

City of West Hollywood  
**ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 25, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Beverly Denenberg at 5:05 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

Present: Beverly Denenberg, Chair  
Ken Sherman, Vice Chair  
Madeleine Rackley  
Jon Bailey  
Whitney Weston  
Peter Mays

Excused: Michael Haibach

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

Also present: Jonathan Pope Evans, Instructor at Cal State Los Angeles Department of Communication Studies  
Mark Arroyo, Economic Development Department Intern

**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 staff comments on the agenda. However, staff introduced Mark Arroyo Economic Development Department Intern who will be assisting the Arts and Cultural Affairs Administrator with various arts and cultural related projects.

**D. Approval of the Agenda – September 25, 2008**

Commissioner Rackley moved that the ACAC approve the September 25, 2008 meeting agenda.

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 28, 2008**

The Commission noted one correction to the minutes of August 28<sup>th</sup> under New Business Item IV-B – ACAC Subcommittee Structure. The word "Chair" should follow Commissioner Madeleine Rackley's name. Commissioner Rackley is the Chair of the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee.

Following Commissioner Bailey moved that the ACAC approve the August 28, 2008 meeting minutes.

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

## **II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Public comment was heard from Dan Berkowitz, West Hollywood resident and member of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB). Mr. Berkowitz informed the Commission that the LGAB established an events subcommittee that has expressed interest in collaborating with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission on a project with regards to gay culture and its contributions.

The chair deferred his suggested item to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. October, November and December Meeting Dates**

The Commission considered changing meeting dates for the months of October, November and December 2008 in order to accommodate a special study session, the Arts Grant Review process, and the upcoming holiday schedule as follows:

#### **October**

- Tuesday, October 7 – 5 pm: PACA Subcommittee (usual business)
- Wednesday, October 22 – 6-9 pm: ACAC facilitated Study Session on Pride
- Thursday, October 23 – 5 pm: special PACA Subcommittee (review Arts Grant panel scores and funding scenarios)
- Thursday, October 30 – 3:30 pm: Art on the Outside Subcommittee
- Thursday, October 30 – 5:00 pm: Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

#### **November**

- Thursday, November 6 – 5:00 pm: PACA Subcommittee
- Thursday, November 13 – 5:00 pm: Urban Art Subcommittee
- Thursday, November 20 – 3:30 pm: Art on the Outside Subcommittee
- Thursday, November 20 – 5:00 pm: Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

#### **December**

- Thursday, December 4 – 5:00 p.m: PACA Subcommittee
- Thursday, December 11 – 5:00 pm: Urban Art Subcommittee
- Thursday, December 18 – 3:30 pm: Art on the Outside Subcommittee
- Thursday, December 18 – 5:00 pm: Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission

Following, it the consensus of the Commission to meet in October as proposed. However, for the months of November and December several commissioners had scheduling conflicts. Therefore, staff was directed to revise the meeting schedule as appropriate. It was suggested that the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee consider meeting December 11 and that the Urban Arts Subcommittee consider meeting December 17. Staff will work on rescheduling and confirming meeting dates.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Arts Participation Grant**

The Commission reviewed the Arts Participation Grant Application submitted by Jonathan Pope Evans, instructor at Cal State Los Angeles Department of Communication Studies. The application detailed a student film project intended to celebrate and/or capture the essence of West Hollywood in a one minute film for presentation on the Sunset Boulevard Videotrons from October through November 2008. The Commission also considered awarding an grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to support this project.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve an art grant award in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Cal State Los Angeles Department of Communication Studies to support the student film project.

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

##### **B. 2008-2009 ACAC Retreat**

The Commission received a brief update from staff on the 2008-2009 Retreat scheduled Sunday, October 12, 2008.

Staff commented that the retreat will be held at the Le Montrose Suites Hotel from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The retreat will be facilitated by Terry Wolverton and agenda items include:

- Mission Statement
- Review of 2007-2009 ACAC Work Plan & 2007-2008 Accomplishments
- Work Plan Development
- Governance

Staff also commented that valet parking and lunch will be provided.

##### **C. City of West Hollywood 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

There was no report on this item.

##### **D. General Plan Update**

The Commission discussed the General Plan presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Commission and Boards. Overall, the Commission felt that the plan was poorly presented and lacked cultural content. It was suggested that the Commission consider writing a letter to the Mayor and members of the City Council with regards to cultural content in the general plan.

Following, staff suggested that Franci Stephan, Senior Planner in the Planning Division and General Plan Administrator be invited to a subsequent meeting of the Commission to discuss the General Plan and cultural content.

The Commission concurred with staff's suggestion.

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

The Commission received a report from Art on the Outside Subcommittee Chair Beverly Denenberg on their meeting held September 25, 2008. At the meeting, the Subcommittee:

- Received an update from Merry Norris and staff on the status of the Peter Shire Sculpture Project and considered recommending to the Commission that this exhibition be extended.
- Approved the student film project for presentation on the Sunset Video Billboard (*as reported under Unfinished Business Item IV-A – Arts Participation Grant*).
- Reviewed and approved the revised Request for Proposal letter and strategy for soliciting sculpture exhibitions from West Hollywood art galleries in conjunction with the Art on the Outside Program. The AOTO will review a list of West Hollywood Galleries at their October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Received an update from staff on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and discussed potential new exhibition projects including, Museum of Neon Art exhibition, Peace Tower, Trash People and a potential collaboration with Los Angeles Art Association/Gallery 825.

Following, Commissioner Bailey moved that the ACAC ratify the Art on the Outside's recommendation at the student film project be installed on the Sunset Videotron from October – November 2008.

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

The Commission received a report from Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Chair Madeleine Rackley on their meeting held September 11, 2008. At the meeting, the Subcommittee:

- Approved a recommendation that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve an Arts Participation Grant award in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Cal State University Los Angeles Communication Studies Department to support the student film project (*as reported under Unfinished Business Item IV-A – Arts Participation Grant*).
- Received an update from staff regarding their discussion with Gregory Cherninsky's concerning his proposal to re-establish a West Hollywood Symphony Orchestra and reached consensus that no further discussion/action is required on this item.
- Received update and collateral from staff concerning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of California Poets.
- Received a report from staff that twenty-three (23) arts grant applications were submitted by the application deadline including three Russian speaking arts organizations that participated in the highly successful technical assistance program.
- Discussed 2010 Arts Grant Program and continued its discussion on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Projects.

- Authorized staff to select five (5) panelists based on expertise and arts discipline to conduct a peer review of the arts grant applications on October 15.

Following Commissioner Weston moved that the ACAC ratify the PACA's recommendation to approve a list of potential arts grant peer reviewers and authorize staff to select five (5) panelists based on expertise and arts discipline.

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

#### **G. Urban Arts Subcommittee**

The Commission received a report from Urban Art Subcommittee Beverly Denenberg on their meeting held September 18. At the meeting the Subcommittee:

- Met with members of the Public Facilities Commission regarding a plaque commemorating the location of the first same-sex marriages in West Hollywood and reached consensus that the plaque be temporarily installed on the green space near the entrance of the park and that staff explore concept possibilities and seek cost proposals from various fabricators.
- Approved Stage II – Schematic Plan for the Urban Art Project at the London West Hollywood for ratification by the ACAC on September 25. The art will consist of a gothic, non-articulating, ¼" bronze gate detailed with traditional stone routing.
- Approved Stage II – Schematic Plan for the Urban Art Project in Formosa Park for ratification by the ACAC on September 25. The art will consist of a sculptural tree fabricated out of a dense web of cooper rods.
- Reviewed a draft of a letter to be sent to owners of public art works in the City and reached consensus on directing staff to re-examine the tone and intent of the letter.
- Approved Stage I – Artist Selection of Marie Karlsen for the Urban Art Project at Pavilions for ratification by the ACAC on September 25.

Following, Commissioner Sherman moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission ratify recommendations by the Urban Arts Subcommittee to approve Stage II – Schematic Plan for the Urban Arts Project at the London and Formosa Park and Stage I – Artist Selection of Marie Karlsen for the Urban Art Project at Pavilions.

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

#### **H. Work Plan FY 2007-2008**

The Commission continued to monitor its work plan with regards to:

- **Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment** – There was no report on this item.
- **Arts Public Relations Initiative** – Staff is in the process of reformatting the document pursuant to comments received from Subcommittee Chairs.

- **Arts Funding Initiative** – This item will be agendized for discussion at the ACAC Retreat.
- **Eastside Arts Initiative** – The Request for Qualification (RFQ) has been issued and is available at [www.weho.org/art](http://www.weho.org/art). An application workshop will be held October 4 at Plummer Park and the submission deadline is October 20 no later than 5 p.m. It is anticipated that the art will be installed February 2009.
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Initiative** – There was no report on this item.

#### **I. Committee Appointments**

There were no committee appointments made at this meeting.

#### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

Commissioner Denenberg reminded commissioners that the Commission Congress will be held Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and that she would not be able to attend. However, Commissioner Rackley will present on behalf of ACAC.

#### **V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Bailey requested that staff provide the Commission with an update on the Eye Flower Sculpture.

Staff informed the Commission that the developer is in the process of re-accessing its development plans.

Commissioner Mays complimented Commissioner Rackley on her presentation at the Annual Congress of Commissions and Boards.

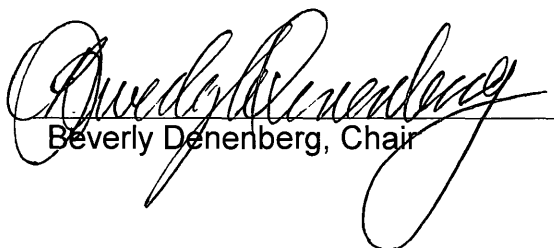
#### **VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

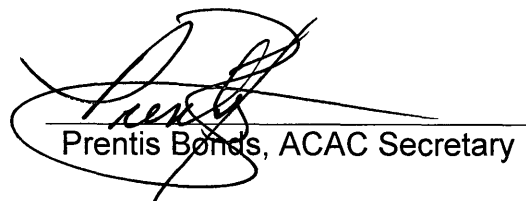
There were no items from staff.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourn to its next meeting scheduled October 30, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

  
Beverly Denenberg, Chair

  
Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary