

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Beverly Denenberg at 5:00 p.m.

**A. Roll Call:**

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

Excused: Jon Bailey

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

**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**

There were no comments from staff on the agenda.

**D. Approval of the Agenda – March 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 – FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

Commissioner Sherman moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the February 26, 2009 meeting minutes.

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

**II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was no public comment.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. 2009-10 Draft Budget**

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

Staff proposed a significant decrease in the Arts Grant Program budget by \$40,000.00 and suggested that the Subcommittee discuss goals, objectives and desired results of the program including budget. Staff spoke on the Arts Participation Grant program and proposed a \$5,000.00 increase. Staff also proposed that the Technical Assistance portion of the Arts Grant Program be continued.

Following, Commissioner Haibach moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore funding allocations within the City's Public Arts and Beautification and new funding resources.

Commissioner Rackley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Additionally, Commissioners Rackley, Haibach and Mays were appointed to serve on the ad-hoc committee.

Staff will work on scheduling the meeting.

#### **B. Go to the Park**

The Commission received an update from staff on the Go to the Park temporary public art installation at Plummer Park.

Staff reported that the installation will be extended through April and that postcards of bus shelter art have been printed and distributed.

Commissioner Sherman suggested that the art be relocated to other parts in the City.

In response to Commissioner Sherman's suggestion, staff commented that the aim of the site specific installation was to create an arts presence, increased visibility and provide for attraction opportunities on the City's eastside. Staff also commented on the longevity of the art and that Art on the Outside Committee would report on future art installation and programming possibilities for Plummer Park.

Commissioner Weston suggested that staff consider signage that would help the public experience the art per the artist's vision.

#### **C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee**

The Commission received a report from Subcommittee Chair Beverly Denenberg on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee meeting held March 26, 2009.

Commissioner Denenberg reported that the Subcommittee:

- Discussed potential collaborative projects with Robert Brugeman, Executive Director of the Avenues of Art & Design. It was the consensus of the

Subcommittee that staff review funding resources to provide music at the Annual Art Walk to be held May 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Received an update from staff on the Museum of Neon Art/Route 66 Project for the City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
- Approved AOTO project calendar for 2009 & 2010.
- Continued discussion on a potential collaboration with Los Angeles Art Association/Gallery 825. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that staff explore with the Los Angeles Arts Association a quarterly pilot program that would provide temporary public art installations at Plummer Park and that staff investigate revenue sources. It was also the consensus of the Subcommittee that the Los Angeles Arts Association develop a complete proposal with budget estimates.
- Received an update from staff on the City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and discussed potential new exhibition projects that included:
  - Museum of Neon Art/Route 66 Project – Representatives of the Museum of Neon Art will report back to the Subcommittee on April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting:
  - di Suvero Peace Tower – It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that staff remove this project from consideration due to di Suvero's health issues.
  - Artist HA Schult installation "Trash People" – The Subcommittee concurred with staff's suggestion that this item be removed from consideration. However, it was the consensus of the Subcommittee that staff investigate a similar environmental project of similar scope and focus.

#### **D. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee**

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

Commissioner Rackley reported that the Subcommittee

- unanimously approved co-sponsorship of the following 2009 Pride Month events:
  - "MILK" produced by the City of West Hollywood and PEN at the Pacific Design Center Saturday, June 6.
  - "Play Reading Series" produced by the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights June 10.
  - Choral Workshop and Concert Performance produced by the Gays Men's Chorus of Los Angeles at Fairfax High School June 11.
  - "Out There" a juried one-week exhibition celebrating Pride Month produced by the Los Angeles Arts Association at Gallery 825 June 15 through June 19.
  - "Summer Sounds" featuring Cate Adams in celebration of Pride Month produced by the City of West Hollywood through its Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission June 14 at King Road Park.
  - "Gay Comedy Night" produced by the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission at MACHA Theatre.
  - "James Baldwin – Down from the Mountaintop", an original play by Tony Award nominated actor Calvin Levels produced by the City of West Hollywood and the Gay & Lesbian Center at Ed Gould Plaza June 27, 2009.

- unanimously endorsed of the following 2009 Pride Month events:
  - "Carved in Stone" produced by Laurence Whiting Project opening June 5, 2009 at the Asylum Theatre in Hollywood.
  - "Pat Rocco Exhibition" produced by the One Institute opening June 6, 2009.
  - "Mondo Rocco: A Legacy Salute to Pat Rocco" produced by Outfest opening June 7, 2009 at the Hammer Museum in Westwood.
  - "Upright Cabaret" featuring Shoshanna Bean as Barbara Streisand at the Ford Amphitheatre June 11, 2009.
  - "Dyke March" June 12, 2009.
  - "LA Pride Festival and Parade" produced by Christopher Street West (CSW) June 13 through June 14, 2009.
  - "Legacy Film Festival" produced by Outfest June 17, 2009 at The Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.
  - "Robert Patrick" produced by the One Institute June 21, 2009.
  - "Gay Theatre Symposium" moderated by Sue Hamilton June 23, 2009.

Commissioner Rackley commented that staff will develop a methodology by which to evaluate City sponsored Pride events. She then moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission ratify the Subcommittee's recommendation to endorse City sponsored and endorsed programs and events for Pride Month 2009.

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

Following, Commissioner Rackley moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission ratify the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve 2009 Summer Sounds Arts programming as detailed in the handout provided by staff.

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

Finally, Commissioner Rackley moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission appropriate \$25,000 from the Commission's 2009-10 Budget specially for the Cornerstone theatrical/musical project.

Commission Weston seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **E. Urban Art Subcommittee**

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

Commissioner Haibach reported that the Subcommittee:

- Received a progress report from staff on accepting the gift of a Leonard Cave sculpture from donor Judith Sobal. It was reported that the City has contracted with a vendor to install the art in Kings Road Park.

- Debriefed on the 901 Hancock Project. It was reported that the developer opted to pay the in-lieu fee rather than install on-site art due to financial constraints and increasing costs.
- Received status report from staff on Urban Art Projects under the Subcommittee's oversight as follows:
  - **8900 Beverly:** It was reported that as a result of conversations with art consultant Beatrix Barker a non-compliance letter will not be sent to the developer of this project. The developer will initiate an artist/developer agreement pursuant to the City's Urban Art Policy and Guidelines and the art consultant will make subsequent presentations on this project.
  - **Havenhurst Park Art Project:** "With an Ear to the Earth" sound sculpture by Steve Roden has been installed and is working properly.
  - **Andaz Hotel:** Plaque and art covenant pending.
  - **King Road Park:** Bronze Dodge House Relief scheduled to be installed by summer 2009.
  - **London Hotel:** The art component consisting of a stylized gate is being fabricated.
  - **The Lot:** No new information on this project
  - **Pavilions:** Project is in construction. It is anticipated that the art consisting of a tile wall would be installed late summer/early fall.
  - **612 & 616 N. Croft:** No new information on this project.
  - **8833 Cynthia:** "Cynthia Palm" sculpture has been installed. Plaque and art covenant pending.
  - **1137 Hacienda Place:** No new information on this project.
  - **Walgreen's mix use project:** Environmental Impact Report required for this development.
  - **Pacific Design Center Red Building:** It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that staff write an "invitation to meet" letter to the expeditors for this project and inform them of their options pursuant to the City's Urban Art Ordinance.

#### IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Commissioner Denenberg spoke on the installation of incoming Mayor Councilmember Abbe Land on April 20<sup>th</sup> at West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

#### V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Rackley announced that the Hollywood Master Chorale will hold its LA Composers Concert II Sunday, April 19, 2009 at Congregation Kol Ami.

Commissioner Mays announced that the Los Angeles Arts Association will host its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Weston announced Greenway Arts Alliance upcoming show "Luminous Birch" that will open Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Greenway Court Theatre.

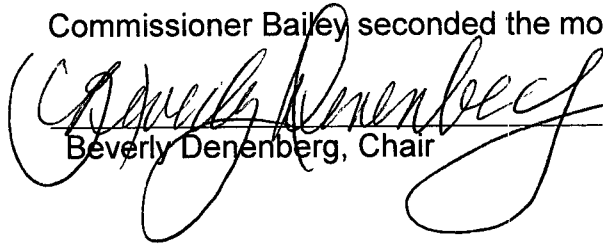
**VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no additional items from staff.

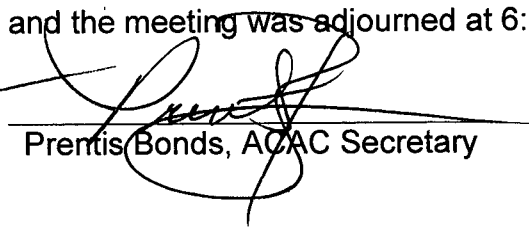
**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Denenberg moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourn to its next meeting scheduled April 23, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.



Beverly Denenberg, Chair



Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary