

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

November 19, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin  
Vice Chair Zoltan Pali  
Commissioner Len Dickter  
Commissioner Tania Fleischer  
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator  
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator  
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager  
Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**CAC - Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2019**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 AS SUBMITTED.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**CAC - Consideration of (1) a Recommendation from the Ad Hoc 2020 Performing Arts Grant Program Subcommittee; and, (2) a Recommendation to the City Council Related to the 2020 Performing Arts Grant Program Awards**

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record and expressed appreciation to the 2020 Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program for their work on the item.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, described the evaluation process.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Benita Bike, Benita Bike DanceArt, thanked the City for their support of the arts; provided background on the organization; discussed their use of the Senior Center as a

performance space; and she encouraged use of the Senior Center as a place where art can happen.

Sarah Rodenhouse, MashUp Contemporary Dance Company, provided background on the organization and she thanked the City for its support.

Deborah Brockus, Brockus Project Dance Company, provided background on herself and the organization, and thanked the City for its support.

Myles Lee, Los Angeles Doctors' Symphony Orchestra, provided background on the organization; discussed upcoming events; coordination with the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD); the Senior Center; and he thanked the City for its support.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, discussed the grant workshop; support provided by Susan Obrow and Lee Lawlor; he described the upcoming competition and performance; and he thanked the City for its support.

Raymond Jacobs, Kontrapuntus Neo-Baroque Orchestra, provided background on himself; described the proposed grant performances; and he thanked the City for its support.

John Comerford, Jazz Bakery, discussed performing arts; the cultural legacy being built; the proposed program; and he thanked the City.

Louise Reichlin, Louise Reichlin & Dancers, provided background on the organization; discussed coordination with CCUSD; proposed programming; and she thanked the City for its support.

Arlette Cardenes, Culver City Chamber Orchestra, described the proposed performance and thanked the City for its support.

Chris Bradford, Donna Sternberg & Dancers, thanked the City for its support.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, read written comments submitted by Joshua Lamont of The Actors' Gang.

Mari Riddle, Grand Performances, provided background on the organization; discussed proposed performances; their relationship with Brasil Cultural Center; and she thanked the City for its support,

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation to the speakers for coming to the meeting and to staff for their work on the grants; acknowledgement of the work involved in writing a grant; the diverse grant peer review panel; the value of live performances; changes to the scoring criteria; making the entire community feel included; cultural equity and access; activating new spaces; mobility and transportation issues; diversification of boards; the need to articulate a clear budget; diverse funding sources; commitment to artistic excellence; interacting with the Culver City Unified School District; the need to create a marketing plan and allocate funding for marketing; partnerships with non-artistic, non-profit organizations; the application process; the importance of bringing performances to all parts of the City; the cultural diversity and inclusion statement; marketing language included in the application; appreciation to everyone involved in the process; benefits of the arts to the community; the 2020 grant performances; the Communications Subcommittee; maximizing success; and appreciation to Culver City Arts Foundation and Sony Pictures Entertainment for their sponsorship of the grant program.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY CHAIR WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AD HOC 2020 CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE, RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE 2020 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS BE ALLOCATED AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

Item A-2

**CAC - Discussion of (1) Recommendation from the City Council Equity Subcommittee to Introduce an Ordinance Amending Culver City Municipal Code Chapter 3.03 Pertaining to City Commissions to Add Equity Policy Language and to Allow Appointment of Non-Registered Voters and Minors Age 16; and, (2) Proposed Changes to the City Policy Pertaining to Commissions, Committees and Boards Pertaining to Childcare and Training of Appointed Officials; and, 3) Provide Any Feedback to City Staff**

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that no action is to be taken by the Commission other than to provide comments; residency requirements; support for adding cultural equity and inclusion language; concern with people under 18 serving on the Commission; support for student representatives; length of the appointment; the State Bill; the need for experienced professionals in the community; childcare; expenses involved; anticipated costs; the City's fiscal emergency; support for requiring that participants be registered voters; recommendations from the Equity Subcommittee; availability to serve; whether 16 year-olds would be able to run for City Council; concern with taking away the opportunity from other people who want to serve; decisions being made that affect the entire city; proof of residency; current procedures; and Commission consensus to recommend that the Commission does not agree with putting anyone under the age of 18 years old on the Commission.

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**Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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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**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that Jason Woodside would be installing his mural at One Culver from December 6-11; discussed opportunities for community engagement; the Artist Laureate Program review panel meeting on December 2; the unveiling of Nate Mohler's temporary art installation, *Culver Current*, on December 12; items to be considered at the next Commission meeting.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided an update on the Art in Public Places Program; discussed artwork donated by the Exceptional Children's Foundation; the downtown walking tours app; the Los Angeles Conservancy event in October; and the new Edison utility box in front of The Culver Studios.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding above ground utility boxes; Southern California Edison requirements; the artist being used to cover the boxes; diversity; restoration and maintenance; implementing an art program for new boxes; and the original process to choose the artist.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, reported that the Creative Economy Subcommittee would be meeting next week; she discussed the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Performing Arts Grant Program and thanked everyone for their support of the program; noted upcoming performances; indicated that she had one more Commission meeting left before retirement; and she reported that Lee Lawlor would be facilitating the Performing Arts Grant Program in the future.

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, announced the final three public performances of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Performing Arts Grants Program.

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#### **Items from Commissioners**

Commissioner Williams reported attending the opening of The Medea Insurrection at the Wende Museum noting that the exhibition runs until April 5, 2020; she expressed concern with galleries closing in the city; and she hoped that there might be another area in the city that might be able to attract new galleries.

Commissioner Fleischer expressed gratitude in anticipation of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday; discussed the event at the Wende Museum; discussed Artist in Residence communities; and she reported that she would be unable to attend the December Commission meeting as she would be adjudicating the California Arts Education grants in Sacramento.

Commissioner Dickter asked about sharing information regarding the Culver City Arts Foundation Grant Program; discussed the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Liaison Subcommittee; he reported presenting the Creative Economy Report to the El Segundo Arts and Culture Subcommittee; noted resistance to investing in public art from the business community in El Segundo; he indicated writing a letter of support; and he suggested being mindful of changes going on in Culver City and ensuring engagement.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported a conversation with El Segundo staff about similar issues.

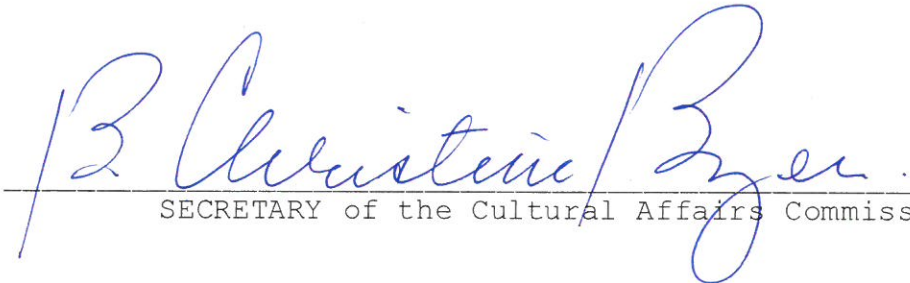
Chair Wisnosky Stehlin discussed the Culver City Arts Foundation Grant Program and suggested contacting the Career Technology Program at the High School to see if students would be interested in getting involved.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:05 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on December 17, 2019 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

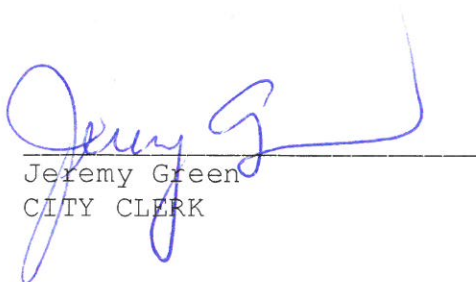
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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 12/17/2019

  
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JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN  
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

23 Dec 2019  
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Date