



Arts Commission Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Minutes:

CHAIR KLEVEN called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN, DOUGLAS, PLASTER, BEDNARCZYK, ROBERTS, DODSON (via teleconference), DE SANTIS, CHEUK, CHI, and LEE

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD

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, Acting Senior 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 16, 2023

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Maggie Plaster, Michael Dodson, Joan De Santis, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Pauline Lee; Excused-Monique Westfield;

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

Minutes:

CHAIR KLEVEN welcomed COMMISSIONER CHI to the Commission. The Commissioner oversees graphic design, event planning, and communications as the Digital Marketing Director for Vegas PBS (Public

Broadcasting Service), and she managed the Caesars Rewards mobile app and helped develop digital initiatives at Caesars Entertainment. She serves on the Superintendent's Anti-Racism, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee, the National PBS Marketing Advisory Council, and the Vegas Theatre Company Board, and she previously served as a Clark County AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Community Commissioner. COMMISSIONER CHI is a 2021 graduate of Leadership Las Vegas, and she received her Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Master of Business Administration from UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) Anderson.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN welcomed COMMISSIONER LEE to the Commission. COMMISSIONER LEE is a community activist, organizer, and volunteer in the Las Vegas community. She was born in Southern California and received her Bachelor of Accounting degree at University of Southern California. She graduated from Duke University School of Law and practiced law in the areas of bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial litigation in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Houston before settling down in Las Vegas.

CHAIR KLEVEN and COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: Call for Artists: Art in Public Places Exhibition, Celebrating Life! 2024 Master's Exhibit, Lunar New Year of the Dragon Reception, Created in Paper and Everyday Materials, and The African American Heritage Exhibition: A Collection of the Inspirational Black Experience. They provided 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 highlighted the Forward: A Weaving Our Cultures exhibition occurring at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center located at 1331 South Maryland Parkway, and she noted that the opening reception will take place on January 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The exhibition displays artwork from Latina, Native American, African American, and Asian American women and will run from January 26th to May 4th. ERICA VITAL-LAZARE will host a writing workshop on February 3rd at 2:00 p.m. to explore ancestral lore as a vehicle for writing contemporary horror, and XOCHIL XITLALLI will hold a butterfly workshop on February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK advised that the Nevada Arts Council is accepting applications until March 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. for the Project Grant for Organizations, which provides up to \$7,000 for art projects to Nevada non-profit organizations. She said the following informational sessions will be held online: Project Grant for Organizations Guidelines Overview on January 25th at 12:00 p.m. and Telling Your Story in Grant Applications on February 14th at 1:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at www.nvartscouncil.org.

CHAIR KLEVEN noted there were upcoming MFA (Master of Fine Arts) exhibitions taking place at UNLV's (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Grant Hall Gallery, including EGAD !! by BAILEY ANDERSON, which will run from January 16th-28th. The opening reception will take place on January 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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 regular Commission meetings would be held in February, March, and April.

Welcome Arts Commissioner Pauline Ng Lee – MS. LAY welcomed COMMISSIONER LEE to the Commission.

Welcome Arts Commissioner Terry Chi – MS. LAY welcomed COMMISSIONER CHI to the Commission.

3rd Street – East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art Project – MS. HOLDEN advised that the selected artist and design would be announced after the contract was awarded.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Project (All Wards) – MS. SABO said three additional cabinets had been completed by BRACKEN HERMANSEN and VEZUN, artists, and she advised that all project funds had been released and the project was closed.

Call for Artists: Art in Public Places Exhibition and Fine Art Gallery Exhibition Proposals – MS. MACHADO stated that the Art in Public Places Exhibition call closes on February 5, 2024, and the Fine Art Gallery Exhibition call closes on March 3, 2024. Interested artists are invited to visit www.artsregistrylas.vegas to apply.

Call for Artists Pre-Qualified Sculptor List – MS. LAY said they were looking for sculptors and emerging artists able to work within the \$10,000 and \$300,000 range. This call closes on February 29, 2024.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project – MS. SABO stated that Mendre Sculpture was creating engineering documents and coordinating with City staff on potential utility issues in the area for the sculpture. She noted that a community presentation will be held in the future to present the design.

Conservation and Maintenance – MS. HOLDEN reminded the Commissioners that artwork is regularly maintained and conserved. She advised that they had spent around 40 percent of the maintenance funding allocated for Fiscal Year 2024. The public is encouraged to contact publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov with any concerns regarding the public art collection.

City staff was notified of significant damage to the Big Heart sculpture, which is located near the Clark County Marriage License Bureau on 3rd Street, and MS. HOLDEN said the original artist's care instructions would be used to restore the sculpture. MS. MACHADO reported on damage to the mural at the East Las Vegas Community Center caused by vandalism. She said a report was filed with City Marshals and a temporary surveillance camera was installed. She advised that a permanent camera will be installed before the mural is repaired. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS expressed interest in viewing the report and wondered if the damage was caused by gunshots. MS. MACHADO believed the mural was damaged by thrown rocks, and she offered to send the report to the Commissioners. MS. LAY stated that staff is working with RLA Conservation to repair the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial sculpture. They successfully tested dry ice to remove the coating and will scope the total repair cost. Further, Allied Flooring replaced some damaged slate. MS. SABO noted that restoration was in progress for the West Las Vegas Arts Center Mural by DRAY WILMORE and the original community mural.

Contemporary Public Art Program – MS. MACHADO said ADOLFO GONZALEZ was selected for the program, and she displayed a work in progress image of the Enriched Heritage sculpture, which will be installed at the Odobo Collective.

Doc Romeo Skate Park Mural Project – MS. SABO reported that this project was proposed by NICO ROUSSIN, who is a local artist, skateboarder, and business owner. City staff was working with MR. ROUSSIN to develop the scope of work, which will involve painting the bowls of the skatepark and include community engagement efforts.

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. The Rancho Gateway project solicitation had closed on January 2nd, and a limited number of finalists would be selected to develop proposals. A completion celebration for the Wellness Way Mural titled Harmony in Bloom was held on December 13th, and a wall use agreement is in place with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) until October 30, 2028. Regarding the Wellness Way Gateway, Pahor Drive, and Shadow Lane projects, MS. HOLDEN advised that an open solicitation for a pre-qualified sculpture list and feedback from each project's evaluation panel would be used to select applicants.

UNLV Internship Program – MS. SABO stated that the Public Art program offers internship opportunities to UNLV art students. She noted that MONICA MONTOYA, former intern, helped with online representation and promoting events, and JULIA HANNAH FARJADO should become the next intern for the program. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS questioned how many interns could participate in the program and if they receive any stipends. MS. SABO said the interns receive college credit for the unpaid internship program. MS.

MACHADO clarified that City staff gives a guest lecture to JERRY SCHEFCIK'S Gallery Practices class and advises students interested in the program to contact staff.

Public Art and Gallery Assistant – MS. LAY stated that the City was hiring for this part-time position. Interested applicants are invited to visit www.artsregistrylas.vegas to apply, and the deadline is February 28, 2024.

MS. LAY noted that staff would like to conduct a public art tour of all wards with the Commissioners in the spring. COMMISSIONER LEE said that was a great idea. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wanted to attend and believed it would be a good opportunity to visit gallery spaces and meet with the public.

7. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that a Request for Qualifications was issued in June 2022 for a sculpture to be placed in the middle of the Civic Plaza. Over 100 submissions were received and seven artists created design proposals, which were shared with the City Council and management. The top four proposals were ranked by City staff via a survey. MS. MACHADO displayed the survey results from the presentation, including images and descriptions of each sculpture, and each proposal was presented in ranked order. Harmonic Ascension by Cliff Garten Studio is guided by the idea that art and music generate community and gather people together. HORIZON by SOFTlab represents a round canopy structure that offers landmarks and outward facing vantage points in a picturesque landscape. Chromanova by Creative Machines is a monumental, immersive sundial that tells time with color. HELIOS by FUTUREFORMS represents the topography of Las Vegas with acknowledgments to Indigenous communities in the region.

MS. MACHADO stated that a community survey would be created and sent out on February 1st for the top three proposals, and the responses would be shared with the City Council and management to help select a proposal. Lastly, she encouraged the Commissioners to complete the survey and share it with the community.

CHAIR KLEVEN questioned what activities would take place around the sculpture, and she wondered how often this type of survey was created. MS. MACHADO pointed out the sculpture's proposed location from the presentation, noting there will be two lawn areas near the stage. She expected the Civic Plaza to host festivals and activities taking place at the Historic Fifth Street School. She noted that this was the most extensive evaluation panel she had been involved with. COMMISSIONER PLASTER explained that programming the Civic Plaza was a priority for the City Manager.

COMMISSIONER LEE wondered if music was included in the Harmonic Ascension sculpture. MS. MACHADO said no music was included, stating that the sculpture contained steel and light. She advised that the twisting shape was a musical instrument. COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS noted that the sculpture would be lit during the night, and she questioned how the sculpture would look during the day. MS. MACHADO clarified that the survey will include 14 renderings of the sculpture, and the artist provided samples of similar designs they had created.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS asked to be involved in the next meeting about this project.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS believed usability of the plaza would be impacted by the wider art pieces, and MS. MACHADO said that was a concern.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the accession of the mural "Legacy" by Matt Murphy and the statue "Sculpting Tony's Legacy: A Tribute to Tony Hsieh" by Brian Hanlon, located at Strong Start Academy Elementary School, 310 South 9th Street (No Fiscal Impact) – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

ANGELA ROSE, Youth Development & Social Initiatives Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that the City received an award in January 2022 to open the first public charter school in Nevada sponsored by a local government. The Strong Start Academy Elementary School at the Tony Hsieh Education Center opened in August 2022, and it was named after TONY HSIEH for

his contributions to the community. The school has a bilingual model that provides dual language education in English and Spanish, and the school's mission is to provide equitable academics to maximize student potential. MS. ROSE explained that Legacy by MATT MURPHY and Sculpting Tony's Legacy: A Tribute to Tony Hsieh by BRIAN HANLON were completed in December 2023 in collaboration with the City, Downtown Project, Zappos, and MR. HSIEH'S family. She said Legacy pays homage to the innovations and legacy of MR. HSIEH. Sculpting Tony's Legacy: A Tribute to Tony Hsieh cost \$75,000 and was commissioned by MAYOR CAROLYN GOODMAN and MR. HSIEH'S family to commemorate his contributions to the downtown area.

CHAIR KLEVEN confirmed with MS. ROSE that the mural faces inside the school and was not open to the public. The Chair wondered if maintaining the art pieces would substantially affect the budget. REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialists II, advised that the mural has a protective coating, and she said maintenance was fairly routine for other pieces the City has from MR. HANLON.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN clarified with MS. ROSE that the 9th Bridge School was formerly owned by TONY HSIEH'S estate, and it was later sold to the City and became the Strong Start Academy.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS questioned if the public would have an opportunity to view the mural. MS. ROSE explained that the school was limited to school personnel and students, noting that the school hosts parent and community events on nights and weekends. She stated that the Downtown Project and Zappos collaborate with the school and brings guests to view the mural, and she was open to ideas as long as students were kept safe.

Motion made by Maggie Plaster to Approve the accession of "Legacy" by Matt Murphy and "Sculpting Tony's Legacy: A Tribute to Tony Hsieh" by Brian Hanlon

Passed For: 11; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Jennifer Kleven, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Fawn Douglas, Maggie Plaster, Michael Dodson, Joan De Santis, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Pauline Lee; Excused-Monique Westfield;

9. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the Public Art Master Plan – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialists II, explained that the Commissioners received a working draft of the Public Art Master Plan (Master Plan), and she narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, both of which were submitted for the record, to provide a framework and overview of the planning process. She stated that Art Builds Community was selected to develop the Master Plan, noting they created the 2013 Public Art Master Plan. MS. HOLDEN displayed the Master Plan's timeline from the presentation to show that funding was approved by the Commission in September 2022 and community engagement efforts took place in May, June, and July 2023. She advised that Art Builds Community presented community engagement findings to the Commission in October 2023, and the Master Plan's first draft was received by City staff in November 2023. She noted that the appendices were being finalized with Art Builds Community, and she expected the Commissioners to provide feedback on the final draft in February 2024 before they could approve the plan in March 2024.

MS. HOLDEN listed the Master Plan's Vision, Goals & Objectives and Recommendations from the presentation, which she explained were based on the Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan and engagement with City staff. She hoped the Master Plan would shape the direction of public art programming, and she believed it would be referenced by the Project Development Subcommittee of the Arts Commission for future deliberations. She asked the Commissioners to consider if the recommendations resonated with the community and if they wanted to see any improvements.

COMMISSIONER CHI said strategic plans often have time ranges. She wondered if there were previous versions of the plan, and she questioned who would steward the plan. MS. HOLDEN clarified that the 2013 Public Art Master Plan had not been adopted, and she offered to provide the Commissioner a copy of that plan. She noted the timeline of the Master Plan had not been clearly defined, and she stated that the Cultural Affairs Division would steward the plan. She said the Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan had to follow a specific adoption process per Nevada Revised Statutes, and this Master Plan's adoption process was less stringent.

COMMISSIONER PLASTER opined that City staff would decide the plan's term, and she expected it to be 10 to 15 years.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS advised that she attended planning sessions for the Master Plan, and she wanted the plan to include utilizing art as a tool to uplift indigenous stories. She noted that many tribes traveled through the area, and she hoped the plan could include language to uplift that history.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK asked if including a time to revisit the plan would be beneficial to see what was working. MS. HOLDEN said that was an excellent suggestion, and she thanked COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS and PLASTER for their recommendations.

CHAIR KLEVEN expressed excitement for the Master Plan and said it would help guide the Commission. She asked the Commissioners to review the draft plan prior to the next Commission meeting.

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 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:
None.

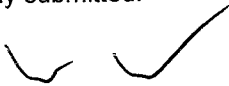
11. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No subject may be acted upon by the Commission unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward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

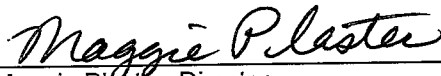
12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Acting Senior Deputy City Clerk



Maggie Plaster, 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