48 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 8/15/2023



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 Bocchino
CITY CLERK

12 SEP 2023
Date