



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, DOUGLAS, PLASTER (excused until 4:19 p.m.), BEDNARCZYK (via teleconference), ROBERTS (excused until 4:07 p.m.), WESTFIELD, DODSON (via teleconference), DE SANTIS (via teleconference), CHEUK, and CHI

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER LEE

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; PAUL MATA, Deputy City Attorney; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk; and SAMANTHA DINICOLA, 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 February 15, 2024

Motion made by Terry Chi to Approve

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

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

5. Report by Jennifer Kleven, Arts Commission Chair, regarding 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: Call for Artists: Civic Center Building Interior Artwork, The African American Heritage Exhibition: A Collection of the Inspirational Black Experience, Nevada Watercolor Society 2024 Spring Show, Call for Artists: Celebrating Life! 2024, Celebrating Life! 2024 Master's Exhibition, and Lunar New Year of the Dragon. She 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 HACKETT-MORGAN asked for information about the art contest regarding the Goodman Exhibition. HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated that a private business is hosting the event and it is not affiliated with the City.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK stated that the Nevada Creative Conference will be held May 30th to June 1st in Reno, Nevada and the theme is intersections. The program will spend three days connecting with Nevada's diverse arts and cultural community of artists, educators, arts, business, and community leaders. There will be workshops, art tours, networking, learning, and collaboration opportunities. Registration is open and additional information can be found at www.nvartscouncil.org.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS advised about events happening on the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) campus, including Powow for the Planets hosted by the Native American Student Association and other Indigenous organizations on April 19th-20th. She noted a number of events taking place at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, including receptions on March 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the KARLA LAGUNAS Exhibition and the Master of Fine Arts Thesis and Midway Exhibition for TY SUKSANGASOPHON from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Further, the Love is a Place Exhibition by NISHAN GANIMIAN will be held from April 18th-19th with a reception on April 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Commissioner highlighted the Forward: A Weaving Our Cultures exhibition taking place at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center, noting that Mass Liberation Project will have a fundraising fish fry at the event. Final Friday will occur on March 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. KAMORA JONES will teach a Visualizing Your Spiritual Realm painting and drawing workshop on March 30th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the National Native Aids Awareness Day event will take place on April 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. JM HUCK will hold a poetry workshop titled Representation every Thursday in April, and COMMISSIONER CHEUK will have a writing workshop on April 12th at 6:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at www.nuwuart.com.

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 April, May, and June, with no meeting in July.

Call for Artists: Celebrating Life! 2024 – MS. MACHADO said they are looking for volunteers to be Public Art and Gallery Program Evaluators. She stated it is an important part of the solicitation process, and they want to make sure their panels are rich in knowledge and diverse in representation. Interested applicants are invited to visit www.artsregistrylas.vegas to apply.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project – MS. SABO explained the project is located at Casino Center and Art Way. The CR2 team, including RANDY MENDRE, CAITLYN SAVILLE, and ROBERT GURDISON, had been selected and were working on engineering documents for their project titled The Seed.

Charleston Underpass Mural Project – MS. LAY reported that ERIC VOZZOLA had begun painting this project in the eastbound lanes and hoped to have the project completed within four to six weeks.

Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO noted that the City contracted Michele Quinn Fine Art Advisory LLC for the second sculpture project to facilitate artwork selection and MS.

MACHADO expected the consultant to provide a presentation at the May Commission meeting.

Conservation and Maintenance – MS. HOLDEN reminded the Commissioners that artwork is regularly maintained and conserved, and she displayed an image from the presentation showing an art piece with graffiti and surface damage. Members of the public are encouraged to contact the department at publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov with any concerns regarding the public art collection. They are working on their annual inventory and hope to have it completed by their May 1st deadline, and they will continue to address graffiti abatement on utility cabinets.

Corridor of Hope Health and Wellness Mural – MS. SABO reported that they were working with the Department of Neighborhood Services and Public Works to complete the Corridor of Hope mural project at the Health and Wellness Center, located at 1450 South Main Street. They held an evaluation meeting and were waiting on final approvals before notifying the selected artists.

Doc Romeo Skate Park Mural Project – MS. SABO stated that they were working with NICO ROUSSIN, local artist, and Paints with Care to paint the skate park. They were conducting a survey in order to gain community input, and a community event will be held on April 13-14 at the park.

Down for Anything Mural Project – MS. LAY explained that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs was helping the Office of Communications with the solicitation for an artist from the pre-qualified muralist list to make a Down for Anything themed mural. They want the local artist to tell their story as part of the Downtown LV branding campaign, and she noted that the jury selected three finalists.

Listos y Seguros Public Art Project – MS. LAY said they were working with JUSTIN FAVELA, artist, and the Neighborhood Services Department to plan a Block Party in May that will invite the nearby community to where the sculpture will be installed.

Medical District Public Art Projects – MS. HOLDEN reported that the Rancho Gateway Project, located on Rancho Drive and Rancho Lane, has Request for Proposals out to selected finalists. A final presentation will be held on May 28th via Webex, and the evaluation panel will make a decision following the meeting. The Wellness Way Gateway, Pahor Drive, and Shadow Lane projects will use the pre-qualified sculptor list that had already closed and had received 92 responses. Further, evaluation for the list is ongoing. The Wellness Way Mural was completed in December 2023, and the agreement with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) expires in October 2028.

Meow Wolf Mural at Police Memorial Skatepark – MS. LAY advised that the Public Art program collaborated with Meow Wolf and the Durango Hills YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) to host an artist workshop with IANDRY RANDRIAMANDROSO. MR. RANDRIAMANDROSO completed the design using feedback from this workshop which included shapes and colors from drawings done by participants. A community paint day will be announced, and painting for the mural will begin next week. Hundreds of skateboards, backpacks equipped with protective gear, and art kits to decorate boards were anonymously donated at the event and given to children in the surrounding area.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK questioned if the Public Art Evaluators needed to be residents of the area, and MS. MACHADO said they do not need to be residents.

CHAIR KLEVEN asked regarding the Rancho Gateway Project, if the Webex meeting was public or only for the presenters and evaluators. MS. HOLDEN replied that the meeting will be open to the public, and the selection process will be private among the evaluators afterwards.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if the evaluation process advertised locally to gain interest from artists in the area. She opined that artists involved in the evaluation process would gain knowledge on submitting their own applications. MS. MACHADO agreed and said she would create something and share with the Commissioners to promote on their social media to gain more community involvement. MS. DOUGLAS believed local artists should be given priority over out-of-state evaluators.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the Public Art Master Plan – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a background and timeline of the Public Art Master Plan (Master Plan). She advised that the Commission was established in 1987, and she explained that the Percent for the Art Fund was created in 2003 to support the development of permanent public art projects. She said more than \$4.5 million had been transferred into the Percent for the Arts Fund since Fiscal Year 2015, noting that the City's art collection contains more than 1,000 objects. MS. HOLDEN stated that Art Builds Community was hired in January 2023 to create the Master Plan, and she listed the plan's vision, mission, and goals from the presentation, which were established through research and numerous community engagement events held throughout 2023. She explained that eight recommendations were identified by Art Builds Community to improve the Public Art and Gallery Program, and these recommendations were placed into an implantation grid and classified as short-term (up to two years), mid-term (three to five years), and long-term (six to 10 years). MS. HOLDEN advised that they would seek approval for the Master Plan from the City Council at their April 3rd meeting. Lastly, she acknowledged and thanked everyone that had been involved in the creation of the Master Plan.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK proposed changing the grant provided by the Nevada Arts Council to a Project Grant for Organizations, and COMMISSIONER CHI noticed a typo on LAURA MACHADO'S, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, title. Additionally, MS. HOLDEN asked for the community engagement items to be listed in chronological order.

COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN stated she suggested that the City to work with CAROL GOLDSTEIN, BARBARA GOLDSTEIN, and MARC PALLY in 1992 on a City project, and she expressed excitement for their involvement with the plan.

COMMISSIONERS HACKETT-MORGAN, PLASTER, ROBERTS, and CHAIR KLEVEN, thanked MS. HOLDEN, City staff, and everyone involved in the creation of the Master Plan. The Chair believed the plan creates attainable goals and a long-term vision.

Motion made by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan to Approve the Public Art Master Plan with revisions changing the grant provided by the Nevada Arts Council to a Project Grant for Organizations on Page 45, listing community engagement items in chronological order on Pages 82 and 83, and correcting Laura Machado's title to Manager on Page 141

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

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

8. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the Public Art solicitation and selection process – All Wards

Minutes:

REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that their team works with the Purchasing and Contracts Division of the Finance Department to deliver Public Art Projects and Programs that are in alignment with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). The Purchasing and Contracts Division supports the procurement of a variety of goods and services needed to run the city. Evaluation panels are included in the project development, solicitation, and selection processes to ensure a variety of perspectives are applied when evaluating material submitted by applicants. MS. HOLDEN said NRS 332, a copy of which was included with the backup, focuses on professional services or goods and services and is the framework for how solicitations are structured and advertised. She summarized the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) process and stated that it starts with developing a project scope, and establishing a funding source. They then select an evaluation panel, issue RFQs to the public, and the panel selects finalists to receive RFPs (Request for Proposals) to be presented to the panel and public. Contract negotiations begin once the finalist is selected and officially awarded the project, and the artist will complete the project in alignment with milestones listed within their contract. The process is finished with a ceremony to celebrate the new artwork, and then the City maintains the artwork for the lifespan

of the project. MS. HOLDEN advised that an RFQ is similar to applying for a job and is the screening process to establish a pool of qualified businesses or individuals. An RFP is a document that solicits a proposal and is usually part of a two-step process made through the competitive bidding process. This stage issues more extensive project details to the applicants, and they are usually compensated a small percentage of the overall project budget. She explained the differences between an invitation competition and direct selection noting that a set criteria is often used to evaluate the materials provided to ensure that the selected artist is capable of completing the project successfully. Evaluations are most commonly conducted by a panel consisting of an odd-numbered group with either a direct tie to the project or expertise in the subject matter. Evaluators must certify that they will keep all information confidential, not have personal interest in the project, and not accept any gifts from artists within the solicitation. Interested evaluators are invited to visit www.artsregistrylas.vegas to apply.

COMMISSIONER CHI asked if there was an example of an artist not completing a project and there was a breach of contract. MS. HOLDEN replied that there have been instances where the artist was unable to finish their contract and they received permission to terminate the contract. She said this can happen when they are not able to meet milestones noting that there are fabrication restrictions that may impede on a project. The Commissioner wondered if the City would take a loss if the contract was breached. MS. HOLDEN provided an example of an art piece that was created in a different state, noting that County (Clark County) regulations require fabrication to take place within Clark County or Los Angeles County. She explained that they were able to receive funding to move the pieces to Las Vegas, and subcontractors were hired to fabricate the complete piece at no loss to the City.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS questioned if artists who apply for a project and are not awarded it are able to find out how their application can improve. MS. HOLDEN replied that artists can receive feedback through connecting with the Purchasing and Contracts Division. MS. MACHADO added that artists have reached out to their Department directly to receive step-by-step reviews of their application. The Commissioner asked if panel evaluators are compensated or if it is a voluntary program and she wondered what constitutes knowing an artist and having to abstain. MS. HOLDEN responded that it is a voluntary program, and she said it is a hurdle they are trying to overcome due to the amount of work the evaluators are asked to do. She said you should abstain if you are unable to keep confidential that you are on a panel or if you have a business relationship with the applicant. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS opined that being an evaluator is beneficial because you get to see what an application should contain in order to be successful.

CHAIR KLEVEN wondered if all applicants are automatically added to a newsletter recommending they become evaluators. MS. HOLDEN believed that was not currently available but stated she would look into it.

9. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project survey results – All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to advise that they went beyond their normal evaluation process to receive feedback from City employees, the Commission, and community members. Five evaluation panel members reviewed all 109 submissions and selected seven artists to create design proposals. MS. MACHADO said the survey results showed the need to promote and support artists within Las Vegas, noting there were 94 responses in favor of commissioning a local artist. She stated that this survey made them reevaluate how they were doing things, and she questioned how many projects were being commissioned by local artists. She confirmed that around 75 percent of projects funded through the Percent for the Arts fund were completed by Las Vegas artists. She displayed the survey results for each sculpture from the presentation, stating that Chromanova by Creative Machines received 181 responses, HORIZON by SOFTlab received 298 responses, and Harmonic Ascension by Cliff Garten Studio received 351 responses. MS. MACHADO confirmed that the survey results were shared with City management and the City Council and she expected to provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

CHAIR KLEVEN thanked MS. MACHADO for the report and said it gave insight in to the methodology behind the project. She looked forward to hearing more about the artists at the next 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:

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS questioned if there was a way to outline steps toward a private Percent for the Arts fund, and he wondered how it would be implemented. If there were any, he believed the Commission could help create strategic relationships and partnerships.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS requested an update on public educational workshops.

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:

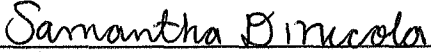
None.

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Samantha DiNicola, 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