



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONERS CURRAN (via teleconference), SPROTT (via teleconference), HAMPTON, BEDNARCZYK, ROBERTS (excused until 4:06 p.m.), WESTFIELD, DOUGLAS, DODSON, and DE SANTIS

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS PLASTER and HACKETT-MORGAN

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialists II; JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I; HOMERO HIDALGO, Technician/Specialist; 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 March 16, 2023

Motion made by Monique Westfield to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

CHAIR KLEVEN reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which

included: three artist receptions for the Our Mothers' Tongues Exhibition, the Windows on First Exhibition Kindness, Neighbors, Art by SAPIRA CHEUK, and the Opposing Forces Sculpture Exhibition, celebrate Earth Day at the Raow Raow Collective Block Party, Fine Arts Festival at Symphony Park, Lunar New Year Exhibition: Year of the Rabbit, and a presentation of the three finalist design proposals for the Third Street Pedestrian Mall Public Art Project. 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 DOUGLAS shared several items for Earth Day on April 22nd. There is a community art-making exhibition featuring Upcycled Garden by ATTABOY and sponsored by Meow Wolf at AREA15 on Saturday, April 22nd from noon to 6:00 p.m. Earth Day Las Vegas Downtown Festival will be hosted by the City of Las Vegas, and Pow Wow for the Planet on UNLV's (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) campus, hosted by the UNLV Native Alumni Club, the Native American Student Association, among many other allies and friends, will also be held on Saturday, April 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

6. Report by Art Builds Community regarding the Public Art Master Plan – All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated that they are working with Art Builds Community to develop a revised version of the City of Las Vegas Public Art Master Plan. An overview of what they have been working on as well as the next steps was presented through a video, which was submitted for the record as a PowerPoint presentation.

AMANDA RAWSON, Project Manager and Research Director, and QUYNH-MAI NGUYEN, Creative Director, narrated the presentation. MS. RAWSON stated that Art Builds Community is a women-led and women-founded public art firm in San Jose, California. The firm is led and was founded by BARBARA GOLDSTEIN, who has worked in the public art field for over 30 years. MS. NGUYEN expressed excitement to help lead community engagement on this project.

MS. RAWSON said the project was initiated in February when they began working with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and community members at the Arts and Culture Summit. The project is currently at the beginning of the community engagement phase, which includes interviews, focus groups, in-person engagement with art social practice projects, and pop-ups. From July through September, the firm will analyze the collected data, as well as the research conducted on other plans, and will provide recommendations based on what was learned. From September through November, they will draft a public art master plan with the goal to present a final report in the new year.

MS. NGUYEN stated that in February, Art Builds Community gave a presentation at the Arts and Culture Summit. They looked forward to visiting May 3rd-7th to consult with communities, as well as attend two pop-up engagements, which will be May 5th at the First Friday Festival Las Vegas and May 6th at the 2nd Annual Symphony Park Fine Arts Festival. At those two events, they will also work with a local, Las Vegas artist to help facilitate a socially engaged art activity in order to provide information and gather feedback from community members.

MS. RAWSON expressed that they do a lot of research when developing a public art master plan, and part of that research includes touring public art within the city and thinking about potential locations during the tour, as well as during community engagement with the public and internal stakeholders. Part of the research also includes analyzing background information provided by City staff such as reviewing current policies, procedures, and guidelines that are in place, as well as those that can be part of the program moving forward.

In addition to research and community engagement, MS. NGUYEN stated that they will also conduct focus groups and interviews with different key groups within the community, interact with people through socially engaged art practice, and meet people where they are.

The group expressed excitement to start this project and to meet with the Commissioners for deeper conversations. Those interested in more information were directed to sign up for the e-mail newsletter on the City's website. There is also an online survey, and they asked the Commissioners to share this project within their networks.

7. Presentation by Cultural Affairs staff regarding AMP Utility Painting Project design proposals for various locations within Ward 3

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, said there were 10 artists, who would present their design proposals for the AMP Utility Painting Project throughout Ward 3 and within the Arts District (Las Vegas Arts District). She noted the Commissioners were provided with a list of presenting artists, as well as the PowerPoint presentation, copies of which were submitted and attached as backup.

CHAIR KLEVEN announced that each artist would be given two minutes to present their proposal.

DRAY WILMORE – HOMERO HIDALGO, Technician/Specialist, presented on behalf of MR. WILMORE and spoke of his use of color and design. The colors bring the audience into the art to feel what the artist is expressing. The chosen designs will be a transmutation of the different painting styles MR. WILMORE has experimented with throughout his career. Photos and renderings of his design were shown.

MILI TURNBULL – MS. TURNBULL introduced herself as a licensed architect in Nevada and an artist. Her design is prompted by the vibrancy of Downtown Las Vegas and includes pops of color. She was inspired by the song Under the Sea, noting she thought of deep sea creatures that are not seen often. The idea felt like the right fit for Downtown Las Vegas, which is a unique ecosystem in the heart of the city. MS. TURNBULL showed photos of her designs, which will include fish and an eel that wraps around the three cabinets.

BRENT HOLMES – MR. HOLMES said his series is called Genuflecting to Luck, and he spoke of the commonality between objects of luck. He chose to use images of American luck, stating that the overall design of the cabinets will be stark with light coloring and heavy line work. He showed several renderings of his designs.

JULIA HALL – MS. HALL said currently she is a full-time student at CSN (College of Southern Nevada) and an artist. Her designs, which are located on Main Street in the Arts District, are influenced by vibrant colors that flow within each utility box. She wished to capture the feeling of live music with a mixture of pop art. Each of the three cabinets will represent a color theme, with two yellow boxes and one red box in the middle. Her vision is for people to enjoy the musical adventure of colors and designs while also enjoying the Arts District. She showed renderings of her designs.

LaRON EMCEE – MR. HIDALGO presented on behalf of LaRON EMCEE, who wished for a general theme of nature. The smallest cabinet includes a small field of grass as the box's foundation, a field of colorful clouds around it, and a blue sky as the crown. The medium cabinet includes a flock of colorful birds having a conversation. The largest cabinet represents the earth, humans, and the sky connected through a female character with hair of clouds surrounded by flowers. Photos of his designs were shown.

LEE LETOURNEAU – MR. LETOURNEAU said the overall theme of his designs is lights, camera, and action, which is a common phrase in the arts community, as well as the ancillary theme of the day to night. Growing up in the arts community, he often heard that phrase and wanted to create something simple, viewable, fun, and dynamic for each box. He provided details and images of each of his designs.

TRACY MARTIN – MS. MARTIN said she has three cabinets with two that are beside each other. They are located in front of the Atomic Style Lounge. She wished to keep the atomic bomb theme and detailed her design that would span over two of the boxes. The third box will feature a mountain design, as she spends a lot of time in nature.

DIANE ZIZKA – MS. ZIZKA introduced herself as an artist from Cleveland, Ohio, who moved to Las Vegas in 2018 and has been growing as an emerging artist ever since. She chose a contemporary landscape series. She displayed images of her work, noting two of the boxes feature minimal designs to engage the public to have a moment of contemplation about their own experiences being in the desert. The other two boxes are located next to each other on Main Street and feature color. MS. ZIZKA chose a desert theme because that is something that viewers engaging with the boxes have in common.

NIMA ABKENAR – MR. ABKENAR proposed four designs for the boxes he will have. He chose to make his

designs abstract, minimal, and with a site-specific design. He displayed renderings of his designs, which focus on the four elements and will grab the attention of the viewers without disturbing the scenery of downtown.

ELLIE RUSH – MS. RUSH said she is a current UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) student. She was born and raised in Las Vegas and said one of her favorite things about the Arts District is it puts locals and tourists on a level playing field. People will be holding hands. She showed images of her designs, stating that each box has opposing color palettes and represent how everyone enjoys the beauty of the Arts District together.

CHAIR KLEVEN said she was impressed by the quality of the proposals and appreciated the thoughtfulness. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS echoed her comments and said he is impressed and felt an artistic zeitgeist was moving through the community. He looked forward to seeing the pieces in the Arts District amp up the vibe of the district.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS was impressed by the designs and said they were beautiful to see.

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, thought all of the designs were wonderful but inquired about feedback regarding MS. MARTIN'S design with the atomic bombs and skulls on the ground. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said this was one of the designs that she was most impressed with because it is all too often that the history of the atomic bomb has been categorized as something kitsch and fun. She believed that stories should be told about the history of the atomic bomb, its impact on the earth and land, and the death that has laid behind.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD liked the design as is but thought the skulls could be removed if they are too harsh. CHAIR KLEVEN did not see any issue with the design but felt it was important to ask business owners for their feedback. MS. MACHADO said if everyone supports the artwork, she was also in support.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS thought the design contained a lot of symbolism and depth but it was done in a way to encourage thought. BECKY MILLER, President of the Las Vegas Arts District, thanked the artists for their proposals. She commented that MS. MARTIN'S design will be in front of her business and noted that several of the buildings nearby were built by the Atomic Testing Commission in 1951. She believed the artwork works well in the area, but she also anticipated receiving some feedback from the community. She recommended bringing up the matter at the next board meeting or the main mixer to provide an opportunity for community feedback. COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD thought that having another meeting might create an ongoing issue.

MR. ABKENAR thought if this design was rejected, it was suppressing expression, and he believed the City should allow the design to be displayed and for the public to decide what happens. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS added that art is meant to provoke thought and dialogue. She believed that the atomic bomb or atomic testing has been toned down in this city, and this image bridges the dialogue.

COMMISSIONER SPROTT said with public art, it is public and that is why it is important to engage the community and have discussions about it. She hoped these conversations were already had with the artist and that she was not being singled out. Additionally, she thought it was important that major stakeholders, like the surrounding businesses, have an opportunity for feedback. She did not have a personal issue with the skulls. MS. MILLER clarified that she and her tenants are not against the artwork. COMMISSIONER SPROTT said it would be fun for the design to be interactive and include something like a QR (quick response) code. MS. MILLER thought that was a good idea, as many people have had questions about pieces in the past.

CHAIR KLEVEN looked forward to the outcomes of the projects.

See Item 10 for related discussion.

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

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Manager, and MARY SABO and HOLLY LAY, 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 included in the backup.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule – MS. SABO provided a schedule of the upcoming Arts Commission meetings. A regular meeting of the Commission will be held on May 18th at 4:00 p.m. A meeting will also be held in June; however, there will be no meeting in July. A Project Development Subcommittee meeting will be held in August, and a regular meeting of the Commission will be held in September. She asked the Commissioners to notify staff if there is interest in holding more subcommittee meetings.

Subcommittees – She reminded the Commissioners to reach out to staff if they would like to join a subcommittee. She directed the Commissioners' attention to the PowerPoint slide for additional information about the subcommittees.

Call for Art – Windows on First: Temporary Public Art Project – A reception will be held for the current Windows on First exhibition by SAPIRA CHEUK, and the call for art for the next round is open until April 28th.

3rd Street – East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art Project – MS. SABO said REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, has worked hard on this project, which is in the presentation stage. There are three finalists chosen by a panel, and they have been working on their design proposals, which will be presented in a public meeting on Tuesday, May 9th inside the International Innovation Center. The event will be free and open to the public.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project (All Wards) – MS. LAY said the projects have been approved, and staff will move forward with contracting.

Art in Public Places – MS. MACHADO said a call for art was issued on March 3rd, and an informational meeting was held on March 15th. The call for art closed on April 14th. Staff received 73 submissions for this project, and a five-member evaluation panel will review the proposals and make suggestions next month. She anticipated new artwork being purchased for City facilities by the end of June.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project – MS. SABO said a Request for Qualifications was posted on the Nevada Government eMarketplace on February 1st. The posting closed on March 13th, and there were 28 applicants. The evaluation panel for this project met on March 27th and selected four semi-finalists that will develop detailed proposals, which will be presented in late June.

Charleston Boulevard Underpass Mural Project – MS. LAY said the artist has been selected for this project, and staff is awaiting the design to be approved by NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation).

Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO stated that staff met with City management and the project architect, and it was determined that the location of the large sculpture be changed. It will move to the center of the Civic Center Plaza. Originally, three artists were identified to create proposals, and now seven have been identified. Staff will ask them to develop new proposals, and a public meeting will be held along with survey information. The project timeline has been extended, and she did not anticipate receiving proposals until the middle of the summer.

Contemporary Public Art Program – She noted this program installs temporary artwork in different locations throughout the city of Las Vegas, typically one in each ward. ALEX SCHECHTER has been selected for Ward 6 with a piece titled Holy Mountain. Staff submitted the permit to install his artwork, and she hoped the project would be completed by the beginning of July.

Historic Westside Mural Program – MS. SABO said the first mural of the project was completed in January 2023 at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. The second mural, by MALACHI WILLIAMS and DYRON BOYD, was completed at the Obodo Collective, which is a non-profit organization that is growing food and hosting community markets and events. She announced that an Earth Day event would be held at Obodo Collective over the weekend. The third mural is in the contracting phase and will be located at the Southern Nevada Housing Services building.

Medical District Public Art Project – Staff is working with the Ward 1 office to revise the first draft of the Las

Vegas Medical District Public Art Plan, which recommends an allocation of the Percent for the Arts Funds go towards two projects and also requests an additional \$186,000 of Capital Improvement Funds go towards additional project sites and locations. Additional information will be provided upon approval of the plan.

Windows on First – The current exhibition is Kindness, Neighbors, Art by SAPIRA CHEUK, which is open through July 25th.

9. Report by Jeanne Voltura, Visual Arts Specialist I, regarding the Gallery Programming Calendar for Fiscal Year 2024 – 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 Gallery Programming Calendar. She stated that she has been with the City since 2005 and would present on the future and past exhibitions of the program.

City Hall Grand Gallery – MS. VOLTURA indicated that this gallery is primarily sculptures and is located on the first floor of City Hall. The first exhibit of the new year will be Clay Arts Vegas: Totems and will welcome all levels of ceramic artists. The Neon Museum will host the Debbie Reynolds in Las Vegas Exhibition. The America Recycles Exhibit: Sculpture will be curated by staff and open to all artists who are interested in making art using recycled materials. Additionally, there will be a cardboard sculpture exhibit, and a call for art will be issued. Lastly, in this gallery, she will put out a call for art that uses found objects and is inspired by the 1960s.

City Hall Chamber Gallery – This gallery is the second space in City Hall and shows both two- and three-dimensional exhibits, many of which focus on different cultural groups. Celebrating Life Winners Circle 2023 was started by the Arts Commission many years ago and is a juried show for artists 50 years and older. She showed photos of the artwork that won awards last year. The Public Employee Art Exhibit is held every year around October and includes state, city, and county employees or those who are retired. She showed photos of last year's Public Employee Art Exhibit, as well as the African American Heritage Exhibit, which are done by curation. The Helldorado Exhibit is an exhibit desired by the City to highlight vintage photos. Last year's exhibit featured photos from JK RUSS, LINDA ALTERWITZ, and KURTIS CASTRO. Lastly, Artistic Attack existed in place of the Helldorado Exhibit and featured child artists.

Fifth Street School Gallery – MS. VOLTURA stated that two spaces have had to close in the Fifth Street School Gallery. The Consulate of Mexico in Las Vegas is a Mayor-driven show and will continue to exist every year. It is located in the Mayor's Gallery and focuses on Hispanic and Latin culture. The Native American Heritage Exhibit is curated by a Native American artist. She displayed a list of the artists that participated in the Lunar New Year of the Dragon Exhibit and the Lunar New Year of the Rabbit Exhibit, noting their popularity.

Charleston Heights Art Center Gallery – The first show that staff will submit a call for art will be the LGBTQA+ Pride Exhibit, and a community member will curate that exhibit. The next show will be Modern Romanticism and will include a call for art. The Celebrating Life! 2024 Master's Exhibit was created in order to award people who have won three or more awards. She showed photos of past Celebrating Life! receptions and exhibits.

CHAIR KLEVEN asked MS. VOLTURA how artists find out about open art calls and shows. MS. VOLTURA replied on <http://artsregistrylas.vegas/>. She set aside Celebrating Life! brochures for the Commissioners, a copy of which was not submitted for the record.

See Item 10 for related discussion.

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:

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS wondered if there was any consideration of public art projects during the design phase of public architecture or landscape projects, as he believed art must be considered during the earliest

phases of a project if it is to be included. COMMISSIONER SPROTT thought that would be a great topic for the Public Art Advisory Subcommittee.

CHAIR KLEVEN suggested the next agenda include nominations for the subcommittees. MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, thought that members could be added at the Chair's discretion via e-mail. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED confirmed that the Arts Commission bylaws allow selections to be made at the discretion of the Chair. COMMISSIONER SPROTT asked to have a Public Art Advisory Subcommittee meeting next month. CHAIR KLEVEN requested staff circulate an e-mail to see who would like to join that subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS asked if there is a mission statement for public art for the City of Las Vegas. LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, said part of the master plan is to solidify a mission/vision statement. She believed the Commissioners would have a meeting in May with the Councilmembers to gather information, which will be presented to the Arts Commission and City Council. The Commissioner thought if there is a mission statement, there would not be as much controversy about what is allowed as part of the AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project. MS. MACHADO said staff has discussed a policy related to proposals since she has been employed. She thanked COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS for bringing up the matter.

With respect to the presentation by JEANNE VOLTURA, Visual Arts Specialist I, COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS believed there was a mentorship program opportunity in curation. She was aware that it can be difficult to find curators but thought this was a way good way to bridge artists and curators with other artists. MS. MACHADO was happy to say that along with the requested budget increase for educational opportunities, MS. VOLTURA requested an expansion to her budget that would allow staff to increase the fees paid to curators and fees for artists participating in gallery programs. The Commissioner complimented MS. VOLTURA and wished to see more support for her. CHAIR KLEVEN said that topic would be added to the Education Subcommittee.

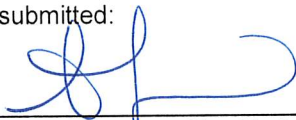
11. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward 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.

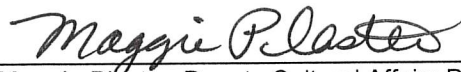
12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 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