

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

October 15, 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 Ehsaan Mesghali

Absent: Commissioner Damon Willick

Staff: Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs 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 distributing one piece of correspondence from the Culver City Historical Society to Commissioners.

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**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Regular Cultural Affairs Commission Meetings of July 16, 2024 and August 20, 2024**

Vice Chair O'Carroll suggested the following adjustments to paragraph 3 of page 5 of the August 20, 2024 minutes: changing the word "statement" to "letter", and the word "about" to "which included".

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR O'CARROLL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 15, 2024 AS WRITTEN AND THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024 AS AMENDED.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, encouraged watching the August meeting due to extensive conversation about Code updates.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Cultural Affairs Commission Ad Hoc Subcommittees**

Commissioner Fleischer provided a report from the Ad Hoc Artist Laureate Subcommittee; discussed the community tile-making project at the Artist Laureate booth at the Art Walk and Roll Festival; the upcoming tile-making workshop at La Ballona's Fall Festival; the final community art making session on October 26 at the former gun store with feedback gathered on future use of the site; publicity for the October 26 event; installation of the tiles on the building in December; the Artist Laureate evaluation; the consultant hired to facilitate the focused evaluation; and the report to be provided in December to allow incorporation of recommended changes or updates into the selection process for the next Artist Laureate.

Vice Chair O'Carroll provided an update on the Ad Hoc Creative Economy Cultural Plan Subcommittee noting that she and Commissioner Fleischer had attended a June 12 roundtable at Sony hosted by Economic Development to discuss the state of the Creative Economy; she discussed an upcoming Creative Economy Mixer hosted by Culver City Economic and Cultural Development on October 23 at the Wende Museum; and she received clarification regarding RSVPs received for the event.

Vice Chair O'Carroll provided a report on the Ad Hoc Culver City Arts Foundation Liaison Subcommittee; discussed the fundraiser on October 4; and she indicated that she would have a more detailed report after the upcoming quarterly meeting.

Commissioner Fleischer discussed a recent substantive and productive meeting of the Ad Hoc 2025 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; improvements to the application process; adding a scoring rubric for the panelists to clarify criteria; adding structure to panel discussions; the online application; total applications received; the total requested amount; matching grants; the process and schedule; audiences at sponsored performances; performance venues; and other

performing arts events presented by Culver City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the weekly jazz performances at Kirk Douglas Theatre in October.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, indicated that the Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Ordinance and Program Update Subcommittee would probably start work at the beginning of 2025 to review potential code revisions; discussed additional updates; assistance from the consultant; and bringing Culver City up to date with current practices in historic preservation.

Vice Chair O'Carroll provided an update on the Ad Hoc 2028 Olympics Subcommittee; discussed the report provided by Sally Unsworth regarding the meeting on September 23; lessons to be learned from reviewing Paris Olympics arts programming data when available; subcommittee plans to submit a letter to the Chair of the Cultural Olympiad for LA28 to highlight willingness to work together for the 2028 Olympics; guidance on how to best partner and plan; collaboration with other nearby cities; dates and resources; partnership with Culver City Sister Cities as well as local cultural partners; and planned discussion about Commission recommendations to the City Council at the December City Council meeting for arts programming and initiatives during the Olympics.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding cities that will be hosting events and clarification that Culver City will not be hosting any athletic events for the Olympics; bringing people to Culver City; the importance of arts activities; LA28 updates; formalization of venue cities; conversations and meetings about collaborations;; and clarification regarding hotels in Culver City.

Chair Williams provided an update from the Public Art Standing Subcommittee noting that they met during the summer to review the Farragut Connector project; she discussed the work of the artist selection committee; Commission approval to award the project to Sonia Romero; Historic Preservation; the Municipal Code; and waiting for an arts equity plan before moving forward on other revisions.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding timeline for the art component for the completed Farragut Connector; City Council approval of the project; finalization of the contract agreement; and mural location.

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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 applications received for the 2025 Performing Arts Grant Program; consideration of recommended grant awards at the November Commission meeting; she announced upcoming performances by 2024 grant recipients; and she discussed outreach and promotion.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, discussed email bulletins sent out in the last month; studio visits; feedback received; a meeting with Trevor Cooperman to learn about his studio and practice; useful conversations to build community; appreciation to those who worked on getting the new bollards installed around the Lion's Fountain; City Council appointment of Hope Parrish to the role of City Historian; she encouraged everyone to attend the Creative Economy Mixer at the Wende on October 23; discussed a meeting on October 19 in the Arts District to discuss potential art opportunities for area medians; the public feedback survey sent out for the Artist Laureate evaluation; a discussion with stakeholders planned for November 13; attendance of the upcoming Arts for LA Summit on October 16; information received from attending the recent Arts for LA Session; and tech upgrades planned for Council Chambers that necessitate an alternate location for the December and January Commission meetings that will also result in Music in the Chambers being pushed to April or May.

Vice Chair O'Carroll indicated that she and Commissioner Mesghali had served on the Entertainment Subcommittee for Fiesta La Ballona; discussed attendance of the opening ceremonies for Fiesta La Ballona; and she was looking forward to the Jazz Festival sponsored by Culver City and curated the Jazz Bakery with a performance by Delfeayo Marsalis at the Kirk Douglas Theater on October 20.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:36 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 19, 2024.

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*Lee Lawler*

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED

11/19/24

*Brenda Williams*

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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*

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

2024 Nov 22

Date