

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 18, 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

Eric Sims led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Rebecca Rona-Tuttle, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC), indicated being the liaison between the EHRAC and the Commission; announced a virtual Juneteenth Celebration on June 19 hosted by the EHRAC; she indicated that

the subcommittee report was available on the website; and she discussed the hate crimes event hosted by the EHRAC on May 14.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CAC – Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 20, 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 APRIL 20, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CAC – (1) Discussion Regarding the Outstanding Loan from the City to Culver City Arts Foundation; and (2) Make Recommendation to City Council as Deemed Appropriate

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Chair Fleischer invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Commission:

Eric Sims thanked the Commission for their support of Culver City Arts Foundation (Culver Arts) and the cultural community in general; provided background on the \$35,000 loan made by the City to Culver Arts in 2018 which he asked that the City forgive; he discussed the ability of the City to forgive the loan; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); grants and

accomplishments; support provided to the arts in Culver City; economic effects of the pandemic on artists and arts organizations; rebuilding and reopening; the importance of the arts to the community; pursuit of funding for programming and direct assistance to artists and arts organizations; the need for operating capital; investing in the creative economy; and future partnership with the Commission.

Vice Chair Dickter discussed the value the city has received from the initial investment; repayment of the loan in programs and initiatives; benefit to the community; collaboration with the business and education community; honest engagement of the community; small- to medium-size donations from the community; enhancement to the reputation of the city; the modest sum of money; he asked the City to allow continued investment of the capital to support the community; and he felt it was to the City's benefit not to require repayment.

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin echoed Vice Chair Dickter's comments; discussed her term as Chair of the foundation before it separated from the City and difficulty raising money under the City's umbrella; she noted the importance of separating from the City; discussed the terms of the agreement per the MOU; she expressed hope that the City Council would exercise their ability to forgive the loan; and she thanked the volunteers at Culver Arts for their work.

Commissioners expressed agreement with the recommendation that the City Council forgive the loan to the Culver City Arts Foundation citing the substantial value the city has received on the original investment and the economic and community impacts of the foundation.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR DICKTER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISNOSKY STEHLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBSTANTIAL VALUE RECEIVED FROM THE \$35,000 INVESTMENT, WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE CITY COUNCIL FORGIVE THE OUTSTANDING LOAN FROM THE CITY TO CULVER CITY ARTS FOUNDATION.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that the matter was scheduled to go before the City Council for consideration on June 14.

Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)

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

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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

Lee Lawlor, Performing Arts Program Associate, reported that events were being added to the Virtual Performance Center on the City website.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, reported that the City Council would be considering the extension of the term for Alexey Steele as Artist Laureate on May 24.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided a presentation on public art in the city; discussed *The Lion's Fountain*, progress on the installation of Luna Ikuta's art installation at Haven, and *Ensemble* by Rob Ley for the Entrada project site.

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Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Wisnosky Stehlin indicated that the theatre community was trying very hard to get back to work; announced that May is Mental Health Awareness month noting the importance of caring for everyone's well-being; and she reported that May is also Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month as well as Jewish American Heritage month.

Commissioner Williams thanked Louise Coffey-Webb for her presentation on the *Ensemble* artwork noting that she was excited to see it come to fruition.

Vice Chair Dickter reported on the recent virtual roundtable discussion with a group of business and arts stakeholders in the creative economy through the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) with the Chamber of Commerce and the City's Economic Development Division; discussed networking; conversation opportunities; creating a networking hub in the city; and he encouraged anyone interested to apply for the open seat on the Commission.

Chair Fleischer expressed eagerness to return to teaching in person; discussed attending live performances of music; work on Performing Arts Grant Program applications; extension of Alexey Steele's term as Artist Laureate; she announced that MOVE Culver City has a live survey available until May 20 where design preferences for asphalt art can be selected; and she indicated that volunteer opportunities were available.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:50 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED 6/15/2021



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 Green
CITY CLERK

7/12/21
Date