

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 – 5:00 P.M.

*Location: Community Meeting Room – West Hollywood City Hall
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Lee at 5:07 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present: Commission Chair Catherine Lee
Commission Vice Chair J. Dallas Dishman
Commissioner Martin Gantman
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman
Commissioner Madeleine Rackley

Absent: Commissioner Candice Beroukhim
Commissioner Todd Williamson

Also Present: Arts Manager Andrew Campbell
Temp Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Arts Coordinator Mike Che
Grants Coordinator Prentis Bonds
Public Art Coordinator Rebecca Ehemann

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the November 16, 2017 meeting agenda was motioned by Commission Vice Chair Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved.

D. Approval of the October 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the October 26, 2017 meeting minutes was motioned by Commission Vice Chair Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved.

E. Public Comment

None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matters were acted upon by one motion. There were no items removed for separate discussion under Excluded Consent.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved.

A. Posting of the Agenda

The agenda was posted per proper noticing procedures at City Hall, Plummer Park, West Hollywood Library and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The meeting of the Urban Art Subcommittee of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission scheduled Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. There is no reportable action.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sunset Spectacular Pilot Sign Update and Draft Arts Program Proposal

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a presentation from City staff members Joanna Hankamer (Principal Planner, Capital & Special Projects) and Sarah Lejeune (Temporary Senior Planner) as well as Tom Wiscombe (Architect, Tom Wiscombe Architecture) and Sarah Stifler (Chief Communications Officer, Museum of Contemporary Art "MOCA") regarding the draft art program for the Sunset Spectacular pilot billboard.

Commission Vice Chair Dishman reminded the Commission that they would not be approving or denying the Sunset Spectacular Plan at the meeting because the approval of the plan is out of the Commission's purview. Vice Chair Dishman reminded the Commission that they would only receive a presentation about the planned art and art programming that will accompany the Sunset Spectacular and any input from the Commission would be limited to making comments and suggestions relating to the art programming.

Principal Planner Joanna Hankamer thanked the Commission for their time and reminded them that the Sunset Spectacular is a pilot project between the City and the winning team (Orange Barrel Media/Tom Wiscombe Architecture/MOCA) that is still in development. She also informed the Commission that the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects had recently awarded their top-level "Next LA Award of Honor" to the City for the Sunset Spectacular project concept design.

Tom Wiscombe of Tom Wiscombe Architecture gave a presentation about the planned art programming of Sunset Spectacular. Mr. Wiscombe explained to the Commission that the art programming scheduled for display on the Sunset Spectacular will run in a continuous block of time of ten minutes every hour, plus two special operating hours at noon and at 8pm, that will run art programming for thirty minutes, and forty-five minutes respectively.

Mr. Wiscombe also explained the programmatic calendar of the Sunset Spectacular, noting that throughout the year, various artists would be solicited to present artwork on the billboards by either modifying existing work to fit the dimensions of the billboard, or by creating new site-specific work for the billboard. Mr. Wiscombe also mentioned that at certain times of the day, MOCA would be available to send docents to the Sunset Spectacular to talk about the art on display.

Mr. Wiscombe also spoke about the planned civic space around the billboard and highlighted the lighting and plaza space that could be used in the future to host art, history, and culture tours or other performing arts events.

After these presentations, Commission Chair Lee and Commissioner Rackley recused themselves from the discussion because both Commissioners either live or work within 500 feet of the proposed site for the Sunset Spectacular pilot billboard. Commission Vice Chair Dishman acted as Commission Chair in the temporary absence of Commission Chair Lee.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman asked if emerging and West Hollywood artists showing art on the Sunset Spectacular would receive compensation. Tom Wiscombe mentioned that the current plan is that all artists would receive some type of grant or stipend for showing work on the Sunset Spectacular.

The Commission then heard public comment regarding the Sunset Spectacular.

ELYSE EISENBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to City support for the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan.

CHRISTOPHER SHANE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked the Commission for the arts programming they facilitate, and spoke in opposition to City support for the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan.

JESSICA RICH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan.

NEIL KOENIGSBERG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to City support for the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan, citing concerns about a negative impact to parking in the area.

JOHN NIENDORTT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to City support for the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan, citing concerns about a negative impact to traffic in the area.

JONNI WOOD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to City support for the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan.

AMANDA CARLSON, LOS ANGELES, spoke regarding the proposed Sunset Spectacular plan.

ACTION: Receive and file.

B. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs (PACA) Subcommittee on its meeting held November 2, 2017 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee and took the following actions:

ACTIONS:

1. Approval of WeHo Arts Project Grant awards totaling \$53,000 at various funding amounts to seven (7) arts organizations including ONE Archives Foundation (\$8,500); MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House (\$8,500); Greenway Arts Alliance (\$8,000); California LGBT Arts Alliance (\$6,500); Women in Film (\$7,000); The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (\$7,000); and Rogue Artists Ensemble (\$7,000) for a total of \$53,000 and authorize the allocation of the remaining fund balance of \$2,000 to the WeHo Arts Organizational Development Grant. **Motioned by Commission Vice Chair Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved.**
2. Approval of WeHo Arts Organizational Development Grants totaling \$11,000 at various funding amounts to three (3) arts organizations including Celebration Productions Corporation (\$4,000, of which \$2,500 is awarded to fund the organization's project and \$1,500 is awarded for technical assistance); Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival (\$3,500, of which \$2,000 is awarded to fund the organization's project and \$1,500 is awarded for technical assistance); and Macha Theatre and Film (\$3,500, of which \$2,000 is awarded to fund the organization's project and \$1,500 is awarded for technical assistance). **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved.**
3. Approval of award of One City One Pride Grants totaling \$36,000 at \$6,000 each to the following six (6) arts organizations, artist groups, and individual artists: Chris Isaacson Presents, LLC; Dante Alencastre; Lis Bartlett; New Stages; Rocco Kayiatos; and Yozmit, with \$1,000 coming from Transgender Arts Initiative Grant money to fund three (3) projects with a transgender focus. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commission Vice Chair Dishman, and approved.**
4. Approval of the award of Transgender Arts Initiative Grants totaling \$20,500 to the following seven (7) arts organizations, artist groups, and individual artists: The Lavender Effect (\$5,000); Danny Gordon and Jacob Tobia (\$3,000); Trans Chorus of Los Angeles (\$5,000); Trans Life LA (\$4,500); and \$1,000 each (as a special Transgender Arts Initiative Emerging Artist Grant) to Alexander Fuller; Zavier Lord Williams and Pilar Gallego. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commission Vice Chair Dishman, and approved.**

C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its meeting held November 16, 2017 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commission Vice Chair Dishman reported that last month, the Subcommittee had deferred a decision on selecting a curator for the Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny Sculpture Park. At their meeting on November 16, the Subcommittee invited three finalist curator groups to attend the meeting to present proposed work. The three

curator groups included Aurora Tang, Peter Mays (representing the Los Angeles Art Association), and Emily Womack (representing Dyson & Womack).

Aurora Tang's proposal was deemed more appropriate for Plummer Park, and was referred to staff for potential display at that location.

Emily Womack's proposal, for an exhibition featuring Cassils sculpture and performance, was deemed more appropriate for the new parking lot (in development) at 8120 Santa Monica Boulevard, across from the Matthew Shepard Triangle Memorial Park and was referred to staff for potential display at that location.

The Subcommittee recommended approval of Peter Mays' proposal of *cacti* by artist James Peterson which features a series of 6 unique sculptures representing diverse cactus varieties found in California. The sculptures will measure approximately 5-10 feet in height and will be fabricated from stainless steel, translucent colored acrylic, iridescent acrylic, and dichroic films. Each artwork will be illuminated from beneath.

ACTION: Approval of Peter Mays' (Los Angeles Art Association) proposal of *cacti* by artist James Peterson for the Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny Sculpture Park was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commission Chair Lee, and approved.**

Commission Vice Chair Dishman reported that the Subcommittee had also received a presentation on upcoming new bus wraps for the Cityline and Cityline X busses.

D. WeHo Arts: The Plan

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received an update from Cultural Planning Consultant Amanda Carlson on the implementation strategy and annual implementation priorities for *WeHo Arts: The Plan*.

Cultural Planning Consultant Amanda Carlson reminded the Commission to review the current implementation strategy and annual implementation priorities and provide any recommendations to her or to staff.

Ms. Carlson also reminded the Commission that the inaugural WeHo Arts Artist Roundtable will be held on December 6th from 12pm – 1:30pm. She mentioned that representatives from arts organizations in and around West Hollywood will be in attendance, as well as representatives from the Business Development Division of the City of West Hollywood, and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Carlson was pleased to announce that the RSVPs for the Artist Roundtable had reached capacity.

ACTION: Receive and file.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commission Vice Chair Dishman disclosed that he met with Mayor Pro Tem Duran, and other Commission appointees from Mayor Pro Temp Duran, to discuss some of the Mayor Pro Tem's concerns with quality of life issues in the City – specifically, the lack of public restroom facilities for visitor and transient populations in the City. Commission Vice Chair Dishman mentioned that he is working, outside of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, for a way to restart a conversation on street furniture.

Commissioner Rackley mentioned that the Metropolitan Master Chorale has a concert scheduled on December 2nd at the Los Angeles Valley College.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

None.

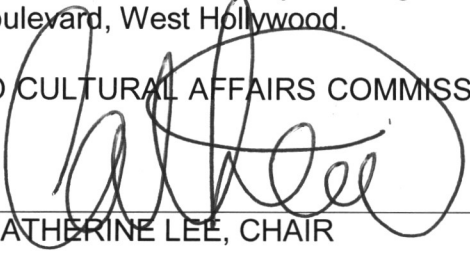
IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission asked staff to agendize a conversation on how the Commission will, in the future, approve artwork for the Sunset Spectacular. The Commission asked staff to develop the rest of the December 21, 2017 meeting agenda as appropriate.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to its adjourned meeting scheduled December 21, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room – West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 21st DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.



CATHERINE LEE, CHAIR

ATTEST:



JOY TRIBBLE,
RECORDING SECRETARY