

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 26, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Madeleine Rackley at 5:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call:

Present: Madeleine Rackley, Vice-Chair
Michael Haibach
Ken Sherman
Whitney Weston
Peter Mays

Excused: Beverly Denenberg
Jon Bailey

Staff Liaison: Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds, Jr.

Also Present: Robert Brugeman, Executive Director Avenues of Art and Design
Laurence Whiting, Vice President Pacific Design Center

B. Posting of the Agenda

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

C. Staff Comments on the Agenda

Staff requested that the Commission consider approval of the January 22, 2009 meeting minutes at the March meeting.

D. Approval of the Agenda – February 26, 2009

Commissioner Haibach moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the February 26, 2009 agenda.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 22, 2009

The Commission will consider approval of the meeting minutes at the March 26th meeting.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was heard from Dan Berkowitz, Co-Chair of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Avenues of Art & Design – Robert Brugeman, Executive Director

The Commission received an introduction to Robert Brugeman, new Executive Director of The Avenues of Art & Design and discussed current and future plans for the Avenues.

Mr. Brugeman spoke on the Avenues of Art & Design in terms of quality, style and experience. He commented that the Avenues of Art & Design is a premier shopping destination for fashionistas and professionals in interior design and the fine arts industry. He also commented on a variety of events sponsored by the Avenues such as its signature Art & Design Walk and Tables of Ten (Dining for a Cause) an event that benefits Inner City Arts whose aim is to enrich the lives of children and bridge the cultural and economic divides between them through a total art program. He inquired with the Commission on how the Avenues could generate or participate in temporary public art installations in the district.

In response to his inquiry, staff commented that they would agendaize discussion of this topic at the March 26, 2009 Art on the Outside Subcommittee.

B. Pacific Design Center – Laurence Whiting, Vice President

The Commission received an introduction to Laurence Whiting, Vice President, Pacific Design Center (PDC) and discussed current and future plans for the PDC.

Mr. Whiting spoke on the PDC as the west coast leading resource for traditional and contemporary designs for professionals in the interior design and home furnishing industries. He commented that the PDC has 120 showrooms and 2,100 interior product lines. He also commented on the PDC's events, programs, design services and amenities that include the Silver Screen Theatre and a community conference room including the construction of the new Red Building. He announced that the PDC has secured a fifteen (15) year lease with the Museum of Contemporary Art and that Westweek would be held March 25-26. Mr. Whiting concluded his comments and expressed interest in continuing its relationship with the City and developing a relationship with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2009-10 Draft Budget

The Commission continued its review of budget estimates for proposed 2009-10 programs and projects.

Andrew Campbell, Arts and Cultural Affairs Administrator, reported that he met with the City 25th Anniversary committee and announced that there might be some funding available.

B. 2009 Reception for the Arts – February 5, 2009

The Commission conducted a debrief on the 2009 Reception for the Arts held February 5, 2009 in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park.

Staff commented that there were approximately 75-100 persons in attendance despite the rain earlier that afternoon.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the event was well received by all in attendance and that setup, music, slide show and presentation of commendations by Mayor Prang was a nice touch. The Commission suggested that staff explore the feasibility of a better venue for the 2010 Reception for the Arts, seek City Council approval on naming the event, provide name tags for all grant recipients and tighten-up all program components and include honorees as a program component.

C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Mays on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee meeting held February 26, 2009.

Commissioner Mays and staff reported that the Subcommittee:

- Received a presentation from the Empty Vase regarding a temporary installation of topiaries on the Santa Monica Boulevard median and approved in concept an exhibition of topiaries with a budget not to exceed \$15,450.
- Received a presentation from Museum of Neon Art regarding a proposed six-month temporary exhibition of neon signs. Staff was directed to investigate the feasibility of a cluster of smaller neon signs for City Hall windows facing Santa Monica Boulevard, explore the possibility of a late October or November installation, and an approved budget not to exceed \$71,000.
- Continued its discussion on Request for Proposals from West Hollywood Galleries for potential sculpture exhibitions on the Santa Monica Boulevard median. The Subcommittee requested that staff explore the feasibility of working with the Los Angeles Arts Association to program site specific art installations throughout the city.
- Continued its discussion of 25th Anniversary and New/Alternate AOTO Projects including: *Museum of Neon Art/Route 66 Project, di Suvero Peace Tower; Artist HA Schult Installation "Trash People" and collaboration with Los Angeles Art Association Gallery 825.*

D. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Subcommittee Chair Madeleine Rackley on their meeting held February 12, 2009.

Commissioner Rackely reported that the Subcommittee:

- Discussed renovation and arts programming plans for Plummer with Recreation staff and learned that the construction at the park would be phased over a period of approximately two-years.
- Received a presentation from Laurence Whiting regarding an eight (8) week run of the theatrical production, "Carved in Stone, scheduled to open at the Theatre Asylum in Hollywood beginning June 5th. Commissioner Weston expressed interest in reviewing materials submitted.
- Received a report from Terry Wolverton regarding the January Pride Month Survey sent to stakeholders and constituents for feedback on past and future Pride Month activities. Based on Ms. Wolverton's recommendation that the Commission develop goals and objectives for Pride Month, it was the consensus of the Subcommittee to schedule a special meeting for that purpose.
- Continued its discussion of Pride Month with Susan Anderson of West Hollywood Library on a proposed live reading series at the library of West Hollywood author and literary professionals.
- Debriefed on Reception for the Arts held February 5th.
- Continued discussion of Special 25th Anniversary Arts Festival.
- Reviewed a preliminary draft of Summer Sounds programming for 2009 that would include concerts at Kings Road Park, Plummer Park, Havenhurst and Formosa Park. Additionally, Classical Theatre Lab will present "Shakespeare in the Park" as part of the Summer Sounds '09.

E. Urban Arts Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Urban Art Subcommittee Chair Michael Haibach on their meeting held February 19, 2009.

Commissioner Haibach reported that at the meeting the Subcommittee:

- Considered a proposed gift to the City of a painting by Austrian born painter and artist Wolfgang Bauer.
- Unanimously approved Stage II – Schematic Plan for the Pavilions Project that will consist of an eight feet high by twenty feet wide ceramic tile wall designed by artist Anne Mare Karlsen.
- Received an update from art consultant Beatrix Barker on the status of the Urban Art Project at 8900 Beverly Boulevard. The Subcommittee learned that the developer decided not to move forward with the approved mosaic tile installation. The developer is now interested in conceptualizing planters as the public art component.

- Received an update from staff on the status of Urban Art Projects under the Subcommittee's oversight including the Eye Flower, Havenhurst Park/Sound Installation, Andaz, Kings Road Park, London, 901 Hancock, 1234 Hayworth and West Hollywood Park Library.
- Discussed the formal process of accepting the gift of a sculpture by artist Leonard Cave from Judith Sobol and reached consensus that the sculpture be placed in storage until a suitable location is identified.
- Received an update from staff on the Percent for Art Ordinance Modification Study.
- Received a report from staff on the Public Art Conservation Program and current actions as follows:
 - 9039 Beverly Boulevard/Bristol Farms-Gifford Myers Sculpture: The company has interviewed conservators to restore the art work.
 - 1014 Hilldale/Serenity Fountain: The fountain is in good working condition. However, the glass fencing a wood frame needs to be refurbished or replaced.
 - Mondrian Hotel/Philip Strack Sculptures: The large Philippe Starck doors at the Mondrian have been restored.
 - 825 Kings Road: The art work will need to be waxed.
 - 310 San Vicente Blvd/ Billy Al Bengston mural: Staff will follow up with cedars on this piece.

Following, Commissioner Haibach moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission ratify the Urban Arts Subcommittee's recommendation to approve Stage II – Schematic Plan to the Urban Art Project at Pavilions.

Commissioner Mays seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Committee Appointments

Andrew Campbell, Arts and Cultural Affairs Administrator commented that the Russian Winter Festival will be held Thursday, March 5th – Saturday, March 7th at the Roxy in West Hollywood and at UCLA. New Russian Cinema at UCLA's The James Bridges Theater will be held from 12 – 8 p.m. He suggested that a Commissioner consider attending the Russian Winter Festival on behalf of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

V. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Vice-Chair Rackley commented that the opening reception for the Eastside Arts Initiative – Go to the Park was a great event.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Sherman requested that the Commission explore the feasibility of moving the Go to the Park exhibition to other parts of the City and requested that staff agendaize it for discussion at the March 26th meeting.

Commissioner Haibach commented that he served on the Veterans Memorial Committee and that the firm Campbell & Campbell was selected to design a water feature for the memorial park. The water feature is estimated at \$175,000 and date of completion is anticipated within the year.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

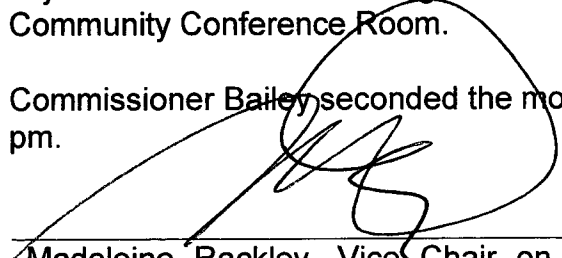
Staff commented that the Havenhurst Park dedication will be Saturday, February 28th.

Mark Arroyo, Economic Development Department Intern, distributed an updated copy of weho.org/art web content.

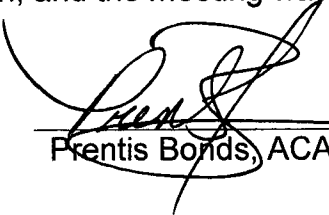
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rackley moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourn to its next meeting scheduled March 26, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Madeleine Rackley, Vice Chair on
behalf of Beverly Denenberg, Chair



Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary