

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Chair, Lyn DeShields at 5:04 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present: Lyn DeShields, Chair
Beverly Denenberg, Vice Chair
Michael J. Haibach
Ken Sherman
Madeleine Rackley
Whitney Weston

Excused: Jon Bailey

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

Also present: Maria Luisa de Herrera, Art Consultant
Dan Corson, Artist

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

Commissioner Rackley moved to approve the September 27 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER

Commissioner Denenberg moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2007.

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

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was heard from West Hollywood resident and Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board member Dan Berkowitz who spoke on Dramageddon, a series of

writing workshops to be held Friday, October 5 through Sunday October 7 at the Joshua Levin Theatre West in Los Angeles. The workshops are sponsored in part by The Dramatists Guild of America and hosted by Loyola Marymount University Departments of English and Theatre and Dance.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Art on the Outside – Winter 2007-2008 Light Project

Commissioner Denenberg introduced the item announcing that the Peace Tower project will be delayed. However, it is anticipated that the project will be realized in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

The Commission then received a PowerPoint presentation from art consultant Maria Luisa de Herrera and artist Dan Corson on an expanded concept and design for the Winter 2007-2008 Light Project.

Mr. Corson proposed two light sculptures fabricated out of electroluminescent wire (EL wire). The first sculpture to be installed on the median strip at the Santa Monica Boulevard/Dohney intersection, resembled a vortex spiraling upward twenty-three feet and open at each end. The art would be suspended approximately eleven feet above street grade and supported by three poles. It is anticipated that pedestrians standing directly under the sculpture would experience a fluid motion of being drawn into space. The second sculpture, marginally smaller, resembling a teardrop, would be installed just east of the intersection. Each sculpture would be painted green and striped with black. He noted that the color and intensity of the illumination might be an issue and indicated that he would research the availability of alternative colors should this be the case. He noted that the art will have a daytime presence as well.

Following, the Commission discussed the disadvantages of installing the art during the holiday season and the project budget. They expressed concerns that the sculptures would appear to be an extension of holiday decorations thus lessening the impact of the exhibition. Therefore, it was the consensus of the Commission to install the art in January 2008. Concerning the budget, Commissioner Denenberg commented that the budget will need to be revised. She noted that fabrication costs and installation expenses are more than previously anticipated.

Staff commented that \$85,000.00 has been budgeted for the light project and that staff will work with members of the Art on the Outside Subcommittee and the art consultant to define the budget and timeline for discussion at the October 25 meeting.

B. Fiesta Hall Renovation Project Update

The Commission received an update from staff about the Fiesta Hall renovation project. In brief, City Council approved a contract in the amount of \$439,208 with d'Escoto West, Inc. for phase one of the project. \$353,000 of this contract is from special state funds. Renovations include theatrical lighting, sound and audio visual enhancements as well as Americans with Disabilities Act improvements. The City has also contracted with Armstrong and Associates for

architectural design services. It is anticipated that these initial renovations will take approximately three months.

A steering committee comprised of representatives from the ACAC, Human Services Commission, Planning Commission, Senior Advisory Board, Russian Advisory Board and the Disability Advisory Board will be established to guide the larger renovation process. The ACAC will have an opportunity to provide input during the pre-design, schematic and design development phases of the project.

C. ACAC Subcommittee Structure

The Commission reviewed ACAC subcommittees and their membership as follows:

Art on the Outside Subcommittee

- Beverly Denenberg, Chair
- Lyn DeShields
- Ken Sherman

Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

- Jon Bailey, Chair
- Lyn DeShields
- Madeleine Rackley

Urban Arts Subcommittee

- Michael Haibach, Chair
- Beverly Denenberg
- Ken Sherman

Book Fair Liaison

- Whitney Weston

Eastside Arts Initiative

- Beverly Denenberg
- Ken Sherman
- Whitney Weston
- Jon Bailey (Alternate)

In the future, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission can anticipate representation on the following committees:

- Sunset Strip Museum Project
- Fiesta Hall Renovation Steering Committee
- Illuminations Event Steering Committee
- Children's Roundtable Liaison
- 25th Anniversary Committee

Following, Commissioner Denenberg moved to approve the 2007-2008 Subcommittee structure.

Commissioner Haibach seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Rackley on behalf of the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on their meeting held September 19. At the meeting, the subcommittee discussed Mayor Pro Tempore Jeffrey Prang's proposal to develop a partnership with Fairfax Adult School to provide instrumental performance classes and a concert band for non-professional musicians. As a result of their discussion, the subcommittee directed staff to provide them with information on existing music education/performance opportunities available to adults who wish to continue their music education for review at the November meeting. The subcommittee also discussed cultural programming opportunities to enhance the celebration 'Pride' in West Hollywood with Dirk Dehner of the Tom of Finland Foundation and Chris Clarkin of the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that community partners and collaborations between the public and private sector to realize a variety of cultural events will be imperative as well as the importance of inclusiveness and possibly a broader definition of Pride. Additionally, the subcommittee received a memorandum from staff detailing specifics of the 2008 Arts Grant program. Twenty-eight arts organizations submitted an application for funding consideration. Arts disciplines represented included arts education, dance, literature/poetry, music, video/film/multi-media and multi-disciplinary programs. The subcommittee and two guest reviewers will assist the subcommittee with the grant review process on October 11. In closing, Commissioner Rackley reported that they received a letter from the Gay Men's Chorus declining the Arts Grant award for 2007 with expressed regrets for not being able to secure a suitable venue in West Hollywood for their proposed project.

E. Urban Art Subcommittee

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Haibach on behalf of the Urban Art Subcommittee on their meeting held September 20. The Commission also reviewed concept drawings, photographs of recommended artist works and proposed locations for the art relative to the Formosa Park Project. He reported that Commissioner Gregory Woodell of the Public Facilities Commission was also present at the meeting.

At the meeting, the subcommittee received a presentation from art consultant Beatrix Barker on proposed project artists for the Formosa Park project located at 1140 Formosa Avenue. Potential artists included Freya Bardell, Steve Glassman and Karl Saliter. As a result, the subcommittee unanimously approved Karl Saliter who creates original abstract stone pieces ranging in size from intimate indoor to monumental works as the artist for this project. The subcommittee also reviewed and discussed procedural scenarios for notification and compliance for public art works rated priority 1 and missing art identified in the Public Art Conservation Study Report. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed the City's De-Accession Procedures and Policies. Staff was directed to make language changes to both documents. Commissioner Haibach concluded his report with a request that the Commission ratify the subcommittee's recommendation to approve Karl Saliter as the project artist for the Formosa Park Project.

Commissioner Sherman moved that the ACAC approve artist Karl Saliter for the Formosa Park Project.

Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no additional items from the Chair.

V. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

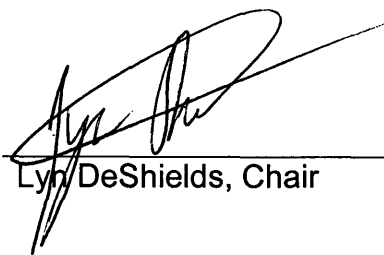
Commissioner Weston commented that Greenway Arts Alliance received four Ovation Awards for their production of "Bad Hurt on Cedar Street". She also announced their new production of the Darin Dahms and Soenke Weiss play "Butterflies of Uganda – Memories of a Child Soldier".

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

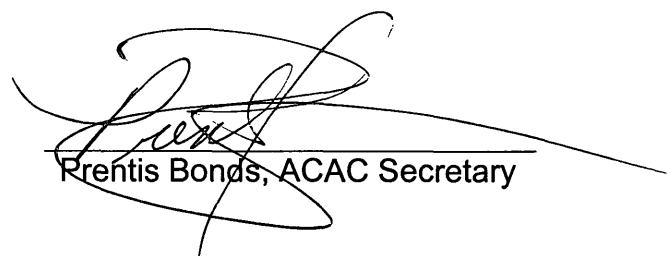
Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator and Staff Liaison to the ACAC reminded the Commission that the Annual Congress of Commissions and Boards will be held Saturday, October 13 at Plummer Park. He spoke concerning the 25th Anniversary Arts Initiative that the City has yet to establish a Committee to plan the City 25th Anniversary. However, information concerning the formation of the establishment of an ad hoc committee will be forthcoming. He also informed the Commission that the October 18 special meeting of the ACAC will not be necessary as anticipated. He informed the Commission that he will have ample time to prepare the grant staff report to City Council following the October 25 Commission meeting. He concluded his items announcing that the City will host an informational meeting concerning the California Data Project Wednesday November 14, 2007.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled October 25, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room.



Lyn DeShields, Chair



Prentis Bonds, ACAC Secretary