



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR SPROTT and COMMISSIONERS TUPAZ, TRIMBLE, KARPEL (via teleconference), CURRAN (via teleconference), PACHECO, STRAUS (via teleconference), HAMPTON (via teleconference), and HAYNES-HAMBLEN

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS KLEVEN, LOWDEN, and HACKET-MORGAN

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 November 18, 2021

Motion made by John Curran to Approve

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

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

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: Vegas City Opera's Children's Chorus Holiday Concert, Contemporary West Dance Theatre's Cool

Yule Celebration, casting auditions for the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre's Still Life with Iris, nominations to recognize individuals for the Historic Westside Legacy Park, a Kwanza Celebration and Rights of Passage Graduation, and The Extended Family Dinner Exhibit. She provided some of the details regarding the event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists.

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. The Office of Cultural Affairs, Arts Contract Unit is currently drafting an artistic services agreement for all of the selected project artists.

Big Heart Sculpture – MS. HOLDEN said 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. More information can be found at the link provided on the PowerPoint slide.

Charleston Underpass Mural Project – MS. MACHADO stated that an artist or team of artists is being sought to commission an original work of art for the West Charleston Boulevard underpass. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted in September of 2020 and closed October of 2020 with eight submissions received. Following a public presentation by the top three finalists, a nine-member evaluation committee selected a finalist, and the design proposal was issued to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) on December of 2020. Revisions were requested by NDOT and subsequently produced by the artist team. Staff is still awaiting permit approval.

Contemporary Public Art Project – Ten artists are being sought to provide temporary, site-responsive murals and sculptures throughout Las Vegas. The program intends to activate public space and provide funding for the development of temporary public works of art. The Call to Artists application closed on August 31, 2021, and 29 submissions were received. A nine-member evaluation panel met in November and selected 10 finalists. MS. MACHADO is working with those artists to gather additional project information to provide the Public Works and Building Safety Departments, after which artistic services contracts will be drafted.

East Las Vegas Community Center Artwork – MS. HOLDEN stated that staff is in the process of working with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Ward 3 to develop and incorporate additional artworks for the interior and exterior of the East Las Vegas Community Center. This site is being considered to house the Nepehele sculpture by CYD BOWN and feasibility studies are being conducted with fire safety and the sprinkler system to see if the painting can be installed on the horizontal placement in the atrium ceiling area.

East Las Vegas Community Center Mural – MS. MACHADO indicated that the Office of Cultural Affairs is working with the Consulate of Mexico on a new mural for the East Las Vegas Community Center. A design proposal and narrative will be provided at this meeting.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Grand Opening – The Office of Cultural Affairs welcomed over 600 people to the Historic Westside Legacy Park, which was officially opened on Saturday, December 4, 2021. MS. MACHADO thanked COMMISSIONER KLEVEN for attending the event.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Honoree Nominations – Nominations are being accepted for individuals to be recognized in the park for 2021. Those nominations will be open until December 19th, and additional information could be found at the link on the PowerPoint presentation slide.

Historic Westside Mural Program – MS. HOLDEN stated that the Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the Arts Commission and the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE, issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to

hire a mural project coordinator to oversee the Historic Westside Mural Program, and the conceptual development and installation of the multiple large-scale public murals throughout the Westside and beyond. The RFQ was publicly posted from August 12th through September 15th, and 13 applications were received. Three candidates were interviewed, and one finalist was selected. That awardee will be announced once the contracting process is complete.

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 for the Historic Westside School Design Center Mural. The artist began painting on November 22nd, and the mural is set to be complete in early January of 2022.

LIB21 Ward 3 Mural Project – MS. HOLDEN indicated the Office of Cultural Affairs 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. Photos were shown of the Chase mural by JERRY MISKO, which staff is working on to stabilize the surface in some areas and is also in communications with the artist about restoring some of the faded colors. Gravel has been infilled on the Atomic Passage benches, and photos were shown. There has also been damage to the Queen of the Arts sculpture by GUS and LINA OCAMPOSILVA, so staff will work with High Impact Sign and Design to repair it. MS. MACHADO added that the uplighting for the Radial Symmetry sculpture by LUIS VARELA RICO was not operational. Staff from the Department of Public Works, Traffic and Engineering Division, has visited and fixed the lighting. MS. HOLDEN said staff has been keeping an eye on the Bunker Park Decorative Disposal Container by LORI FRATIANNO which will be deaccessioned, removed and replaced with five standard-issue receptacles as the art containers are deteriorating. Lastly, staff is working with JESSE SMIGEL to address graffiti on the Snowball in Vegas sculpture.

Presidential Portrait – In 1989, Southwest Gas Corporation provided the City of Las Vegas with framed portraits of each President. As a continuation of that agreement, they have provided the newest portrait of PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN. A formal agenda item to accession the portrait will be brought forward to the Commission at a later date. COMMISSIONER PACHECO commented that the portrait does not look exactly like PRESIDENT BIDEN.

Municipal Courthouse Public Art Project – An independent evaluation panel selected the proposal by GIG DEPIO for this project. The painting is titled *Level the Playing Field*, and it will be installed in the lobby of the courthouse in early 2022. During a recent meeting, MR. DEPIO informed staff he is 50 percent completed with the painting.

Officer Igor Soldo Memorial Park Sculpture – MS. HOLDEN said staff is working in partnership with Ward 6 and the Department of Public Works to create and install a bronze sculpture to honor fallen Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department 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 sculpture is estimated to be completed by June 30, 2022.

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

Ward 3 Proud Banner Project – MS. HOLDEN announced staff received notification on November 3, 2021 that an additional \$30,000 has been allocated by the Ward 3 office in order to begin the project, which has been directed to be completed by June 30, 2022.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO felt the mural at Stewart Avenue and Eastern Avenue should have an artistic

review to ensure there is Hispanic flare tied into it, and MS. MACHADO said this would be discussed under Item 8. Speaking to the Charleston Underpass Mural, COMMISSIONER PACHECO wished for Holsum Bread to be incorporated somehow because their bakery used to be nearby and pedestrians would always smell fresh bread in the underpass. MS. MACHADO said the design had already been revised and submitted to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for approval. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN added that the mural cannot have any text on it, but COMMISSIONER PACHECO felt the mural could still include bread somehow. CHAIR SPROTT asked about the solicitation process for this mural project, to which MS. MACHADO explained an RFP was sent out through the Purchasing and Contracts Department. An evaluation panel of at least nine people selected four finalists who then gave public presentations via WebEx before deciding on this particular proposal. COMMISSIONER PACHECO said he did not get any information on this project, and reiterated his request for bread to be incorporated because so many individuals remember that aspect. CHAIR SPROTT commented that the opportunity was promoted and advertised fairly, and MS. MACHADO added that the bid was announced at a previous Arts Commission meeting. She encouraged those interested in receiving announcements to register with NGEM (Nevada Government eMarketPlace).

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ inquired about those who serve on the evaluation committees, and MS. HOLDEN believed Item 10 could address some of the Commissioners concerns, but she noted that the bid process is governed by the NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes). Evaluators are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement to ensure they are not influenced by certain factors, such as knowing the artist. Further, an odd number of panelists are chosen to make sure there is not a tie, and this includes the ward's representative from the Arts Commission. Staff also ensures that a representative from any City department is present if necessary. MS. MACHADO commented that she has reached out to COMMISSIONER PACHECO to serve on evaluation panels via e-mail, and she offered to reach out to him through another method if he desired. The Commissioner said he has never been a part of any discussion about evaluation committees at the meetings, and MS. MACHADO said all of their documents are made public, and she offered to assist in any way as they are not trying to hide anything. COMMISSIONER PACHECO said the Commissioners do not get paid, and it is up to staff to present them with the information.

7. Presentation by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding the East Las Vegas Community Center Mural Project design proposal, located at 250 North Eastern Avenue (\$40,000 – Percent for the Arts Fund) – Ward 3

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was attached as backup, LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated that the East Las Vegas Community Center Mural Project is a project in partnership with the Consulate of Mexico. The mural design aims to generate a message of empowerment for the Mexican and Hispanic communities and recognize their contributions to the city. The theme, shapes and colors in the mural inspire a sense of pride in the community, and the group is also planning on hosting a series of activities and workshops during the installation. The artist selected is ADRY del ROCÍO, who was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. A rendering for the mural was displayed, and she said work will begin in late spring 2022. MS. MACHADO closed by reading a quote from the artist, and she looked forward to the project's completion.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO felt the size of the artist's signature on the mural was inappropriate, and MS. MACHADO said staff can speak to the artist and make adjustments.

CHAIR SPROTT thought the mural is beautiful and appreciated the contemporary take of the cutout in the art piece. She agreed that the size of the artist's name was too large but wondered if it was for copyright purposes on the PowerPoint only. MS. MACHADO imagined the size of the name was for the presentation, but she would bring it up with the artist.

8. Presentation by Office of Cultural Affairs staff regarding representation of the public art program on the City of Las Vegas website and the GoVegas app – All Wards

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, recalled that the Commissioners requested information about how the Public Art program is represented on the City's website. Interested parties may visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov and navigate to the Arts and Culture section. There are various links to more specific topics such as performances and events, artist opportunities, facilities and galleries, and the Las Vegas Arts Commission. Several

screenshots were shown from the site, and MS. HOLDEN explained how some links will redirect the reader to other sites. She provided a more robust explanation of the 'Take a Virtual Public Art Tour' option, but noted that it may need to be updated to include more pieces.

The GOVegas app is a full-featured mobile application that enables users to stay connected with City leaders, obtain information about parks, city attractions, parking, arts, cultural events, transit options and more. Citizens may also report issues such as potholes and graffiti, and she has heard great feedback about this feature. She also noted that staff has been working to update the Pass Perfect feature to open more collections to the public.

CHAIR SPROTT appreciated the presentation, as she has had difficulty finding collections in the past.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO said he was impressed by what is available on the site. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN added that because there is much more new public art being installed, there will be frequent updates to the site but Commissioners are welcome to report any missing pieces to staff.

COMMISSIONER KARPEL requested an update on the AMP utility cabinet that was removed, and MS. HOLDEN said it had to be removed due to mechanical features needing replacement. She hoped to have another update at the January meeting.

9. Discussion regarding the development of a public art mentoring program – All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER PACHECO asked how this program would work. CHAIR SPROTT thought this item was brought forward by a Commissioner, to which REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, confirmed. The Chair thought there were several people who had wished to talk about this but were excused from this meeting, and she contemplated waiting until those Commissioners were present.

COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN recalled the idea behind this was about pairing emerging artists with more established public art artists to help them navigate permits, engineering, documents, etc.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO believed the first step was to seek out artists that need mentoring. CHAIR SPROTT said another option could be focusing on education, and spoke of a Clark County program entitled Full Scope that helps younger artists. A group called Forecast Public Art also provides mentorship through training and assistance for artists, commissioners, public officials and other staff.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO thought KCLV Channel 2 would be a good outlet to share information.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ asked if the mentoring would start within the Office of Cultural Affairs, and MS. HOLDEN said nothing has been established, but the Commissioners could share feedback from their own places of employment or experiences. The Commissioner felt the Office of Cultural Affairs should create the guidance if it benefits their office. COMMISSIONER PACHECO agreed.

COMMISSIONER TRIMBLE asked if there was a reason why this discussion was requested by the Commissioners, and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, believed there was a recurring list of applicants that were being selected for projects, and those artists should mentor emerging artists in order to broaden the range of applicants.

CHAIR SPROTT thought this should be a continuing discussion, and COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN suggested that the Education Subcommittee meet to discuss those details. The Chair agreed.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ reiterated that guidance must be developed for such a program because art should be relevant, informational and historical.

CHAIR SPROTT said each project is unique and thought there were guidelines that the art must relate to the specific neighborhood it will be placed in.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO asked if they could look at the designs before they are installed, and CHAIR SPROTT confirmed presentations were made at Arts Commission meetings and each design was

acknowledged. MS. HOLDEN further added that the Commissioner could reach out to her regarding any specific proposal and she could provide a hard copy.

10. Discussion regarding the incorporation of community engagement within newly funded public art projects – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR SPROTT said at the most recent meeting, she expressed that she would love to see more public engagement opportunities within public art pieces. She provided examples as to how this might be accomplished, and noted this will give the community a voice and help them understand and appreciate the art. This aspect would add an expense to the project, but she felt it would be a nice addition.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO thought it was a great idea but believed a lot of information is communicated via e-mail. He suggested posters be made for each community center.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ believed the engagement needs to begin with the Commissioners, whereas COMMISSIONER PACHECO felt it should start with the Councilmembers. COMMISSIONER TUPAZ said many of the Councilmembers are not artists; therefore, the Commissioners must start by informing the Council of their ideas. CHAIR SPROTT said it is crucial that the Commissioners express the needs of the art community and noted that accessibility is important.

COMMISSIONER PACHECO reiterated his suggestion for posters, and added that many people cannot afford a computer or the internet.

COMMISSIONER TUPAZ asked if the Arts Commission has a level of leadership or are they to only suggest things. COMMISSIONER HAYNES-HAMBLEN said the Arts Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council and the Office of Cultural Affairs regarding public artwork.

Speaking as a senior, COMMISSIONER KARPEL said she has internet and so do many of her neighbors, and this was not an excuse to not engage or participate in projects.

COMMISSIONER TRIMBLE recognized the passion behind this topic and understood the importance of community engagement. He spoke of the responsibility and accountability he accepted when joining as a Commissioner and they each must find ways to get information out to the public. He thanked staff for their work. CHAIR SPROTT agreed, and thanked the Commissioner for his efforts.

COMMISSIONER KARPEL said staff is wonderful and reminded everyone that they each have a job to do for the City in addition to providing support to the Commissioners.

CHAIR SPROTT thought this was a good discussion and, as Commissioners, it is great to engage Councilmembers. She also thought it would be beneficial to incorporate more educational engagement within projects.

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:

COMMISSIONER PACHECO said there are many utility cabinets within Ward 3 that are vandalized, but he noticed that the painted cabinets do not get vandalized. He wished for staff to consider the AMP utility cabinet project and make any necessary assessments. He also noted having photographs of the boxes and inquired about how to show them at the next meeting. CHAIR SPROTT advised that all presentation materials should be given to staff, and REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, confirmed he could send that information to her through his cell phone.

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:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 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