

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 20, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Williams called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Chair Brenda Williams  
Vice Chair Leora O'Carroll  
Commissioner Tania Fleischer  
Commissioner Damon Willick

Absent: Commissioner Ehsaan Mesghali

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager  
Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager  
Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst  
Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda 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 Items**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Special Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting of May 23, 2024**

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, reported changing "used by most Performing Arts seasons" in paragraph 1 on page 3 to "is common with most Performing Arts seasons" as was requested by Commissioner Fleischer.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 23, 2024 AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLYCK, WILLIAMS  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**Consideration and Recommendation to the City Council of Revised Proposal from Artist Laureate Katy Krantz Regarding Phase II of a Temporary Art Project at 11029 Washington Boulevard**

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding concerns with vandalism; the temporary structure; tile integrity; durability; the memorial; incorporation of Commission recommendations; the general and community collaborative proposal; absence of a memorial component in the revised project; tilemaking at festivals with a concluding program onsite; appreciation for the incorporation of Commission feedback; and the adjusted budget.

MOVED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL PHASE II OF THE TEMPORARY ART PROJECT BY ARTIST LAUREATE KATY KRANTZ FOR THE CITY-OWNED BUILDING AT 11029 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLICK  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-2

**Consideration of (1) Recommending Sonia Romero as the artist for the art component of the Farragut Connector Project to City Council for approval, 2) Recommending the approval of \$60,000 artist's budget estimate to complete the art component**

**for the Farragut Connector Project, and 3) \$10,000 to create and install the tribute to the area's racetrack history within the Farragut Project**

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, provided a summary of the material of record and introduced Sonia Romero.

Sonia Romero discussed the design that is based upon the surrounding neighborhood and references to the racetrack that was located in the area; the shape of the existing street as echoing the racetrack; the outer ring signifying Ballona Creek; Carlson Park; and the tile design seen when entering the Farragut Connector.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed the concept vs. the final design; influences; history of the area; single family homes; graphics from vintage toys; use of Cuerda Seca tiles; fabrication of individual tiles in collaboration with Tile Guild; artist experience with all stages of the process; budget; timeline; and next steps.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the artist and the proposal; potential changes between the concept and the final project; feedback; openness to making adjustments; appreciation for the educational/historical component; a suggestion to add an aspect of community into the project; support for adding bicycles and pedestrians to the project; future discussions on how to incorporate community into the project; resources budgeted toward public engagement activities; the bustling and community-centered location; and neighborhood participation.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER AND SECONDED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE SONIA ROMERO FOR THE ART COMPONENT OF THE FARRAGUT CONNECTOR PROJECT; AND,
2. RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A PROJECT BUDGET OF \$60,000 TO CREATE AND INSTALL THE TRIBUTE TO THE AREA'S RACETRACK HISTORY WITHIN THE FARRAGUT PROJECT.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLICK  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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Item A-3

**1) Discuss Potential Revisions to Culver City Municipal Code Section 15.06.100 et seq. Relating to the Art in Public Places Program Allocations; and, 2) Provide Recommendations to the City Council As Desired**

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for the well-researched definitions and clear language; the uniqueness of Culver City; facilities in Culver City; arts equity; support for doing the Cultural Equity Plan before doing anything further with performing arts allocations; partnership with Economic Development; the Summer Music Series; the jazz series; Music in the Chambers; support for the revisions; inclusion of the Community Arts Equity Plan in the Work Plan; completion of the General Plan; and upcoming subcommittee meetings.

Vice Chair O'Carroll read a letter from the Culver City Arts Foundation which included proposed changes to the Art in Public Places Ordinance; discussed purposes of the fund; the fact that not enough funds from any one project are generated to create a sizable facility; and a suggestion to expand the purpose by creating a provision in the ordinance that would allow Cultural Trust Fund fees to be pooled with other developments for use in constructing a significant and appropriate municipal art gallery or performing arts center.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding limitations with the way the ordinance is presently written; the need to embark on the Community Arts Equity Plan first; current choices for developers in how they fulfill art requirements; providing an official mechanism to pool funding ; larger developments that opt to do art on site; earmarking a certain percentage of each developer's fees to pool toward

one large project; further consideration as part of the Community Arts Equity Plan; making the choices available for developers very clear; the Art in Public Places Program; the need to proceed cautiously; having more of a say in how money in the Cultural Trust Fund is used; making a recommendation as to whether the December 19 revisions proceed; continued work through a long-range planning process; review of the Commission recommendation by the City Attorney before it goes to the City Council; and the ordinance process.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLYCK AND SECONDED BY CHAIR WILLIAMS THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: RECOMMEND AMENDING THE CULVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 15.06.100 ET SEQ. RELATING TO THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED IN THE ATTACHMENTS FROM DECEMBER 19, 2023.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FLEISCHER, O'CARROLL, WILLIAMS, WILLYCK  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: MESGHALI

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**Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Williams invited public comment.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that no requests to speak had been received for Items NOT On the Agenda.

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**Items from Commissioners/Staff**

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, discussed Culver City identification cards available for Commissioners; enhanced security in City Hall; Performing Arts Grant Program Guidelines and applications; workshops; the application deadline of September 12th; maximum grant request of \$12,000; an upcoming grant performance at Fiesta La Ballona by Angel City Chorale; other entertainment performances available at Fiesta La Ballona; appreciation to Commissioner Mesghali and Vice Chair O'Carroll for their work on the Fiesta Entertainment Ad Hoc

Subcommittee; upcoming sponsored performances in September; information available on the Culver City website; outreach and promotion; and she encouraged everyone to attend a performance.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed division activities; efforts to reorganize internal files for Cultural Affairs; appreciation to Edgar Varela for his work on the Summer Concert Series; thanks to Commissioners who attended series events and to the Culver City Arts Foundation for their support and partnership; appreciation to former Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin and Commissioner Fleischer for their input into the series; feedback received at the July Culver City Arts Foundation Board meeting on past and future partnerships; discussion of next steps with the Foundation Subcommittee; Artist Laureate Subcommittee consideration of the process for formal evaluation of the Artist Laureate Program; comparisons with other programs; public feedback; focused stakeholder sessions with an outside facilitator; the December meeting for the launch of the next Artist Laureate Program; upcoming programs and activities; appreciation to Vice Chair O'carroll for her input into upcoming Creative Economy events; the October Sundays Jazz series at the Kirk Douglas Theater; appreciation to Commissioner Mesghali and Vice Chair O'Carroll for their input into the entertainment component of Fiesta La Ballona; she indicated that she would be serving on a performing arts grant panel in West Hollywood; thanked the Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee for their work on the 2025 grant cycle; thanked Vice Mayor O'Brien for alerting her to the CA-37 Art Funding and Resource Convening that she would attend on August 29; she discussed the November Commission meeting; meetings to discuss the Olympics; the Closing Olympics Ceremony on August 11; gathering feedback and ideas on how the Commission would engage with LA28 and the Olympics games; and she expressed appreciation to Lee Lawlor and Sam Lee for their work.

Lee Lawlor, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported that the City Council would be recognizing former Commissioners at the August 26, 2024, City Council meeting.

Sam Lee, Cultural Affairs Analyst, reported helping at the Closing Olympics Ceremony Watch Party on August 11, noting that Economic Development had done a wonderful job.

Commissioner Willick thanked staff and Commissioners for their patience as he transitions into being a Commissioner and he indicated that he would be reporting back on the Culver City Arts Foundation meeting that he would be attending via Zoom on August 21.

Commissioner Fleischer discussed recent performances she had attended, and she thanked staff and Commissioners for the recent subcommittee meetings.

Vice Chair O'Carroll was excited to hear about the upcoming jazz series; reported attending the Summer Concert Series and commended Edgar Varela for his work; discussed activation of the downtown area; indicated being unable to attend the closing Olympic ceremonies; and she was looking forward to Fiesta La Ballona.

Chair Williams was looking forward to attending Fiesta La Ballona and expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:04 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 17, 2024.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED

10/15/24



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BRENDA WILLIAMS

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

28 OCT 2024

Date