

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 30, 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
Madeleine Rackley, Vice Chair
Michael Haibach
Ken Sherman
Jon Bailey
Whitney Weston
Peter Mays

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

Also present: Francie Stefan, Senior Planner, Planning Division
Bianca Siegl, Associate Planner, Planning Division

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 suggested that the Commission consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee to award arts grants to organizations under Item III F – Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.

The Commission concurred.

D. Approval of the Agenda – October 30, 2008

Commissioner Rackley moved that the ACAC approve the October 30, 2008 meeting agenda.

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Commissioner Haibach noted two typographical corrections to the minutes of September 25, 2008.

Following, Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC approve the September 25, 2008 meeting minutes as amended.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

III. Unfinished Business

A. General Plan Update

The Commission received a presentation from Francie Stefan, Senior Planner in the City's Planning Division, concerning the inclusion of arts and culture in the General Plan.

Ms. Stefan commented that the General Plan is a long-term policy document that balances the commercial, residential and development needs of the community. She reported that Phase I focused on large and problematic issues such as land use and affordable housing and that Phase I had been completed. During Phase I, members of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission were interviewed along with other arts professionals. She commented that out of the General Plan would emerge more focused short-term umbrella policy documents such as an Arts and Culture Element that would address arts and cultural needs of the Community. She also reported that the next nine (9) months would be the most critical and that January would be an opportune time to review a very preliminary draft of the General Plan. In conclusion, Ms. Stefan distributed examples of Arts and Culture Element for the District of Columbia and for the City of Palm Desert.

The Chair thanked Ms. Stefan for updating the Commission on the status of the General Plan and how arts and culture will be incorporated into the plan. She also thanked her for providing samples of other cities arts and culture element.

B. November and December Meeting Dates

The Commission considered changes in meeting dates for the month of November and December 2008 as follows:

November

- Wednesday, November 5 – 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

- Wednesday, December 3 – 5:00 pm: 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

F. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Chair Madeleine Rackley on their special meeting held October 23rd. At the meeting the Subcommittee:

- Met with Dan Berkowitz, Co-Chair of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board to discuss possible collaborative projects with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission throughout the 2009 calendar year.
- Reached consensus on agendizing an in-depth discussion on the direction of Pride Month for the November 5th meeting.
- Reached consensus on next steps in exploring the feasibility of creating a Special 25th Anniversary Arts Festival and directed staff to agendize a meeting with Aaron Paley, president and cofounder of Community Arts Resources.
- Continued to monitor its work plan and reached consensus on work plan priorities. Pride Month will be the Subcommittee's first priority followed by the Arts Grant Program, Summers Sounds and 25th Anniversary Projects that may include an arts festival.
- Approved the following recommendations for review and approval by the ACAC:

Live Arts Group	\$5,000.00
Gay Mens Chorus of Los Angeles	\$2,500.00
Los Angeles Art Association	\$4,800.00
SASSASS	\$3,500.00
Hollywood Master Chorale	\$4,800.00
Greenway Arts Alliance	\$4,800.00
Vox Femina	\$3,800.00
Museum of Contemporary Art	\$4,600.00
LA Contemporary Dance Company	\$4,600.00
United Arts Academy	\$4,500.00
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra	\$1,800.00
Great Leap, Inc.	\$3,900.00
MAK Center	\$4,400.00
Highway Performance Space	\$4,300.00
Celebration Theatre	\$4,300.00
DMG Music Association Inc.	\$4,200.00
Macha Theatre/Films	\$4,200.00

Following, Commissioner Rackley moved that the ACAC ratify arts grant awards recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee with the exception of Los Angeles Art Association, Hollywood Master Chorale, Greenway Arts Alliance and Vox Femina due to potential conflict of interest with these arts organizations and recommended that staff forward all funding recommendations to the City Council for final approval.

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

Commissioners Mays and Bailey were recused from the meeting in order for the Commission to consider awarding arts grants to Los Angeles Art Association and Vox Femina.

Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC approve an arts grant award in the amount of \$4,800 to the Los Angeles Art Association and an arts grant in the amount of \$3,800 to Vox Femina.

Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioners Mays and Bailey returned to the dais and Commissioners Rackley and Weston were recused from the meeting in order for the Commission to consider awarding arts grants to Hollywood Master Chorale and Greenway Arts Alliance.

Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC approve arts grants awards in the amount of \$4,800 to the Hollywood Master Chorale and Greenway Arts Alliance.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioners Rackley and Weston returned to the dais.

Following, staff informed the Commission that City Council will consider approval of the 2009 Arts Grant Awards on Monday, November 17, 2008.

G. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Urban Art Subcommittee Chair Michael Haibach on their meeting held October 30, 2008. At the meeting, the Subcommittee:

- Approved the layout and text for a 18" x 24" cast bronze plaque featuring two interlinking, gold wedding bands under a quote by Nelson Mandela to commemorate the location of the first same-sex marriages in West Hollywood. The plaque would be installed on the streetscape wall in front of the auditorium.
- Met with Gail Goldman, Public Art Consultant and discussed priorities, issues and work plan objectives with regard to the Percent for Art Ordinance Modification Study.
- Received an update from staff on Public Art Conservation Program and current actions. Staff will mail compliance letters to the "owner of record" or the homeowners association mid-November.
- Approved Stage III – Final Plan for the Urban Art Project at the London West Hollywood with a direction that the art consultant, artist and the London, implement enhanced lighting and theft prevention mechanisms.

Following, Commissioner Denenberg moved that the ACAC ratify the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve Stage III – Final Plan for the Urban Art Project at the London West Hollywood.

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

H. Work Plan FY 2007-2008

The Commission continued to monitor its work plan and provide direction on strategic planning with respect to:

- **Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment** – There was no report on this item.
- **Arts Public Relations Initiative** – Staff reported that progress is being made on this initiative based on comments it received from Subcommittee Chairs. Staff will present the public relations, communications and marketing strategy at the December or January meeting.
- **Arts Funding Initiative** – There was no report on this item. However, this item was discussed at the ACAC Retreat held October 12th.
- **Eastside Arts Initiative** – Commissioner Mays reported that the Eastside Arts Committee met twice and reviewed forty-six (46) submissions in response to the City's Request for Proposal. He also reported that there were some exciting, nonconventional approaches to public art by individual artists and artist teams. The Committee will conduct interviews with a short list of artists in November. It is anticipated that the art project entitled "To the Park" would be installed in February 2009.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

There was no report from the Chair.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Weston announced Greenway Arts Alliance new play "Good Bobby" that will open October 17th.

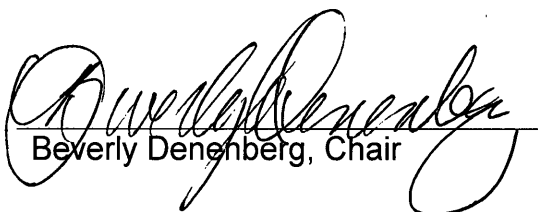
VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

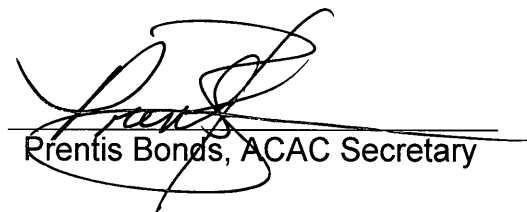
There were no items from staff.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rackley moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourn to its next meeting scheduled November 20, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.


Beverly Deneberg, Chair


Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary