



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONERS KLEVEN, TUPAZ, KARPEL, CURRAN (via teleconference), LOWDEN (via teleconference), HACKETT-MORGAN, and HAYNES-HAMBLÉN

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS TRIMBLE, PACHECO, STRAUS, and HAMPTON

ALSO PRESENT: MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Cultural Affairs Director; 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 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 October 21, 2021

Motion made by Sandy Karpel to Approve

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

For-Ally Haynes-Hamblen, David Tupaz, Mickey Sprott, Paul Lowden, John Curran, Sandy Karpel, Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan; Excused-John Pacheco, John Trimble, David Straus, Ryan Hampton;

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

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the Las Vegas Tamale and Mariachi Festival, the grand opening of the Historic Westside Legacy

Park, portraits for the Historic Westside Legacy Park, Jazzy Christmas Concert, Historic Westside Legacy Park nominations, and The Extended Family Dinner curated by PETER JAKUBOWSKI of Clay Arts Vegas. She provided some of the details regarding the event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLÉN announced some additional holiday programming happening at the Charleston Heights Art Center. These included The Velveteen Rabbit by the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre and a contemporary dance piece of holiday classics, A Cool Yule, by the Contemporary West Dance Theatre. Lastly, it was the final weekend for the Vegas City Opera's La BoDEAD.

The Chair said in Clark County on Maryland Parkway near Flamingo Road, there is a temporary, transit-themed public art exhibit on the street scape. There will be a press event held on Tuesday.

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

Minutes:

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

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project – The Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art Program is working in partnership with the Offices of Wards 2, 3, 5 and 6 to expand the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Program, and two artists were present to share their design proposals.

Big Heart Sculpture – MS. HOLDEN stated the Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art Program is working in partnership with the Office of Ward 3, Life is Beautiful, and Clark County to install the Big Heart Sculpture from the Life is Beautiful 2021 Festival at the intersection of South 3rd Street and East Clark Avenue, which is in proximity to the Marriage License Bureau. It is estimated to be completed by February of 2022.

East Las Vegas Community Center Artwork – The Office of Cultural Affairs has partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office of Ward 3 to support the development and incorporation of additional artworks at the East Las Vegas Community Center. This location is also being considered to house the Nephele Sculpture by CYD BOWN pending further site suitability evaluations. A fire safety assessment is also being conducted.

East Las Vegas Community Center Mural – MS. MACHADO discussed a new mural project at the East Las Vegas Community Center in partnership with the Consulate of Mexico. Ward 3 staff, the Office of Cultural Affairs, and the art coordinator for the Consulate of Mexico met via WebEx to discuss the project. A design proposal and narrative will be provided at the December 16, 2021 Arts Commission Meeting.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Grand Opening – MS. MACHADO welcomed the Commissioners to attend the grand opening event on Saturday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m. The park will feature public artwork by HAROLD BRADFORD, CHASE McCURDY, and JOSEPH WATSON.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Honoree Nominations – Nominations for next year's honorees are open until Sunday, December 19th.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Portraits – JOSEPH WATSON has been commissioned to paint 36 portraits of the honorees of the park. The portraits were then used to etch aluminum plaques that will be permanently installed in the park. The portraits will be installed at the West Las Vegas Arts Center and will be displayed December 4th through December 14th. A reception will be held Friday, December 10th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Historic Westside Mural Program – MS. HOLDEN stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Arts Commission, in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE, issued an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to hire a Mural Project Coordinator to oversee the community engagement, conceptual development, and the installation of multiple large-scale public murals throughout the city, including within the Historic Westside. The RFQ was publicly posted from August 12th to September 15th, and 13 applications

were received. Upon interviewing the top three candidates, the position contract will be awarded to one finalist, who will be announced upon completion of the contracting process.

Historic Westside School Design Center Mural – MS. MACHADO stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs, along with an independent evaluation panel, has selected the proposal by LEE LANIER. A rendering of the design proposal was featured in the PowerPoint presentation. The mural is estimated to be completed on January 7th.

LIB21 Ward 3 Mural Project – MS. HOLDEN indicated the Office is also working in partnership with the Office of Ward 3 and Life is Beautiful to complete this project, which will incorporate the creation of multiple murals for the wall surrounding the Douglas A. Selby Park.

Maintenance and Conservation – The Office of Cultural Affairs conducts regular condition and inventory reports of items in the public art collection. These reports are used to generate a listing of current maintenance and conservation efforts. 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 slide were before and after graffiti maintenance photos of a large water utility cabinet. Additionally, the Office received notification from COMMISSIONER KARPEL regarding a utility cabinet in Sun City Summerlin that was removed. Staff reached out to the City of Las Vegas' Traffic Engineering Division, who confirmed the utility cabinet was removed due to technical matters relating to the interior component of the utility cabinet. Staff is still working with the Division to determine if it is still usable at a different location or if it should be decommissioned. Additionally, the Office of Cultural Affairs is also working with the JESSE CARSON SMIGEL to address the failing protective coating on Snowball in Vegas sculpture, which was originally installed in 2014 and was removed in 2019 for refurbishment. Another refurbishment is scheduled for 2022 in order to reinforce the base of the sculpture as well as apply an alternate protective coating.

Mayor's Urban Design Awards – The Office of Cultural Affairs is working with Domsy Glass to create the 2020 award, which was delayed due to COVID-19. The awards will be presented in April of 2022.

Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO stated that the Office, along with an independent evaluation panel, has selected the proposal by GIG DEPIO, whose painting is titled Level the Playing Field. The painting will be installed in the lobby of the Municipal Courthouse in February of 2022. Another piece by BARBARA and LARRY DOMSKY, titled Equal Justice for All, was selected for the entryway of the building.

Officer Igor Soldo Memorial Park Sculpture – Hanlon Sculpture Studio has been commissioned through the Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art program in partnership with the Office of Ward 6 and the Department of Public Works to create and install a bronze sculpture in honor of fallen Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer IGOR SOLDO. The sculpture will be temporarily installed at Officer Alyn Beck Memorial Park for approximately five years or until the Officer Igor Soldo Memorial Park is built. The project is estimated to be completed by June 30, 2022. Staff hoped for the installation to occur on June 13 in order to schedule a subsequent unveiling ceremony.

Reflections of Energy by Tony Milici – The Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art Program, in partnership with the Department of Information Technologies, are working to evaluate the current condition and possible next steps of the artwork. The artwork has been installed inside City Hall since its opening in 2012 and was designed to represent flowing water, power, and energy.

Ward 3 Proud Banner Project – The Office is working with the Office of Ward 3 to complete the Ward 3 Proud Banner Project. On November 3, 2021, staff received notification that the Ward 3 Office allocated an additional \$30,000 in order to begin the project, which has been directed to be completed by June 30, 2022.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule – MS. HOLDEN displayed the upcoming Arts Commission meeting dates, noting the Arts Commission has a standing meeting time of 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. There is also a reserved subcommittee time of 3:30 p.m., and members of the subcommittees may contact staff to schedule a meeting.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked about the installation timeline for the Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project. MS. MACHADO said she would let the Commissioners know once staff has that information.

7. Presentation by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding AMP Utility Painting Project design proposals – All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, said two artists were present to give a brief overview of their proposals. The presentations were complemented with a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup.

NIMA ABKENAR – MR. ABKENAR introduced himself as a conceptual artist and stated that, over the past five years, he has completed projects for the City of Las Vegas. The purpose of this project is not only to avoid graffiti but is an opportunity to make a connection with the community and bring attention to cultural narratives that people may not be aware of. He designed the proposals to be site specific and included elements of the environment to connect a contemporary narrative of the artwork of today with viewers and create a conceptual and intellectual stimulation to those who pass by the artwork. The designs include elements of the Las Vegas environment along with subtle colors.

BRACKEN HERMANSEN – REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, spoke on behalf of MS. HERMANSEN, who has been a professional artist and muralist since 1999 and a Las Vegas resident since 1989. The artist's proposal has a modern, muted palette of local desert life to complement the area and can be modified to fit the utility cabinet. The artist believed the designs could be finished in two days with a combination of exterior acrylic paint and freehand spray paint. The surface will be primed, if not done so beforehand.

JERRY MISKO – MR. MISKO stated that his utility cabinet is near the Plaza Hotel and is similar to a previous mural he completed. It will be located at street level in order for tourists to interact with it.

MS. MACHADO, COMMISSIONER KLEVEN, and CHAIR SPROTT thanked the artists for being present to speak on their designs.

8. Report by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding City Council's approval of the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission Municipal Arts Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 – All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN said staff presented to the City Council on the public art projects currently in progress and the recommendations that the Arts Commission voted on in September. The presentation also included receiving a significant transfer of funds to the Percent for the Arts Fund account. The Mayor asked questions regarding maintenance and engaging in partnerships with local artists within the community. The City Council unanimously approved the proposed projects and were supportive of the presentation, and she asserted that the entire City Council is supportive of the Arts Commission. The Commissioner noted that during a briefing, COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN asked for more artwork in his ward, so she encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to their Councilmembers to help drive resources towards the public art program. MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Cultural Affairs Director, concurred that the Commissioners are the advocates for their Councilmembers. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN further added that the Queen of the Arts sculpture was a great example of a Commissioner bringing an artwork idea forward.

CHAIR SPROTT thanked COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN and MS. PLASTER for their efforts and agreed that it is important for the Commissioners to advocate for artwork within their wards. She wished for artwork to remain at the forefront and stay relevant as funding becomes available.

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:

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked if a grant program was allowed within the bylaws, and REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, said she would send a memorandum that the City Attorney's Office issued regarding limitations. COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN also asked for a copy of this memorandum. LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, added that COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN is working on such a program, and she hoped to make some announcements in the future.

MS. MACHADO mentioned that the Commissioners could reach out to her at any time with ideas or other discussion items, as they would like to have robust meetings.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ wondered if the Arts Commission had the ability to provide guidance to provide for the AMP Utility Cabinet Project artists. MS. MACHADO said staff worked with each of the wards closely, and some Councilmembers had requested a theme. She said more of these projects would come in the future, and she would like the Commissioners to be involved in those discussions. The Commissioner mentioned seeing a utility box that depicted words of comfort on a recent trip to New York. He felt that art should not only be used to beautify the things around them, but it should also be used to send a message for individuals going through hard times. COMMISSIONER KARPEL shared the Commissioner's sentiments and agreed it would comfort citizens.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked if the AMP projects will be added to the map of existing art projects, and she inquired about the marketing efforts surrounding those projects. CHAIR SPROTT thought this was a great topic for the next meeting, and said she wished to see all of the public art projects listed on the City's website.

CHAIR SPROTT wished to have dialogue on community engagement as it relates to public art.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN mentioned that neighborhood meetings may help change the dynamic of art projects. COMMISSIONER TUPAZ added that artists should be intuitive to what the community needs and respond to it through their art.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN thought it would be interesting to revisit the artists that have been successful in larger projects and explore how they could potentially help mentor other artists.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN stressed that Las Vegas would be at the forefront of public art if they were more proactive.

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:

CHAIR SPROTT wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, CMC, 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 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