



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN, CURRAN (via teleconference and excused at 5:14 p.m.), BEDNARCZYK, ROBERTS, WESTFIELD (excused until 4:03 p.m.), DOUGLAS (via teleconference), DODSON (excused until 4:49 p.m.), CARLSON (excused at 4:47 p.m.), and PLASTER

EXCUSED: CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONER HAMPTON

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, REBECCA HOLDEN, and MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialists II; VAL STEED, Chief 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 in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; 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 the Arts Commission of June 16, 2022, and the Project Development Subcommittee of the Arts Commission Meeting of August 18, 2022

Motion made by John Curran to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Jennifer Kleven, John Curran, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Marni Carlson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, Monique Westfield;

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

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN welcomed COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS, CARLSON, and DODSON. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS is President and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Knit, a regional design and architecture firm, and has been a registered architect in Nevada for 10 years. He has a keen interest in the preservation of Nevada's historic and natural historic places.

COMMISSIONER PLASTER stated that COMMISSIONER CARLSON is a local business owner and real estate broker. She has a background in classical music and opera, and a passion for performing and visual arts. COMMISSIONER DODSON is a Las Vegas native, currently working locally as a fine artist and muralist. He received a Master of Modern Art History from Christie's Education New York, has worked with art galleries and auction houses, and has a passion for art and education.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONER PLASTER reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the Fiestas Patrias Celebration, a Mexican Independence Day festival at Gary Reese Freedom Park, Concert in the Park featuring AMY DEVINE, Fall into Jazz, Timeless by PHUBIYA OSHONA SMITH aka BIYA and featuring child artist BRAIA SMITH, Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular featured by the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre, the Contemporary West Dance Theater: Fall Concert Series Number 16, the East Las Vegas Fiesta, and the 20th Anniversary Art Exhibition: Celebrate the Consulate of Mexico. They provided some of the details regarding event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists, noting additional information could be found at www.artslasvegas.org or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art at UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) opened Two Cultures, One Family, which is an exhibition curated by ERIKA GISELA ABAD, Ph.D. It is on display for the next few months. Friends of the Fort, in partnership with Nuwu Art, will host the Indigenous People's Market and Festival on September 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is a celebration of Indigenous cultures through art, crafts, Indigenous dance presentations, music, and food. Beginnings by Nuwu Art Collective will open on September 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on September 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be art, music, food, prizes, performances, and more. More information on Beginnings can be found at www.nuwuart.com.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN announced a closing reception at the Clark County Government Center Rotunda Gallery for the exhibition Mojave: Flora and Fauna. She also announced the opening of DIFY Diaspora: In Memory of Dave Hickey at the Donna Beam Gallery at UNLV on September 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lastly, she noted The Neon Museum is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a celebration of Las Vegas architecture, design, and culture called Duck Duck Shed, which will take place from October 27th to 30th.

COMMISSIONER CURRAN hoped to see some of the Commissioners at the Life is Beautiful Music and Art Festival, noting that COMMISSIONER DODSON was one of the featured artists.

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

Minutes:

MARY SABO, REBECCA HOLDEN, and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialists II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, regarding current projects and artistic opportunities. MS. SABO noted that the monthly Staff Report was also provided to the Commissioners, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

MS. SABO, MS. HOLDEN, and MS. MACHADO shared information regarding the location and timeline for and the artists involved in the following initiatives: Department and Staff Update, AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project, Becker Technology Center, Big Heart Sculpture, Current Artist Opportunities, Charleston Underpass Mural Project, Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project, East Las Vegas Banner Project, East Las Vegas Community Center Mural, East Las Vegas Community Center Interior Mural, East Las Vegas Community Center Artwork Purchase, Healing Garden Sculpture, Historic Westside Legacy Park Portrait Project, Historic Westside Mural Program, Maintenance and Conservation, Ogden Underpass Project, Officer Igor Soldo Memorial Park Statue, Presidential Portrait, and Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule.

MS. MACHADO provided a further explanation about the Charleston Underpass Mural Project for the new

Commissioners. Following the permit submission to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), NDOT requested revisions, which the artist completed. The document was resubmitted to NDOT, who denied the application permit and informed staff that text in the artwork could be a distraction. Staff reached out to the artist for a redesign, and a meeting was scheduled. VICE CHAIR KLEVEN wondered if it will be a lengthy process to obtain an approval or if the process will be fast-tracked. MS. MACHADO was unsure but hoped so, noting NDOT provided a letter stating that they could possibly approve the design if all text is removed, but that answer was not definitive. Staff is willing to work with the artist to ensure they meet all criteria.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN asked about the cancelation of the RFP/RFQ (Request for Proposal/Qualifications) for the Ogden Underpass Project. COMMISSIONER PLASTER believed the Mayor and City Manager have a defined idea of what they would like in the area, and the way the RFQ was written was not as explicit as it should have been. She noted the artist that was selected recently met with the City Manager and is willing to work within those desires; however, staff must still work with Purchasing and Contracts and the City Attorney's Office to see if they can move forward with this artist with a more defined scope. COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD wondered who was selected. MS. SABO did not believe that information could be revealed but promised to update the Arts Commission when it could be shared appropriately.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN wondered if the Historic Westside Legacy Park Portrait Project is an ongoing project and asked if the Commission should anticipate adding to the project every year. MS. MACHADO replied in the affirmative. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS asked if the project will continue to include the same artist. MS. MACHADO said when the Historic Westside Legacy Park was developed, staff worked with the contractor who was to use photographs to produce small bronze medallion plaques. The resolution on those photographs was not high enough quality because they were from many years ago, so an artist was hired to paint the portraits to provide to the bronze company to be used for the etching. Initially, staff selected JOSEPH WATSON, after which they decided to put out a call for other artists. Q'SHAUNDRA JAMES was chosen by an evaluation committee for this year, and the committee has already selected another artist for next year. Once the contract is signed, staff can let the Commissioners know of the next artist, and another call will be issued for 2024.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN thanked staff for their hard work.

See Item 8 for related discussion.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER PLASTER reported that the Arts Commission's one percent allocation from the General Fund for this year is \$976,930, which is a \$30,000 increase from last year. In the seven years prior, the smallest allocation was \$21,000 in Fiscal Year 2019, and the largest was \$613,000 in Fiscal Year 2016.

8. Report by John Curran, Arts Commissioner, summarizing the Project Development Subcommittee of the Arts Commission Meeting of August 18, 2022 – All Wards

Minutes:

As a PowerPoint presentation was displayed, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, VICE CHAIR KLEVEN stated that the meeting was productive. She reminded the Commissioners that \$976,930 is allocated for this fiscal year, and the Subcommittee worked through proposed projects, which she reviewed. For the Medical District Public Art Project, \$436,000 is budgeted and will be broken down per installation site, with contingencies. The Vice Chair thought it was great that art was being considered in that area. According to COMMISSIONER PLASTER, COUNCILMAN BRIAN KNUDSEN desires art within the Medical District. VICE CHAIR KLEVEN added that COMMISSIONER CURRAN had mentioned there is \$400 million designated for the Medical District and thought this project was a good proposal.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN said Flourish by Denise Duarte was completed in 2007 and is a socially engaged, artistic way-finding sidewalk project. The project will be continued by adding additional flourishes. The proposed budget is \$22,000 with \$20,000 going towards the artist fee and \$2,000 being withheld as a contingency fee. The project will connect different areas of the Cultural Corridor, which is made up of Las Vegas Boulevard, north of Bonanza Road to Washington Avenue. COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN wondered where the

material money would come from. LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, replied that the budgeted amount is for the artist's redesign. When DENISE DUARTE originally designed this as a way-finding project, she incorporated very specific information related to the buildings it was in front of. Some of those institutions have moved. She noted that the City of Las Vegas is working on a roadway project and is removing the sidewalks along Las Vegas Boulevard from Stuart Avenue to Washington Avenue, and within that removal, the flourishes will be reinstalled in Lithocrete. The budgeted amount is for MS. DUARTE'S artistic services to broaden the designs so that none are tied to a specific institution. The Public Works Department will pay for any hard costs.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN stated that the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project is a continuation of the highly successful project. This request was made by several community members and organizations, and \$22,000 has been allocated for this project. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, reviewed the Public Art Master Plan, a copy of which was submitted for the record. She said the document was created in 2013 as an abbreviated and fast-tracked project, and the author tried to provide it in time for a presentation of the Municipal Arts Plan to the City Council. She pointed out that the city has grown in the last decade, and staff is excited about that growth. MS. HOLDEN pointed out a list of stakeholders in the back of the document who helped guide the development of that plan. She noted that BARBARA GOLDSTEIN authored the original book on public art and is now a part of Art Builds Community, which is a women-led public art planning and consulting firm that brings critical thinking and artists' perspectives to the creative design of cities, buildings, and infrastructure. She shared a brief background about MS. GOLDSTEIN and her partners with Art Builds Community. Staff recommended \$50,000 to work with this group.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN stated that the next item pertained to the Maintenance and Conservation budget for the year. She noted in Fiscal Year 2022, \$60,000 was allocated, and there is consideration to increase this amount to \$70,000. She reminded the Commissioners that the City owns 2,000 assets that must be maintained. MS. HOLDEN referenced the PowerPoint presentation under Item 6, stating that \$30,000 has already been expended for the Nephela sculpture and the completed mural on the exterior of the East Las Vegas Community Center. VICE CHAIR KLEVEN noted there was a separate line item under Maintenance and Conservation for the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial for \$50,000 and Radial Symmetry for \$50,000. She felt these were necessary maintenance items.

Lastly, the Vice Chair spoke about the James Gay III Park Project, which will be located within the Historic Westside and developed along with other improvements to the park, such as a community garden. She confirmed with MS. MACHADO that this is for one art piece. Its exact location has not been identified, but it will be included with a memorial for JAMES GAY III. Additional funding will be requested from the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the upcoming year's projects and budget allocations (Not-to-Exceed \$976,930 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) – All Wards

Motion made by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan to Approve

NOTE: Vice Chair Kleven reviewed the allocated amounts for the proposed projects for Fiscal Year 2023 as follows: Medical District Public Art Project for \$436,000, James Gay III Park Project for \$275,000, Flourish by Denise Duarte for \$22,000, AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project for \$22,000, Public Art Master Plan for \$50,000, Maintenance for \$70,000, Maintenance of the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial for \$50,000, and Maintenance of Radial Symmetry for \$50,000 totaling \$975,000.

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

For-Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, John Curran, Marni Carlson;

Minutes:

Subsequent to the motion for Approval, CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED requested the Vice

Chair clarify the budgeted amount of each proposed project for the record. VICE CHAIR KLEVEN read this information from a PowerPoint presentation slide, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup.

10. Discussion for possible action regarding the re-allocation of the funding for the City of Las Vegas and Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada Public Art Project (\$60,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN said this item was on the Project Development Subcommittee of the Arts Commission agenda. Funds were allocated to this project in Fiscal Year 2021, and it has not moved forward. MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, confirmed and said staff recommended re-allocating the funds, as the money could be better used elsewhere.

Motion made by Eric Roberts to re-allocate the funds

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Jennifer Kleven, John Curran, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, Marni Carlson;

11. Discussion for possible action regarding the re-allocation of the funding for the Historic Markers/Medallions Project (\$5,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) – All Wards

Minutes:

At the request of VICE CHAIR KLEVEN, LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, reported that in 2017, staff approached the Arts Commission about a project for historic markers or medallions. The project originated with the Public Works Department while construction was in progress on Las Vegas Boulevard. The project included commemorating the people specific streets were named after. After researching those individuals and approaching the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial to fund the medallions, staff did not think it would be a great idea to move forward with the project. They spoke with the Historic Preservation Commission and, at that time, the Planning Department about the project, as staff felt this project was relative to historic preservation. The Planning Department agreed, and no progress has been made on the project since. She recommended re-allocating the funds until the project is ready to move forward, at which time staff will bring it back to the Arts Commission for consideration.

Motion made by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan to re-allocate the funds

Passed For: 8; Against: 1; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Jennifer Kleven, John Curran, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Against-Fawn Douglas; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, Marni Carlson;

12. Discussion for possible action regarding the annual election of officers – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN explained that this item is for the election of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair. Each will serve a one-year term, which will begin in October.

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, confirmed the Vice Chair's statement, adding that the bylaws also define a Secretary position; however, the staff members that support the Arts Commission have taken on this role. She explained that the main role of the officers is to lead the meetings and believed both CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONER CURRAN served two terms as Chair.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD nominated VICE CHAIR KLEVEN as Chair, who accepted the nomination.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN nominated COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN as Vice Chair, who declined the

nomination, as she felt she needed more experience with the Commission. COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD nominated COMMISSIONER PLASTER as Vice Chair, which she accepted. It was questioned whether COMMISSIONER PLASTER could serve as Vice Chair, as she is an ex-officio member. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED reviewed the bylaws and did not believe there was anything that prevented COMMISSIONER PLASTER from serving in this capacity.

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN nominated COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN to remain as Second Vice Chair, to which she accepted.

Motion made by Monique Westfield to elect Jennifer Kleven as Chair

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Jennifer Kleven, John Curran, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, Marni Carlson;

Motion made by Monique Westfield to elect Maggie Plaster as Vice Chair

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

For-Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, John Curran, Marni Carlson;

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to elect Suzanne Hackett-Morgan as Second Vice Chair

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

For-Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Monique Westfield, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Michael Dodson, Maggie Plaster; Excused-Mickey Sprott, Ryan Hampton, John Curran, Marni Carlson;

13. **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:

VICE CHAIR KLEVEN asked for a review of all outstanding projects.

14. **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.

15. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Maggie Plaster, Deputy Director
Office of Cultural Affairs

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor