



## Arts Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN (via teleconference), DOUGLAS, CURRAN, HAMPTON (via teleconference), BEDNARCZYK (via teleconference), DE SANTIS, and CHEUK

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS PLASTER, ROBERTS, WESTFIELD, and DODSON

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; REBECCA HOLDEN, MARY SABO, and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialists II; VAL STEED, Chief Deputy City Attorney; and BRIAN CARROLL, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and the Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://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 and the Education Subcommittee of the Arts Commission Meeting of October 19, 2023

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER CHEUK clarified that the due date she provided for the project grant for artists was incorrect, and the correct due date was October 30th.

Motion made by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan to Approve

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

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

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: America Recycles Day Exhibit; Windows on First installation and the Aerial Gallery; I Can, I Will; and the Wellness Way Mural titled Harmony in Bloom. She provided details regarding event/exhibit locations, dates, and artists, noting additional information can be found at [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org) or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS highlighted the Hija/e/o/x(s) de Su exhibition occurring at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center located at 1331 South Maryland Parkway. She stated that the exhibition would have special gallery hours on November 24, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Native Heritage Day, and the closing reception will take place on December 7th. Additional information can be found at [www.nuwuart.com](http://www.nuwuart.com).

COMMISSIONER CHEUK announced that the Nevada Arts Council is accepting nominations until November 30th at 5:00 p.m. for the Nevada Poet Laureate, which is appointed by the Governor for a two-year term. She explained the Poet Laureate's role and noted that additional information can be found at [www.nvartscouncil.org](http://www.nvartscouncil.org).

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

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, and HOLLY LAY, REBECCA HOLDEN, and MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialists II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, regarding current projects and artistic opportunities.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule – MS. LAY reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule, noting that the Education Subcommittee meeting will be held on January 18, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. followed by the Arts Commission meeting at 4:00 p.m. Further, regular meetings of the Commission will be held in February and March.

Recognition of Outgoing Arts Commissioner John Curran – MS. LAY recognized outgoing COMMISSIONER CURRAN for serving seven years on the Commission.

Recognition of Outgoing Arts Commissioner Ryan Hampton – MS. LAY recognized outgoing COMMISSIONER HAMPTON for serving two years on the Commission.

3rd Street – East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art Project – MS. HOLDEN stated that this project is called the Third Street Pedestrian Mall Public Art Project and advised that the artwork would be installed along 3rd Street after the contract is finalized with the selected artist.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project (All Wards) – MS. SABO advised that BRACKEN HERMANSEN and VEZUN, artists, had been contracted and would begin their design work after invoices were received.

Call for Artists: Art in Public Places Exhibition and Artwork Purchase Program – MS. MACHADO explained they were looking for artists to submit their two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork for this exhibition, which will be on display at various City facilities. Interested artists are invited to visit [www.artsregistrylas.vegas](http://www.artsregistrylas.vegas) to apply, and the deadline is February 5, 2024.

Call for Artists: Fine Art Gallery Exhibition Proposals – MS. MACHADO said they were looking for proposals for the FY (Fiscal Year) 25 gallery season. Interested artists are invited to visit [www.artsregistrylas.vegas](http://www.artsregistrylas.vegas) to apply, and the deadline is March 3, 2024.

Call for Artists: Rancho Gateway Public Art Project – MS. HOLDEN advised that this request for qualifications was posted to the Nevada government marketplace. Interested artists are invited to visit [www.ngemnv.com](http://www.ngemnv.com) to apply.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project – MS. SABO said Mendre Sculptures was selected, and the

sculpture will be installed at the intersection of Casino Center and Art Way. Further, a community meeting will be held to present the design to the community.

Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO stated that seven proposals were received and shared with the City Council and City management, and they were seeking feedback from City staff members. She expected to return to the Commission to discuss additional funding for the project, noting that expenditures were incurred when seeking proposals.

Conservation and Maintenance – MS. HOLDEN reminded the Commissioners that artwork is regularly maintained and conserved. The public is encouraged to contact [publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov) with any concerns regarding the public art collection.

ERIC PAWLOWSKI cleaned and refurbished the Ansan Sister City Park Sculpture last month, and staff continues to maintain, conserve, and restore several AMP Utility Cabinet project sites. MS. MACHADO advised that Holy Mountain by ALEX SCHECTER suffered damage by weather or vandalism and will be repaired by the artist in December, and MS. HOLDEN stated they were working with the estate and their recommended lighting design company to repair the Paintbrush Gateway by DENNISS OPPENHEIM. MS. SABO noted that restoration of the West Las Vegas Arts Center Mural by DRAY WILMORE and the original community mural was underway.

Contemporary Public Art Program – MS. LAY explained that NIMA ABKENAR, artist, completed Davoud at James Gay Park, which will remain on display until November 2024.

Historic Westside Mural Program – MS. SABO advised that the final murals had been completed, and a celebration for I Can, I Will by MALACHI WILLIAMS and DYRON BOYD will be held on December 5th at 1:30 p.m.

Life is Beautiful Partnership Mural at Rotary Park – MS. SABO noted that the mural had been completed in partnership with the Ward 1 Office and Life is Beautiful. Love Letters to Las Vegas was completed by Paints with Care and CORY BENNETT and included participation from the community on October 28th.

Medical District Public Art Project – MS. HOLDEN displayed a map from the presentation showing the location of five projects funded through Percent for the Arts and Ward 1 Capital Improvements Project funding. She said two projects were in progress and the remaining three were in the solicitation and drafting process. The pre-bid conference for the Rancho Gateway Public Art project, which was accepting solicitations, would be held on November 20th at 9:00 a.m. via Webex. The surface had been primed for the Wellness Way Mural – Harmony in Bloom. The mural should be completed in December with a celebration planned for December 13th at 1:00 p.m., and MS. HOLDEN noted that parking at UNLV's (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Lot C was reserved for the event. She advised that the scope and solicitation was being created for the Wellness Way Gateway. MS. LAY stated that an RSOQ (request for statement of qualifications) for sculptures for the Pahor Drive project was live until February 29, 2024, and she said an informational meeting will be held on January 9th at 5:30 p.m. MS. HOLDEN hoped to have a pre-qualified solicitation opened that night for the Shadow Lane project and future projects.

Pre-Qualified Muralist List – MS. SABO advised that the list contains 46 local, national, and international artists and artist teams and was available for viewing on the City website. Further, new submittals will be accepted in 2025.

Public Art Master Plan – MS. HOLDEN displayed a timeline from the presentation and reminded the Commissioners that funding was approved by the Commission in September 2022. Art Builds Community was awarded the Public Art Master Plan contract in February 2023, and they conducted in-person meetings and community engagement events in May 2023. A presentation was provided to the Commissioners by Art Builds Community in October 2023. Staff was internally reviewing the first draft of the Master Plan before it is presented to the Steering Committee to create a second draft, and MS. HOLDEN noted that COMMISSIONERS PLASTER, DOUGLAS, and ROBERTS serve on the Steering Committee. The

Commissioners will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Master Plan at the January Commission meeting, and the completed plan will be voted upon by the Commission and the City Council in February.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS expressed concern regarding repair costs for the Paintbrush Gateway, noting that she attended a meeting several years ago where similar concerns were expressed by community members. She questioned if the art piece could be preserved by being donated to the Neon Museum. MS. HOLDEN stated that substantial repairs had not been performed since the maintenance agreement with YESCO (Young Electric Sign Company) expired in 2014, and she noted that the City Council unanimously approved the Municipal Arts Plan, which included funding for the Paintbrush Gateway. She felt that was an important step in uplifting the Arts District. She advised that JAMIE GIELLIS, Centro, provided a presentation to the City Council on the Arts District in September, and a key directive involved repairing the Paintbrush Gateway. MS. HOLDEN clarified that YESCO quoted \$100,000 for the repairs, but staff had been unable to receive a competitive bid exemption to begin the work. She advised that the next step is to justify the expenditure to acquire the competitive bid exemption. COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN respected that the City has an interest in supporting local artists. She opined that DENNIS OPPENHEIM was a significant artist, and she was unsure if the City had a policy regarding spending public funds on significant art pieces. She noted that funding was spent to produce new art pieces, and she believed existing art pieces tell the story of Las Vegas. Lastly, she said she appreciated COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS for inquiring about the Paintbrush Gateway, and she asked for information on the Ground Zero artwork. CHAIR KLEVEN asked if the estate would provide yearly maintenance costs. MS. HOLDEN wanted to ensure the scope included long-term planning, and she felt excited to work with a lighting company, since they had previously worked with a signing company. The Chair advised that the City had open RFQ's (request for qualifications) for over \$200,000, and she asked for ongoing maintenance costs to be considered.

COMMISSIONER CURRAN confirmed with MS. SABO that the Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project solicitation process was complete and the contract had been executed.

COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN and CURRAN commended staff for their work and keeping the Commissioners informed.

Lastly, CHAIR KLEVEN thanked COMMISSIONERS CURRAN and HAMPTON for their service on the Commission.

7. ABEYANCE ITEM – Discussion for possible action regarding the purchase or lease extension of contemporary project sculptures Better Luck Next Time, located at the corner of South Main Street and Gass Avenue, and Mushroom Cloud, located at the corner of South Main Street and West Colorado Avenue (Not-to-Exceed \$4,000 – General Fund) – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to explain where Better Luck Next Time by SHAN MICHAEL EVANS and Pixelated Mushroom Cloud by PASHA RAFAT were installed, and she advised that the one-year installation period had expired. She stated that a one-year lease extension would cost \$2,000 for each art piece, and she asked the Commission to approve the \$4,000 extension cost.

COMMISSIONER CURRAN noted that one of the artists had requested a higher price, and MS. MACHADO confirmed the artist was amenable to matching the amount previously suggested by the Commission. The Commissioner expressed support and believed the City should focus on permanent art pieces going forward.

Motion made by John Curran to Approve

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

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

8. **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 item 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:

HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialists II, asked the Commissioners to contact her if they were interested in receiving business cards.

9. **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.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Brian Carroll, Deputy City Clerk



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Maggie Plaster, Acting 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor