



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SPROTT called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONERS KLEVEN, TUPAZ, KARPEL (via teleconference), PACHECO, STRAUS (via teleconference), and HAYNES-HAMBLEN

EXCUSED: CHAIR BRIARE and COMMISSIONERS TRIMBLE, CURRAN, LOWDEN, and GUSTAFSON

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, VAL STEED, Deputy City Attorney V, and ASHLEY FOSTER, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2021

Motion made by Sandy Karpel to Approve

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

For-Ally Haynes-Hamblen, David Tupaz, John Pacheco, Mickey Sprott, Sandy Karpel, David Straus, Jennifer Kleven; Excused-Jim Briare, John Trimble, Paul Lowden, John Curran, Heidi Gustafson;

5. Report by Jim Briare, Arts Commission Chair, regarding monthly summary of current initiatives, cultural events and opportunities – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR SPROTT reviewed the list of cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the 2021 Blue Grass Festival, StorySlam: Pet Peeves, Introduction to Recording with Ableton Live Virtual Course Series, an evening of artist receptions at Las Vegas City Hall, the 2021 DjangoVegas! Jazz Festival, and the Pandemic Inspiration Exhibit. She provided some of the details regarding the event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ announced information regarding the biggest Las Vegas Art Walk, which will gather over 100 local and 50 international artists and will cover every major street within Tivoli Village. It is sponsored by ART 2 art Gallery, will begin at 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on June 5th, and is free to the public. More information can be found art2artgallery.com.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN stated that The Neon Museum will host its Scholars in Residence Lecture on May 26th via Zoom. This year's Scholar in Residence is DR. SUE FAWN CHUNG who will present a lecture titled Sinology and Sin City: A Brief History of the Chinese in Las Vegas. Information can be found at neonmuseum.org.

VICE CHAIR SPROTT noted there will be a temporary public art exhibit at the Wetlands Park, which will run from the second week in June through the first week in July. Fourteen artists have been selected and will be compensated \$1,000 each to create something specific for this exhibit.

6. Report by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding monthly summary of current initiatives – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup. MS. HOLDEN noted that a copy of the monthly Staff Report included in the backup and was provided to the Commissioners.

Arts District Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO stated that the Department of Building and Safety has approved the off-site permit application for Emergent. The artist team, YASMINA CHAVEZ and JAVIER SANCHEZ, are working with local fabricator, JOEL SPENCER, to build the sculpture. The installation date is tentatively set for the end of June 2021, and a special inspection is scheduled for the beginning of June after which a final date will be provided.

Celebrating Life! 2021 Juried Art Exhibit – MS. HOLDEN announced that 94 submissions were received for the exhibition, which is open to active adults age 50 or better. She reviewed the dates and locations of the Reception and Awards Ceremony, Celebrating Life! 2021 Juried Art Exhibition, Salon des Refuses Exhibition, and Winners Circle, which are included in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Maintenance and Conservation – The Office of Cultural Affairs conducts regular condition and inventory reports of items in the public art collection. Staff is currently undergoing its annual inventory report, which includes a little over 1,000 pieces of artwork. These inventory reports are used to generate a listing of maintenance and conservation efforts needed. The public is encouraged to reach out with any maintenance, conservation, graffiti concerns, or general collections care items relating to the public art collection at the e-mail address publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov. Featured on the PowerPoint presentation slide was Las Vegas Canyon Alley Steel by LETHA WILSON, which was installed in the Downtown T-Alley Project in September of 2020. MS. HOLDEN pointed out that someone graffitied the sculpture after which another individual tried to clean the marking with a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. Staff visited the artwork twice to remove the original graffiti and to paint the concrete around the area. She emphasized that the best way to address any maintenance concerns is to reach out to staff. MS. MACHADO added that a private developer needs to perform utility work under the sculpture, and staff is working with this developer to temporarily move the artwork. Staff hoped to have the sculpture reinstalled in the fall of 2021.

MS. HOLDEN said 50 pieces of art were retrieved from the Development Services Center and have been inventoried. Staff was excited to have the pieces framed and displayed at City facilities. Additionally, the Nautilus mural by Larger than Life Murals, located at the Municipal Pool, is undergoing restoration, which will be a multiphase approach.

Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO indicated that the Request for Qualifications for the two-dimensional work of art was issued and has since closed. Twenty submissions were received. An independent evaluation panel selected four semi-finalists to present proposals, and then a finalist was selected. Once an artist-agreed Artistic Services Contract is in place, staff will share the finalist information with the Arts Commission for review.

Another project will be for the Municipal Courthouse's entryway. The Request for Qualifications was issued,

and 17 submissions were received. An independent evaluation panel has selected three semi-finalists to present proposals, and presentations will be held on July 14th at the Historic Fifth Street School. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend the meeting and provide feedback.

Additionally, she noted that an extensive budget was proposed for artwork on the exterior of the Municipal Courthouse. In reviewing the project plan, it was determined that, due to a lack of space, the proposed project will be moved to the Civic Plaza across from City Hall. In response to a query by COMMISSIONER KLEVEN, MS. MACHADO indicated that the \$810,000 allocation was specifically earmarked and is encumbered for this project. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN added that the Percent for the Arts Fund is a special revenue fund that rolls over each year. The Percent for the Arts Fund transfer occurs annually based upon the Capital Improvement Fund budget allocated by the City's budget process; therefore, the amount in the Percent for the Arts Fund will increase, and the Arts Commission will not miss out on a transfer because there are funds already in that account. She clarified that the Percent for the Arts Fund ordinance states that the account cannot have more than \$1 million of undesignated funds at any one time; however, when the Arts Commission votes to designate funding towards a project, and/or when funds are encumbered towards a project, that serves as designated funding.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule – MS. HOLDEN highlighted several upcoming dates noting the next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m. There will be no meeting or subcommittee meeting during July. In August, while the Arts Commission itself is dark, the Public Art Advisory Subcommittee will meet at 3:30 p.m. She anticipated that this meeting may be long as the Subcommittee will review and vet potential project proposals and will present their recommendations to the Arts Commission for project allocations.

The Westside Will Rise Again Mural Project – This project was unveiled on Saturday, May 15th at 12:00 p.m. and COURTNEY HAYWOOD, the artist, was presented with a certificate. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked for the location of the mural, which MS. HOLDEN provided to her.

VICE CHAIR SPROTT thanked staff for the report.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the acceptance of a donation of artwork, titled "The Last Drop" by Sierra Slentz to the City's permanent artwork collection (No Fiscal Impact) – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, noted that a copy of the Staff Report detailing The Last Drop, which was submitted and attached as backup, was provided to the Commissioners. She read from the Staff Report providing a brief background on SIERRA SLENTZ, the artist, whose work is informed by her interest in geological formations, archeological finds, and her time spent in the desert observing life cycles and urban sprawl. She was an artist in resident in 2013 at the P3 Studios, and her work is part of the permanent collection at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. MS. SLENTZ works and lives in downtown Las Vegas, and is a full-time instructor at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. This artwork is approximately eight inches by 22 inches by 10 inches and is valued at \$800. It has been on loan with the City of Las Vegas through the gallery program and MS. SLENTZ would like to donate it. Staff did not anticipate that any additional funds would be needed in order to support the ongoing display of the sculpture and recommended accessioning the piece into the permanent artwork collection.

VICE CHAIR SPROTT commented that MS. SLENTZ is a fixture in the arts community and understood acceptance of the sculpture; however, she believed there needs to be a mission statement that helps the Arts Commission decide on pieces in order to provide an equitable reason for acceptance into the collection. She also wished for staff to consider how many pieces an artist can donate. COMMISSIONER PACHECO agreed it was a good idea to have a mission statement and was not too pleased by this particular piece.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked if the piece will remain on view in City Hall if accepted into the permanent artwork collection. MS. HOLDEN replied in the affirmative noting it is always subject to being relocated.

COMMISSIONER KARPEL commented that the fact that there is no cost to the City to maintain it and the artist depicts Nevada, she saw no downside to accepting the sculpture. She also agreed with the comments made regarding a mission statement.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Accept

Passed For: 6; Against: 1; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 5

For-Ally Haynes-Hamblen, David Tupaz, Mickey Sprott, Sandy Karpel, David Straus, Jennifer Kleven; Against-John Pacheco; Excused-Jim Briare, John Trimble, Paul Lowden, John Curran, Heidi Gustafson;

8. **Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items.** Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members shall refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion shall be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Commission and/or whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN requested a budget review at the next meeting. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, confirmed this could be done.

VICE CHAIR SPROTT discussed with MS. HOLDEN each subcommittee meeting at least once annually and wished to have a schedule presented at a future meeting. MS. HOLDEN confirmed with CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED that an e-mail could be sent to subcommittee members requesting confirmation of those dates.

9. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

Ally Haynes-Hamblen, Director
Office of Cultural Affairs

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov