



## Arts Commission Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN (seated as Chair subsequent to Item 9), and COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS (seated as Vice Chair subsequent to Item 9), KLEVEN, BEDNARCZYK (seated as Second Vice Chair subsequent to Item 9), ROBERTS (via teleconference and excused until 4:02 p.m.), WESTFIELD (via teleconference and excused until 4:01 p.m.), DE SANTIS (via teleconference), CHEUK, CHI, and LEE (excused until 4:14 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialists II; VAL STEED, Chief Deputy City Attorney; and BRIAN CARROLL, 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](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 Meetings of April 18, 2024

Motion made by Terry Chi to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

### 5. Report by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, Arts Commission Vice Chair, regarding a monthly summary of current initiatives, cultural events and opportunities – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout

the city, which included: Artists Receptions for Southwest Artists: The Influence of Sculpting Using Found Objects, Windows on First: I Wonder by CLARA TANG, and Artistic Attack Student Art Exhibition; Mural Dedication Events for Police Memorial Skate Park, Charleston Underpass Mural Color Therapy, and Doc Romeo Skate Park; Celebrating Life! 2024 Exhibition Reception and Awards Ceremony; and the Art in Public Places Exhibition. The Vice Chair 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 advised that the Native Youth Art Exhibition would be held at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center on May 18th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She explained that the exhibition featured art from CCSD (Clark County School District) students enrolled in the Indian Education Opportunities Program, and she noted that art supplies would be provided to the first 100 children courtesy of a United Way donation. The Mass Liberation Project will host the Youth Liberator Meeting on May 19th at 2:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at [www.massliberationnv.com](http://www.massliberationnv.com).

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN said Desert Companion's 12th annual Focus on Nevada Photo Showcase will be held at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art on May 31st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 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 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. SABO reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule, noting that a regular meeting would be held in June. She said a Project Development Subcommittee of the Arts Commission meeting would be held in August, and the Commission will hold their annual budget meeting in September. Lastly, she said a public art tour may replace the regular Commission meeting in October.

Public Art and Galleries Newsletter – MS. SABO invited everyone to sign up for the Public Art & Galleries newsletter by scanning a QR (quick response) code, which she displayed from the presentation.

Charleston Underpass Mural Project – MS. LAY advised that the dedication event for Color Therapy by ERIC VOZZOLA will take place on May 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Brooklyn's Best Pizza and Pasta.

Conservation and Maintenance – MS. MACHADO stated that staff continues to conserve and maintain the City's public art collection, and she explained that the annual inventory was nearly complete.

Corridor of Hope Health and Wellness Mural – MS. SABO reported that the project's evaluation panel selected Hope Flies by JAMIE VINCEK for the mural at the Health and Wellness Center, located at 1450 South Main Street. She expected the mural to be completed in early June.

Doc Romeo Skate Park Mural Project – MS. SABO said NICO ROUSSIN and Paints with Care completed the Pro Park Paint Project, stating that a dedication event would be held on June 10th at 9:00 a.m.

Down for Anything Mural Project – MS. LAY advised that an artist had been selected and the contract was in progress.

Medical District Public Art Projects – MS. LAY noted that three finalists were completing RFP's (Request for Proposals) for Pahor Drive, which were due in July. MS. MACHADO stated that three artist presentations for Rancho Gateway would be held on May 28th. Further, information on joining the public meeting was displayed from the presentation.

Meow Wolf Mural at Police Memorial Skatepark – MS. LAY said IANDRY RANDRIAMANDROSO, artist, completed the mural, and a dedication event would be held on May 22nd from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Windows on First: Clara Tang – MS. LAY said the reception would take place at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if MR. VOZZOLA'S mural would be power washed before the unveiling, and MS. LAY responded likely not. MS. LAY was working with the Department to have staff clean the mural, noting that vendors requested road closures to provide that service. Further, she said the artist offered to touch up the piece if needed.

MS. MACHADO invited the Commissioners to fill an open position on an upcoming evaluation panel.

7. Report by Michele Quinn, Fine Art Consultant, regarding the Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Project proposals – Ward 3

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, introduced MICHELE QUINN, Fine Art Consultant, to share information on design proposals for the Civic Center Plaza second sculpture project, noting that the Commission would make a determination at their next meeting.

MS. QUINN utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to point out the proposed sculpture location on a site plan of the Civic Center Plaza, stating that the sculpture would be around 26 feet wide and eight feet tall. She provided renderings, biographies, and artist statements for five artists with ready-made sculptures from the presentation, which included proposals from two local artists. MS. QUINN said JUSTIN FAVELA was considered, but he was working on a different project.

GHADA AMER was born in Cairo, Egypt and creates art of femininity and the female body. Her piece, The Heart, includes the female portrait, and MS. QUINN believed this piece was intimate and would not overpower the space.

KRYSTAL RAMIREZ attended UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and earned her MFA (Master of Fine Arts) at Stanford University. She works with a local fabricator to incorporate neon into her Sarno breeze block style artwork, and one of her pieces is featured at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art. MS. QUINN advised that the piece could be scaled based on direction from the Commission, noting that each proposed piece would be constructed with aluminum, cement, or foam.

DAVID RYAN is a local artist originally from Texas that worked with DAVE HICKEY. His art uses MDF (medium-density fiberboards) in an abstract form, and he expressed excitement about providing a public piece of art. He was speaking with La Paloma to fabricate the proposed piece, which would be constructed with an aluminum-type material. The pedestal would be composed of playground material and may not require much area landscaping. MS. QUINN believed this piece would represent the aesthetic of Las Vegas.

DONAL SULTAN creates floral motifs with abstract shapes and colors. The proposed piece uses corten steel, which requires less maintenance than other materials. MS. QUINN opined that this piece would provide a Zen experience and was a strong option for the proposed budget.

HANK WILLIS THOMAS has experience with public art and creates bubble benches that are inspired by comic books. MS. QUINN believed the piece would not overpower the space, stating that the public could sit on the benches. Additional pieces were shown titled Duality, which is a low-maintenance bronze sculpture of an arm displaying the piece sign, and Larger than Life.

COMMISSIONER CHI advised that she has been involved with corporate marketing for over 30 years, noting that she uses a creative brief to provide required dimensions. She wondered what strategic direction was given to the artists. MS. QUINN stated that she does not give direction to artists and said the pieces were ready-made. She provided artists with the scale, material, and budget, as she believed dictating artists would water down the choices.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS appreciated the selection of artists. She said the City did not select a Las Vegas artist for Civic Center Plaza's main sculpture. She believed the community could get behind MS. RAMIREZ'S neon sculpture, and MR. RYAN'S piece was very interesting and would build conversation. She wanted the Commission to consider one of the Las Vegas artists. MS. QUINN suggested replacing the Civic Center Plaza's main sculpture with a larger piece from MS. RAMIREZ.

COMMISSIONER LEE stated that MR. THOMAS' pieces were cute and would create thought. She agreed with choosing a native artist, noting that MS. RAMIREZ'S sculpture incorporates an element of Las Vegas' history. She expressed concern that one of the renderings would attract the homeless population. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if one of the pieces could be placed on its side and surrounded by cacti, and she questioned how the neon would be protected. MS. QUINN believed the neon could be moved to the top of the piece. In response to COMMISSIONER LEE, MS. QUINN clarified that the artist could create several designs.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS agreed that this was an opportunity to celebrate Las Vegas architects, noting that he enjoyed MS. RAMIREZ'S work. He wanted the plaza to be considered the foyer of the city of Las Vegas, and he loved the idea of having a local artist speak to Las Vegas' history.

COMMISSIONER CHI clarified with MS. MACHADO that the Commission would vote on the proposal at the June meeting. COMMISSIONER CHEUK questioned what information would be provided at the next meeting. MS. QUINN said she paid MS. RAMIREZ for her renderings, and she suggested paying the artists a fee to provide additional information, such as the budget and scale. In response to the COMMISSIONER CHI, MS. QUINN said she enjoyed all of the pieces. She suggested choosing a piece by MS. RAMIREZ for this space and a piece by MR. RYAN for the main sculpture, as she believed there would be a disconnect with the pieces proposed for the main sculpture.

VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN expressed support for MS. RAMIREZ'S pieces, as she felt this was an opportunity to have a piece from Las Vegas with a story to tell. Lastly, she thanked MS. QUINN for the presentation.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment of Carmen Beals to replace Jennifer Kleven on the Arts Commission – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN stated that COMMISSIONER KLEVEN replaced MAGGIE PLASTER, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, as the City representative appointed to the Commission by the City Manager. The Department recommended CARMEN BEALS, Curator and Outreach Director with the Nevada Museum of Art, to fill the vacancy. MS. BEALS holds a Master's Degree in Museum Studies and a BS (Bachelor of Science) Degree in Civil Engineering. She worked with the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts and led the curation of Latin Legends, which was the first bilingual exhibit at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. The Nevada Museum of Art unveiled one of her latest projects in 2022, which is an exhibition on PAUL R. WILLIAMS.

COMMISSIONER CHI clarified with MS. SABO that MS. BEALS would fill the vacant seat opened by COMMISSIONER KLEVEN replacing MS. PLASTER. Further, this item did not involve any officer appointment.

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Approve the appointment

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

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

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of officers – All Wards

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN reported that COMMISSIONER KLEVEN replaced MAGGIE PLASTER, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, as the City representative appointed to the Commission by the City Manager, and she noted the Commission previously discussed that staff should not hold officer positions. Further, the Vice Chair stated that officers tend to progress.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN nominated COMMISSIONER BEDNARCZYK to serve as Second Vice-Chair, who said she would be honored to serve.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve the nominations of Suzanne Hackett-Morgan as Chair, Fawn Douglas as Vice Chair, and Heather Bednarczyk as Second Vice Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

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

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:

RENATO FERNANDES, former Cirque Du Soleil performer, advised that he would host the International Circus Festival of Las Vegas on November 1-10. He said there would be performers from around the world, including people born and raised in the city of Las Vegas.


COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS looked forward to the event, and COMMISSIONER CHEUK asked to speak with MR. FERNANDES after the meeting.

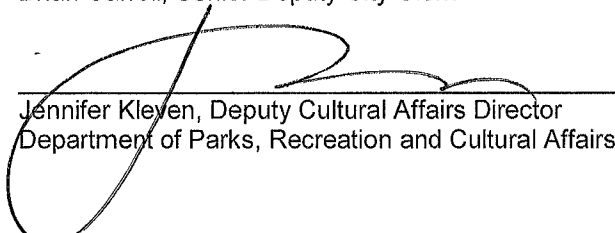
12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk

  
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Jennifer Kleven, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

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

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor