



## Arts Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR BRIARE called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR BRIARE and COMMISSIONERS SPROTT (excused until 4:01 p.m.), KLEVEN, TUPAZ, TRIMBLE, KARPEL (via teleconference), CURRAN (excused until 4:00 p.m.), PACHECO, STRAUS (via teleconference), and HAYNES-HAMBLÉN

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER LOWDEN

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I, 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: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue

### 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 May 20, 2021

Motion made by John Pacheco to Approve

NOTE: Chair Briare abstained from voting on this item as he was not present at that meeting.

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

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

Minutes:

CHAIR BRIARE reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: a Juneteenth celebration at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 2021 DjangoVegas! Jazz Festival, NIMA ABKENAR'S 160 SQF, The 211 Project exhibition, the Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project artist proposal

presentations, Diaspora, curated by GIG DePIO, and the Pandemic Inspiration! exhibition. He provided some of the details regarding the event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists.

COMMISSIONER CURRAN announced the opening of Neon Black 2 art show in the Arts District at The Herbert, 801 South Main Street, with more information available at rodbensonart.com.

COMMISSIONER SPROTT shared information regarding Foster Care Promotion – a foster care awareness project through Clark County.

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

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, and JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I, 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, was also provided to the Commissioners.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project – MS. MACHADO stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs is working in partnership with the Ward 2, 3, 5 and 6 offices to expand the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project to 200 new project sites by June 30, 2022. A Request for Qualifications was opened on March 16th and closed on April 30th. Currently, staff is working with the Ward offices to confirm the locations in order to issue the Request for Proposals to the selected artists.

Arts District Public Art Project – The Department of Building and Safety has approved the off-site permit for Emergent, and the artist team is currently working with a local fabricator to build the sculpture. The fabrication has been delayed, and the installation date has yet to be determined.

Annual Art Collection Inventory – MS. HOLDEN indicated the completion of the annual art collection inventory is near. The listing of assets will be submitted to the Department of Finance no later than June 30th. She thanked Visual Arts staff SAPIRA CHEUK, MARY SABO, HOMERO HIDALGO, MELANIE COFFEE, and ERIN LITTLE, Technicians/Specialists, for their assistance with the inventory.

Civic Plaza Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO explained that the Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art program originally intended to commission an artist or team of artists to create artwork for the City of Las Vegas Municipal Courthouse. Upon review, it was determined that the artwork would be better situated and commissioned in connection with the new Downtown Civic Center Building and Plaza. She noted additional information could be found on the City's website and offered to send COMMISSIONER CURRAN a link to the architects' proposals.

Celebrating Life! 2021 Juried Art Exhibit – MS. VOLTURA stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs hosted a reception for the annual Celebrating Life! juried fine art competition held on May 28, 2021. She announced the dates the exhibitions can be viewed, which are listed in the PowerPoint presentation.

Charleston Underpass Mural Project – MS. MACHADO stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs received approval from the Nevada Department of Transportation for the project materials. Staff is working with an artist team who has requested to revise their original design proposal in order to better align with the fixed project budget. This revised proposal should be received on or before June 21, 2021, and will go to an evaluation panel for review.

East Las Vegas Community Center – MS. HOLDEN said the Office of Cultural Affairs partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Ward 3 office to support the development and incorporation of additional artworks on both the interior and exterior of the East Las Vegas Community Center.

Historic Westside Legacy Park – MS. MACHADO stated that this project is in collaboration with Clark County and the City of North Las Vegas. The Ward 5 office requested a life size bronze statue of former PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA to be commissioned for the Historic Westside Legacy Park. An independent evaluation committee selected Hanlon Sculpture for this commission, and the statue is set to install on or before November 1, 2021. She noted the Commissioners would be invited to the statue's dedication in December.

Historic Westside School Design Center Mural – A new call for artists to create an original work of art will be posted June 19th and will close on July 19th at 6:00 p.m. MS. MACHADO asked the Commissioners to share the project with artists they know, noting additional information could be found at [artsregistrylas.vegas](https://artsregistrylas.vegas).

Maintenance and Conservation – MS. HOLDEN stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs conducts regular condition and inventory reports of items in the public art collection. 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](mailto:publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov). Photos were shown of the pedestals on Main Street. She noted that artwork is planned for the pedestals, but one was in need of attention, which a staff member cleaned, painted, and applied a protective coating to. Additionally, a large number of artworks were retrieved from the Development Services Center, and MS. HOLDEN was excited to mention that the artworks will be framed.

Phase 1 of the restoration of the Nautilus mural by Larger than Life Murals has been completed. It included a cleaning of the existing mural and application of a stabilizing mural restoration product. Phase 2 is in progress and includes repainting 70 percent of the lost imagery in order to fully restore the mural.

Mayor's Urban Design Awards (MUDAs) – The Office of Cultural Affairs is working with Domsy Glass Studio to create the Mayor's Urban Design Awards (MUDAs) for 2020, which are designed to be sustainable and functional. MS. HOLDEN provided a brief background on the MUDAs.

Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO stated that the Request for Qualifications for the entryway artwork was issued on March 22nd and closed on April 21st, and three submissions were selected by an evaluation panel. She invited the Commissioners to attend the artists' presentations on July 14, 2021 at the Historic Fifth Street School from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., which will be held in person and via WebEx.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule – MS. HOLDEN reviewed the upcoming Arts Commission schedule, which is included in the PowerPoint presentation. She noted there is a standing reservation for subcommittee meetings at 3:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, and one will be held on October 21, 2021.

Symphony Park Garage – MS. MACHADO said the Department of Building and Safety has issued the on-site permit for Larger than Life by Domsy Glass. Once fabrication begins, staff will schedule special inspections for the welding and fabrication. She hoped this project moves forward once the Department of Public Works has installed the foundation and lighting.

The Westside Will Rise Again Mural Project – MS. HOLDEN stated that a second event was held on June 9, 2021 to complete this mural with community hand prints. The initiative was led by the Office of Community Services, and the Office of Cultural Affairs was involved to ensure proper contracting and management of the project from a public art perspective.

7. Report by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding a summary of the responsibilities and scope of work of the Las Vegas Arts Commission – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, narrated a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and directed the Commissioners' attention to the handouts in their binders, which are included in the backup. This item was in response to a question received at the last meeting regarding artwork donations and the mission of the Arts Commission and Commissioners as it relates to artwork donations.

MS. HOLDEN reviewed the mission of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the handouts attached as backup, which were provided to the Commissioners as one document and submitted and attached as backup. Pages 2 through 8 of the document pertain to the Municipal Code, which defines the purpose of the Arts Commission, what qualifies as projects for the Arts Commission to consider, the powers and duties of the Arts Commission. Starting on Page 9 is a memorandum issued by the City Attorney's Office regarding fundraising for public art, the use of funds, and qualification criteria. Page 13 begins a second memorandum in response to three questions posed to the City Attorney's Office regarding the role and responsibilities of the Arts Commission, what projects may be funded through the Percent for the Arts Fund, and a brief summary about

the process of amending the Municipal Code. Finally, Page 18 begins the bylaws of the Arts Commission, which were updated in February of 2019.

COMMISSIONER SPROTT clarified that last month, discussion was held regarding the development of a mission statement, goal, or direction for the acceptance of fine art. This would make it easier for the Commissioners to make decisions on the acceptance of artwork into the public art collection. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN responded that there is no program like this because the City of Las Vegas does not solicit donations. When artwork is offered to the City as a donation, it is not something that has been anticipated or planned for. Additionally, staff takes great care to review documentation from the artist for acceptability. It is her interpretation of the bylaws and memorandums that it is the duty of the Commissioners to review and warrant the artwork based upon merit.

COMMISSIONER SPROTT believed a policy or mission statement would provide some light guidelines to help in decision making. The Commissioner also wished to know more about the role of the subcommittees as she thought their purpose was to assist staff. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN appreciated the comments by COMMISSIONER SPROTT and thought some language could be drafted regarding a mission statement.

8. Report by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding updates to the Percent for the Arts Fund – All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN provided a verbal update regarding the budget. A more comprehensive update will be provided at the August meeting. She reminded the Commissioners of the potential deficit as discussed during the last update. This was centered on the fact that the City had not approved any capital projects from the General Fund where the Percent for the Arts Fund monies come from; however, in light of COVID-19 and the American Rescue Plan, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the City has received substantial funding from the federal government that has been specifically targeted to be used in a number of different areas. The City also budgeted conservatively for and received more in consolidated tax receipts than anticipated. A healthy sum of money has been invested in capital projects this year many of which were subject to the Percent for the Arts Fund ordinance. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN announced that \$945,699.08 will be transferred to the Percent for the Arts Fund from the General Fund. COMMISSIONER KARPEL asked if this amount is for the Arts Commission to use. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN replied in the affirmative, stating that this is in addition to what is already in the fund.

9. Presentation by Roz Knight, Founder and Executive Director of City of the World, Inc., regarding the current initiatives and activities of the City of the World Art Gallery, Event Space and Community Center located at 4300 Meadows Lane – Ward 1

Minutes:

This it was pulled forward and heard after Item 4.

A video was shown as ROZ KNIGHT, Founder and Executive Director of City of the World, Inc., introduced herself and MARIA TODD, Vice President, and JAMES TODD who were present in the audience. MS. KNIGHT shared that the City of the World Gallery has existed since 1996 and opened as a result of a lack of art space. The gallery is volunteer- and intern-based and rents out wall space to local artists. In addition, the gallery offers free art in the park, known as Artz-to-Go, workshops with artists as well as Zumba, Jazzercise, chair yoga, music and a chocolate jazz cafe. The City of the World Gallery is also the only gallery in the city that has a student art gallery at no cost to the students.

MS. KNIGHT mentioned that COMMISSIONER TRIMBLE is one of the artists at the gallery who invited her to speak. CHAIR BRIARE thanked MS. KNIGHT for the presentation and was happy to hear that the gallery is flourishing.

MS. KNIGHT distributed a brochure and business cards, copies of which were submitted and attached as backup.

10. Presentation by Lauren DelFrago, representative from Life is Beautiful, regarding the LIB21 Mural Project, which will include multiple murals located within Ward 3 at various City-owned sites that will be identified in the future – Ward 3

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN introduced LAUREN DELFRAGO, one of the chiefs in charge of Life is Beautiful, who spoke on a community art project. In 2019, the City Manager's Office and Life is Beautiful worked to restructure a sponsorship agreement to help support the commission and creation of artwork that will become a part of the City of Las Vegas public art collection.

Through the use of a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, MS. DELFRAGO discussed some of the goals of Life is Beautiful, which she explained is a three-day music and art festival that covers 18 city blocks in the downtown area. The festival has existed since 2013 and has grown within its footprint, which they wished to expand to help beautify the greater Las Vegas area. This project involves working with the Ward 3 office to establish wall space for murals. After the final details are determined, a call for artists will be issued; MS. DELFRAGO hoped to outsource to new local artists. Once the call for artists is issued and wall dimensions have been established, a representative will return to the Arts Commission to approve the artwork. Life is Beautiful will be responsible for sourcing materials and equipment as well as the administrative duties with the help of City staff. She hoped to complete this project in September or October followed by an unveiling in coordination with the Ward 3 office and the Arts Commission.

MS. DELFRAGO informed COMMISSIONER KLEVEN that City staff can be involved in the selection process, and representatives will consult COUNCILWOMAN OLIVIA DIAZ and her staff to ensure everyone is aligned with the artwork. She mentioned that the theme of the murals will revolve around what makes life beautiful or the ways in which life is beautiful.

COMMISSIONER CURRAN commented that Life is Beautiful has a positive track record for beautifying Downtown Las Vegas. He hoped the project could expand further into the other Wards.

CHAIR BRIARE added that the Celebrating Life! 2021 Juried Art Exhibit has amazing artists that may not be in the same demographic as Life is Beautiful but are incredibly talented. He encouraged MS. DELFRAGO to reach out to City staff for a list of entrants.

11. **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:

None.

12. **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.

13. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR BRIARE thanked everyone for attending, staff for the in-depth reports, and COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN for sharing great news.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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Ashley Foster, Deputy City Clerk

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Ally Haynes-Hamblen, Director  
Office of Cultural Affairs

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:  
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor  
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway  
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue  
Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue