



## Arts Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

Minutes:

CHAIR CURRAN called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR CURRAN and COMMISSIONERS SCHEFCIK, TUPAZ, TRIMBLE, WEINSTEIN, LOWDEN, PACHECO and HAYNES-HAMBLÉN

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS BRIARE, SPROTT, KARPEL and ZACHMAN

ALSO PRESENT: REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, ELIAS GEORGE, Deputy City Attorney, 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; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive.

### 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 16, 2019

Motion made by Polly Weinstein to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

For-John Curran, Ally Haynes-Hamblen, Jerry Schefcik, David Tupaz, John Trimble, Polly Weinstein, Paul Lowden, John Pacheco; Excused-Jim Briare, Mickey Sprott, Sandy Karpel, Mark Zachman;

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

Minutes:

CHAIR CURRAN reviewed the list of cultural events taking place throughout the city which included the following: The Poet's Corner, Las Vegas Live, the 2019 AMP Utility Box Painting Project Reception, the Celebrating Life! 2019 Exhibition, the Salon des Refusés portion of Celebrating Life! 2019, the Exploring the Twisted Nature of All Things...Fiber Exhibition, the Reverence for the Irrelevant Exhibition, Overcast: A Multi-Media Art Exhibition Featuring the artwork of Brett Bolton, the Windows on First: There Is Nothing I Can Do Without You Exhibition, the First Street Art Trail Aerial Gallery Banner Artwork Exhibition, The Wide View Exhibition and Remnant featuring the photography of Jason Tannen. CHAIR CURRAN provided some of the details regarding event/exhibit locations, dates and artists. He also announced that tickets could be purchased for the City of Las Vegas' annual Children's Summer Concert Series.

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

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated that this report would highlight projects funded through the Percent for Arts Fund and the Office of Cultural Affairs General Fund. She and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, which was submitted as backup.

3rd Street Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO reported that artists made presentations of their proposals, and the evaluation committee selected a finalist. The finalist and the Purchasing and Contracts Division are working on an agreement, and MS. MACHADO will provide the Commissioners with the proposal at the meeting in September. She noted that staff is also working with a local art conservation company to etch poetry along the retaining wall on 3rd Street.

CHAIR CURRAN asked if the image shown on the slide was an actual photograph or a rendering, and MS. MACHADO replied that it was a rendering and pointed out the location of the artistic crosswalk.

Arts District Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO reported that thanks to a generous contribution from a former Arts Commissioner, this project, which is near Charleston Boulevard on Main Street, is moving forward. The evaluation team selected a finalist, and a contract is being drafted. She will review the proposal at the September meeting.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project - MS. HOLDEN reported that AMP partners artists with the City of Las Vegas to incorporate artwork into the urban environment throughout the valley, which promotes community participation and supports local art. She stated that people in the community regularly inquire about getting involved with this project. Current AMP projects were reviewed as follows: Sun City Summerlin traffic control boxes - MS. HOLDEN reported that this project partners with the Las Vegas Academy students and is well under the \$10,000 budget. Eight hundred dollars was allocated to have their instructor work with them on a one-on-one basis since a lot of the students have not done a project like this before, and their instructor has experience teaching students and completing utility cabinet painting projects; Medical District traffic control boxes - MS. MACHADO reported that these boxes are complete; Utility cabinet at Charleston Boulevard and Maryland Parkway - MS. HOLDEN reported that this cabinet were previously painted by another artist but not through the AMP program. Since then, artist MARK BRANDVIK, who had already completed projects along this corridor, painted this cabinet in the same kind of visual vein as his other pieces on Maryland Parkway. MS. HOLDEN announced that there would be a reception celebrating the Sun City Summerlin and Medical District projects.

Atomic Stars - MS. HOLDEN reported that the Atomic Passage was originally done along Casino Center Boulevard as a Public Works partnership with a street scape enhancement. A couple of years ago, staff reached out to the original artist and got a licensing extension, so the star can be used elsewhere within a designated downtown core area. Stars are currently being installed along Coolidge Avenue from Main Street extending down to and intersecting with 3rd Street.

Contemporary Public Art Program - MS. HOLDEN reported that this project is complete, and it was inspired by the solar system and the artist's love of science and space. It is called Solar Walk by artist RANDY MENDRE and was installed near the Centennial Hills YMCA at the corner of Deer Springs Way and Buffalo Drive. She noted that there was an interview done by the City's Office of Communications about this project, and she referred to slide showing where it could be found online.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN asked if the City has a YouTube channel where the interview could be found, and MS. HOLDEN replied that the City has KCLV Channel 2 and a YouTube page.

Las Vegas Book Festival Art Design - MS. HOLDEN reported that artist ERIC VOZZOLA was commissioned to create a piece that will be incorporated into all of the marketing materials for the book festival.

Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO reported that staff is working with City architects to identify locations for public art. The idea is to have a piece outside of the building and part of the permanent collection inside. A percentage of the \$983,000 for this project is from the project budget, a percentage is from left over funds that were allocated for public art at City Hall and there are also additional funding sources.

CHAIR CURRAN asked if the architects for this project are local or national, and MS. MACHADO replied that she would find out and report back to the Commission. CHAIR CURRAN commented that he would love for this to be incorporated from the beginning and not as an afterthought, and MS. MACHADO replied that it would be incorporated.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEEN clarified that money carried over from the City Hall public art funding was granted because the buildings will be diagonally across from one another, and the directive to the artist will be to derive a piece that will build a connection between the two buildings whether figuratively or literally. She thought this would potentially be a nationally/internationally recognized public art project.

Ogden Underpass Project - MS. HOLDEN reported that for a few years, staff has been trying to get public art incorporated into the Ogden Underpass area which connects the Symphony Park area with the city's downtown core. Recent improvements to upgrade the lighting and pedestrian access to the space were done, and they are now in the midst of an active requisition process to commission artwork to accompany the enhancements that are already in place. She noted that there was representation from the Arts Commission on the evaluation panel along with members of the community who are familiar with the arts, architecture and stakeholders. She believed there would be a public meeting to receive community input.

Photography of the Collection - MS. HOLDEN reported that they have approximately 65 pieces that have been photographed; that will be wrapped up for this fiscal year, and staff will look at it again for next year. She noted that a good portion of the \$6,300 for this project was funded through a grant.

Pioneer Trail - MS. HOLDEN reported that currently, there is not much happening with this project. She informed the Commissioners that the Office of Cultural Affairs maintains the ground- and pole-mounted markers and the banners, and there is discussion regarding some sort of sidewalk treatment to bring more attention to the trails. MS. MACHADO added that there is someone who wishes to speak to the Arts Commission about this project and will probably do so in September or October.

Symphony Park Garage - MS. HOLDEN reported that this project is an active requisition in process moving to the proposal phase. She stated that there are two garages that are almost complete, and the artwork will be featured adjacent to the garage closest to Interstate 15.

Storm Drain Public Art Project 2019 - MS. MACHADO reported that this project is funded through Public Works. An artist has been selected, and they will be illustrating a booklet to be used in selected middle schools throughout Las Vegas. The artist will go into the science classrooms and talk about storm water pollution, and the class will develop a mural to be painted on the storm drain drop inlet.

T Alley Public Art Project - DT Alley - MS. MACHADO reported that the evaluation panel selected a finalist, and staff is working on an Artistic Services Agreement and timeline for this project. She noted that there will be a meeting in July to discuss the timeline and installation, and she hoped to have the artist discuss the designs with this Commission at the October meeting.

CHAIR CURRAN said that he was at a meeting with the Public Works and Planning Departments, and it seemed that this project would not meet the Life is Beautiful deadline.

Tree of Light - MS. HOLDEN referred to the slide regarding this project and reported that this piece of art would potentially be placed in the green section on the map, and she thought the area was being called Healing Garden adjacent. That section is currently under development, and someone offered to fund placing a project in part of that space. CHAIR CURRAN asked if that was public property, and MS. HOLDEN replied that it was owned by the City of Las Vegas.

West Las Vegas Arts Center Sculpture - MS. HOLDEN reported that this is in the process of being transported in its current condition from the artist's studio in Florida to Las Vegas where it will be completed.

7. Report by the Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding monthly summary of the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE as it relates to the Historic Westside Mural Project – All Wards

Minutes:

JESSICA RAUCH, Give Better Group, appeared representing the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE announced that they raised \$33,500, and the goal to launch this mural project in the Historic Westside is \$50,000. They only have to raise an additional \$16,500 before starting the process of looking for artists. She noted that they originally thought they would start the process in January 2020 if they could get all of the funding by December, but they are way ahead of schedule, and she thought it may be possible to move up the timeline. CHAIR CURRAN asked MS. RAUCH if she was able to share the funding sources, and she replied that the funding sources were considered anonymous at this time, but they would see if they could share acknowledgements in the future.

CHAIR CURRAN asked if this was at the Historic West Las Vegas Arts Center where artist DRAY started a portion of the mural, and COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN replied that that was the inspiration for this project. She explained that part of the design for this program is community engagement with residents in the neighborhood to determine which walls will be painted. CHAIR CURRAN asked if it had to be a municipal property due to the Mayor's Fund, and MS. HAYNES-HAMBLEN replied that it did not.

MS. RAUCH noted that one of the goals of this project is to work with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) to ensure the murals have the ability to speak to neighborhood revitalization and have neighborhood leaders as part of the planning process with the ultimate goal being to reduce crime rates and graffiti in the area.

CHAIR CURRAN hoped that was part of what they talk about with potential donors as he has heard from Metro that the other mural project was particularly impactful. In response to CHAIR CURRAN'S inquiry, COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN stated that she thought the area was under the Bolden Area Command. She noted that a key part of the project is working with Metro regarding statistics. She previously referenced the March 2017 report from the University of Pennsylvania regarding crime statistics, and tracking public safety numbers along with cultural resources in the neighborhoods was also part of the inspiration for this project. She reached out to a former student of the professor who led the research, and she will connect MS. HAYNES-HAMBLEN with the professor to discuss methodology and data collecting.

MS. RAUCH offered the opportunity for the Commissioners to meet with her and share ideas about building awareness about the Historic Westside mural projects as well as contact information to cultivate additional support.

8. Report by the Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding a brief history of the Lightscares Public Art Project – Ward 5

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated that COMMISSIONER WEINSTEIN was interested in hearing more about the Lightscares project. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the project, which was submitted as backup.

The Lightscares project was launched by the Arts Commission in partnership with the Fremont Street Experience, and they were epic scale video installations on the Fremont Street's Viva Vision Screen, which was considered to be the largest television screen in the world at the time. In 2001, the Lightscares project as a whole was recognized as one of the top 20 public artworks. She listed several of the projects which included Aria, Somewhere Else, Dream of the Scarlet Crustaceans, and Sky is the Limit noting that the cost for the Sky is the Limit project was \$57,400. MS. HOLDEN informed the Commissioners that she had a single archived publication associated with that project that was signed by the artist. She stated that the public and Commissioners could schedule a time to look at it, but it could not be loaned out.

Images of the projects were shown. She explained that Aria was coupled with music sounds having to do with Fantasia and 2001 Space Odyssey and encouraged the Commissioners to visit the website listed on the slide. Dreams of the Scarlet Crustaceans was a theatrical performance, and she recommended visiting that site as well as there was more information regarding the narrative on the website. Sky is the Limit was done in partnership with CREATIVETIME, and there is additional information on their website. MS. HOLDEN stated that she reached out to CREATIVETIME hoping to get more information regarding the origins and their involvement with this project.

She reviewed a slide of additional references and sources and noted that former Arts Commissioner JAMES STANFORD is credited with the origin of Lightscaapes. She was aware that the Fremont Street canopy has recently been redone. She was not sure about future possibilities, but noted that there will be upcoming Project Development Subcommittee meetings at which the Commission could discuss ideas.

COMMISSIONER WEINSTEIN was interested in exploring resurrecting this on the new canopy and being something that would make a big impact and would not necessarily have the budget constraints of an otherwise large project.

CHAIR CURRAN thought it was a great idea as there was a \$30 million upgrade to the canopy and it has real impact during daytime hours. A sample segment was recently debuted and was very dramatic in comparison to what it had been. He thought the goal was to unveil the whole project on New Year's Eve and believed there would still be shows every 15 minutes, and there may be a possibility of having static art images in between shows.

COMMISSIONER WEINSTEIN asked if conversation could be initiated to explore the possibility, process, cost and potential, and COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN recommended having the City's Economic and Urban Development Department reach out to PATRICK HUGHES to inquire about plans for shows on the canopy and ask about sponsoring/co-sponsoring snippets between the shows to showcase local artists and what the canopy can do.

CHAIR CURRAN thought that the FSE (Fremont Street Experience) was motivated to have the canopy be buzz worthy. He thought this would be a mechanism to provide visitors with information regarding artistic things going on in the city, and he was happy to initiate a conversation.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN thought that the FSE would have a vested interest as well, as this could be a promotional vehicle for their canopy that could potentially get the word out about the canopy to an audience beyond the tourists.

MS. HOLDEN noted that she did not have a lot of information regarding the costs associated with these projects, and she could not confirm if Percent for Arts Funds were used for the previous projects due to the stipulations regarding the permanence of the items. She thought there might be some room if the City contributed funding towards the canopy and may have a stake in it.

CHAIR CURRAN asked if this would qualify for funding as it is a public/private partnership over a public right-of-way, and DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ELIAS GEORGE replied that he was reviewing the Las Vegas Municipal Code and would have to review the previous contracts executed between the FSE and the City of Las Vegas. CHAIR CURRAN indicated that the City, the LVCVA (Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority) and the FSE paid for the upgrades, so the City is involved.

COMMISSIONER WEINSTEIN wondered if it would be useful for staff to speak with MR. STANFORD, and MS. HOLDEN indicated that she welcomed contact information anyone had regarding the projects.

9. **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:

CHAIR CURRAN announced that though there would be no Arts Commission meeting in the months of July and August, there would be a Subcommittee meeting in August.

LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, encouraged the Commissioners to submit their ideas for Subcommittee meeting agenda items, and she confirmed for CHAIR CURRAN that the meeting would be held at 3:30 p.m. in August.

10. **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.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jacquie Miller, 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  
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive