



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR PLASTER called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR PLASTER and COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN (via teleconference), CURRAN (via teleconference), SPROTT, BEDNARCZYK, WESTFIELD, and DODSON

EXCUSED: CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONERS HAMPTON, ROBERTS, DOUGLAS, and CARLSON

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; REBECCA HOLDEN and MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialists II; JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I; 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 November 17, 2022

Motion made by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR PLASTER reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: A Cool Yule Holiday Celebration, A Very POPera Holiday, and Kwanzaa Celebration and Rites

of Passage Graduation. She provided some of the details regarding event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists, noting additional information can be found at www.artslasvegas.org or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER DODSON mentioned two new murals on Casino Center Drive and Charleston Boulevard by BRETT ROSEPILER and GUILHERME LEMES, which were curated by the I.S.I. (Industry Supporting Industry) Group. Connectivity by ELLIOT DEMLOW will be at Recycled Propaganda and is comprised of two different themes all based around the idea of individuals and their connections to themselves, others, and the current climate. There are 20 paintings that are part of the exhibition and additional paintings will revolve through. The show is primarily made up of spray paint and acrylics on canvas and will be on display throughout February with a closing reception on January 20th.

COMMISSIONER SPROTT announced that the 1 October Memorial Committee has identified five design teams to create proposals for a permanent 1 October memorial. These design teams will visit Las Vegas on January 25th and will introduce themselves at the 1 October Memorial Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Clark County Government Center. They will travel around the city and will reach out to various museums that have 1 October collections. She asked the Commissioners to reach out to Clark County for more information, noting there is also a website for the 1 October memorial.

6. Report by artist Chase R. McCurdy, Mural Project Coordinator, regarding a status update on the Historic Westside Mural Program, which is located within Ward 5

Minutes:

Through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, CHASE R. McCURDY, Mural Project Coordinator, said this mural project focuses on the Westside community where a lot of attention is needed. The project is focused on public properties for the murals but has expanded to include private property owners that would like to commission a mural on their property. They have engaged with several property owners, who have desirable locations; however, those discussions are now on hold, which he believed may have something to do with the presentation of a wall use agreement. Regardless, progress has been made on three other murals located at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, and he named those artists who are IANDRY RANDRIAMANDROSO, X. DARVI, and MICHELLE GRAVES. Each artist was selected after an open call by MR. McCURDY and a team at the West Las Vegas Arts Center.

MR. RANDRIAMANDROSO has added a community component to his mural, which MR. McCURDY described. MS. DARVI'S mural is bright orange and features a motif that includes two portraits of Black women with their hair flowing together. MS. GRAVES studied the history and culture of the Westside, and her mural includes words that came up during various conversations and studies that speak to the community. MR. McCURDY indicated that progress has continued on privately owned property, and he noted that a wall use agreement was signed, a concept developed, and the selected artists are in the final contracting phase on a building located on C Street and Monroe Avenue. The building houses the Obodo Collective, which is a non-profit organization and community garden. This mural will both honor African-American heritage and pay homage to Indigenous history. They are also working with interested property owners and have visited a property on E Street and Jackson Avenue where there is interest to execute a digital mural. This is a fantastic idea, and the goal would be to project historic imagery important to the area. On E Street and Jefferson Avenue, there is another property owner interested in a mural, and they are waiting for an e-mail to begin the design process.

VICE CHAIR PLASTER said they have been working on this for under a year, and she was happy to see the progress made. MR. McCURDY said it has been a learning experience and acknowledged MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, for her assistance.

7. Presentation by Jeanne Voltura, Visual Arts Specialist I, regarding the Cultural Affairs Division Gallery Program – All Wards

Minutes:

Through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I, presented on the City of Las Vegas Gallery Program. The program is housed at the Charleston Heights Art Center, which has been programmed for over 20 years. She explained the art procurement process and reported that calls for art are posted on www.artsregistrylas.vegas. She noted the presentation was structured with the first few images containing pre-pandemic artwork, and the last ones

showed post-pandemic artwork. Contemporary work was primarily shown prior to the pandemic, and there is a juried exhibit with traditional work by artists 50 years of age and older. She displayed an image of art by JEFF FULMER, and reported that he has a background in public City art and cutout pieces of desert landscapes at Centennial Hills. MS. VOLTURA said the center holds a special significance for her, noting it and Reed Whipple Cultural Center were the oldest spaces that were going strong when she started with the City. She displayed an image of art from the presentation and advised that it was procured from a woman in North Carolina through a call for art. The art represents the economy tanking in the mid-2000s, and it was created by taking photographs of homes with belongings left behind.

MS. VOLTURA believed local artists needed an opportunity to show their work after the pandemic, and she displayed an image on Southwest Landscapes with over 100 pieces from different artists. She noted there were 150 entries, and the pieces were hung in the shape of hills and valleys. The Pop-N-Op Exhibit represented both pop and optical art movements, and the pieces were chosen by a three-person committee. Further, two committee members are part-time staff members with Master's Degrees and strong backgrounds in art. The Celebrating Life Master Exhibit is a juried exhibit that has been going on for over 20 years, and it was chosen for programming by an Arts Commission member. Art can be submitted at no cost to one of seven art categories, and MS. VOLTURA believed providing free submissions was important for the City. She displayed images of the artwork juried into the 2012 Celebrating Life Juried Exhibit as well as an image showing former Arts Commissioner MAURA PARROTT shaking hands with an artist. MS. PARROTT would present awards for the exhibit and thank the artists, and art that was not selected was placed in the Salon des Refuses gallery.

Las Vegas City Hall Grand Gallery is located on the first floor of City Hall, and sculptures are predominantly shown due to a lack of wall space. MS. VOLTURA explained they previously used hallway space near Council Chambers, but the pedestal space was improperly used by individuals. Currently, there is a show curated through word-of-mouth by a part-time staff member with an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) background. She detailed how artists were found for the Outside the Box 2 Exhibit, noting it contained permanent pieces made from cardboard. She displayed an image of the exhibit and listed artwork from WARREN KING and KD MATHESON. MS. VOLTURA described how JOANNE VUILLEMOT hammered gold and silver to create pieces for her exhibit, and she believed lighting helped make the pieces beautiful.

Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery is the smallest exhibit space in the program, and it features group concept and heritage exhibits. MS. VOLTURA opined that having heritage exhibits in a civic building allows its occupants to feel proud that the City honors different cultures. These exhibits are broken up to not feature the same heritage exhibit every year. She listed repetitive exhibits shown in the gallery, noting there is a Public Employee Art Exhibit, and Celebrating Life Winners Circle allows winners from the Charleston Heights Art Center to be shown at City Hall. She reported there are no planned changes to the gallery. MS. VOLTURA described pieces from the Twisted Nature Exhibit, and she stated a preference for fiber art. She displayed an image of the Hispanic Heritage Exhibit to show how a cultural exhibit looks, advising that it included pieces from various artists.

The Historic Fifth Street School has been the largest exhibit space in the program since Reed Whipple Cultural Center closed. The Lunar New Year Exhibit was previously named the Chinese New Year Exhibit, and it is by invitation only. MS. VOLTURA opined that the reception is a great way to get to know people, with at least 200 people in attendance. She displayed an image of the Chinese New Year of the Pig Exhibit, and she explained that guideline pamphlets are sent to artists. She noted artists are allowed to interpret the exhibit to allow for creative storytelling. The Aesthetics Primary Exhibit contained various forms of art with a wide variety of media, and she believed the purpose was to hold attention through beauty.

Lastly, MS. VOLTURA advised that the West Las Vegas Arts Center Gallery is run by the center's staff, and artists can be scheduled into an exhibit by proving that they have artwork to show. She felt that allowing artists free access to show their work was important for the neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN said that MS. VOLTURA does a wonderful job.

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

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, and REBECCA HOLDEN and MARY SABO,

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. MACHADO noted that the monthly Staff Report was also provided to the Commissioners, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

MS. MACHADO, MS. HOLDEN, and MS. SABO shared information regarding the location and timeline as well as the artists involved in the following initiatives: 3rd Street – East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art Project, AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project, Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project, Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project, East Las Vegas Community Center, Conservation and Maintenance, Medical District Public Art Project, Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project, Parking Meter Art Wraps, and Washington Avenue Median Mural Project.

9. Presentation by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the condition of Paintbrush Gateway by Dennis Oppenheim, located at the corners of East Charleston Boulevard and South 4th Street and East Charleston Boulevard and South Casino Center Boulevard – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

Through a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, shared information about DENNIS OPPENHEIM and some of his notable works. She noted part of the Commissioner's role is to serve as an advocate for artwork in the community, and she felt they needed information on MR. OPPENHEIM'S works in order to advocate for Paintbrush Gateway. MR. OPPENHEIM was born in Washington in 1938, and he lived and worked in New York from the late 1960s until his death in 2011. He was a pioneer in the fields of earthworks, body art, and conceptual art, and his work was created for interior, exterior, and public spaces. His works have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Venice Biennale, and others, and his works are still regularly exhibited. MS. HOLDEN displayed and described select public projects by MR. OPPENHEIM from 1997 to 2011 including Device to Root Out Evil in Palma, Spain; Bus Home in Ventura, California; Engagement in Vancouver, Canada; Rising and Setting Neighborhood in Riverdale, New York; Arriving Home in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Garden of Evidence in Scottsdale, Arizona; Radiant Fountains in Houston, Texas; Light Chamber in Denver, Colorado; Chamber in Busan, South Korea; and Dennis Oppenheim: Terrestrial Studio Exhibition in New Windsor, New York. She reported that many of the works have moved through the years, noting Google Earth can be used to see each work in its current location. Further, links were contained within the PowerPoint presentation providing additional details for each piece of art.

MS. HOLDEN reported that Paintbrush Gateway consists of two lighted paintbrush sculptures on East Charleston Boulevard, and it is the most expensive piece in the City's collection. In December 2005, the Commission allocated \$350,000 as a cash match to the Nevada Department of Transportation Grant received by the Department of Planning and Development for the design and construction of the Arts District Gateway project. The project was approved by the City Council in February 2006, and Paintbrush Gateway was selected in 2007 through a competitive solicitation process. The project contract was executed and awarded to MR. OPPENHEIM in 2008, and the paintbrushes were installed in 2010. The Dennis Oppenheim Estate oversaw the completion of the project after his passing, and the project was officially dedicated in June 2011. MS. HOLDEN advised that during the design development process, it was determined that climate and moisture would affect the ability to project light into the sky. The use of lasers is not allowed due to Federal Aviation Administration limitations, and extensive engineering was required to place the project within the public right-of-way. She explained that La Paloma Fine Arts fabricated Paintbrush Gateway, Bus Home, and TIM BAVINGTON'S Pipe Dream located at The Smith Center.

MS. HOLDEN displayed images of Paintbrush Gateway from 2010 to 2017 that show it being lit during the night and unlit during the day, and she noted that a camera lens' glare could affect whether photos show light extending from the tip of the brushes. She explained that there is a regular accumulation of debris on the paintbrushes, and that is resolved through cleanings by City staff members. The acrylic rods on the paintbrushes' handles were identified as being damaged in 2018, and MS. HOLDEN advised that these will degrade over time due to the climate. City staff members collect any damaged pieces, and these will be replaced by a product vendor. One of the paintbrush bristles is detached and needs to be reattached, and there are failing LED (light-emitting diode) puck light strings that need to be replaced. Further, controller connection issues are affecting portions of the handles' illumination and causing the beam of light to not project.

MS. HOLDEN reported there was a maintenance agreement with YESCO (Young Electric Sign Company) from

2011 to 2018, and the City did not renew the contract since issues were beyond their scope. She noted Capital Improvements Project funding was denied in 2020, 2021, and 2022 to replace acrylics and lighting, and she explained they are working with the Dennis Oppenheim Estate to locate vendors. She conceded that the process would take time and advocacy from the Commission.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN said this is one of the most important pieces in the community, and she applauded staff for taking steps to preserve it.

VICE CHAIR PLASTER thanked MS. HOLDEN for the presentation, and she looked forward to speaking about the project in the future.

10. **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.

11. **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.

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Foster, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Maggie Plaster, Deputy Cultural Affairs Director
Department of Parks, Recreation and 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