



Arts Commission Minutes

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

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN and COMMISSIONERS BEDNARCZYK, KLEVEN, ROBERTS, WESTFIELD, DE SANTIS, CHEUK, CHI (via teleconference), LEE, BEALS, and PORTNOY

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS

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; 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 May 16, 2024

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN welcomed COMMISSIONERS BEALS and PORTNOY to the Commission. COMMISSION BEALS serves as an Associate Curator and Outreach Director with the Nevada Museum of Art, where she curates exhibitions with a focus on African American culture and assists the museum with statewide programming. She received her Masters in Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School and has

a BS (Bachelor of Science) in Civil Engineering from Prairie View A & M University. COMMISSIONER PORTNOY owns Portnoy Gallery in Las Vegas and is the former Illustrator for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He has created over 500 college sports programs and media guide covers, along with limited edition commemoratives for institutions, such as Michigan State University and Yale University. His distinctive caricature style captures the essence of his subjects, making him a sought-after entertainer and artist in both the sports and entertainment industries.

The Chair reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: Celebrating Life! 2024 Exhibition and Salon de Refuse and Art in Public Places Exhibition. 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 BEALS stated that ThirtyThree Gallery opened the UNMASKED exhibition, which features works by MARIO LORNE and will remain on view through July 12th.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK advised that the nomination period for Nevada Arts Council's FY (Fiscal Year) 25 Heritage Fellowship will close on June 30, 2024, noting that it recognizes traditional bearers that contribute to Nevada's traditional arts heritage. Further, she said the fellowship is awarded as an honorarium. Additional information can be found at www.nvartscouncil.org.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN stated that DjangoVegas! would take place at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Historic Fifth Street School.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS confirmed that the call for artists for Nevada Watercolor Society's September 5th - November 23rd show at the West Sahara Library was due by July 19th. He said the Las Vegas Urban Sketchers would hold their monthly event at the Nevada Supreme Court Annex.

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 Project Development Subcommittee meeting would be held in August and a regular Commission meeting would be held in September.

Public Art and Galleries Newsletter – MS. SABO invited everyone to sign up for the newsletter.

3rd Street – East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art Project – MS. MACHADO advised that the finalist was unable to secure the proper insurance, and she expected a new solicitation to be issued.

Charleston Underpass Mural Project – MS. LAY confirmed that ERIC VOZZOLA, artist, completed the mural and the dedication was held at Brooklyn's Best Pizza & Pasta on May 31st. She was waiting for quotes from two companies to establish routine washes.

Conservation and Maintenance – MS. SABO stated that staff continues to conserve and maintain the City's public art collection. She explained they were working to replace the banners in the Berkley Square neighborhood, which features original artwork from JOSEPH WATSON, by the end of the month.

Corridor of Hope Health and Wellness Mural – MS. SABO said the Hope Flies mural by JAMIE VINCEK had been completed.

Doc Romeo Skate Park Mural Project – MS. SABO advised that the mural was complete and a dedication event was held on June 10th.

Down for Anything Mural Project – MS. LAY confirmed that the location for the mural was no longer available, and staff was looking for a new location with the same artist.

Medical District Public Art Projects – MS. LAY stated that the Rancho Gateway community survey will be created to seek feedback on design proposals, and the Wellness Way Gateway and Shadow Lane projects were on hold until the pre-qualified sculpture list is evaluated.

Meow Wolf Mural at Police Memorial Skatepark – MS. LAY noted that the mural reception was held on May 22nd and featured skaters from Fresa's Skate Shop, Unit 702 Ice Cream Truck, and free skating lessons.

Pre-Qualified Sculpture List – MS. LAY clarified that the list had been evaluated and would accelerate the artist selection process. She explained that project evaluation panels could use the list or put out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) to the public. Further, she said the list would be updated every two years.

Westside Education & Training Center Mural and Sculpture – MS. SABO advised that the evaluation panel was reviewing the pre-qualified mural and sculpture lists to determine a short list of artists in July. She displayed an image from the presentation to point out where the sculpture location had been moved.

Windows on First: Clara Tang – MS. LAY said the artist reception was held on May 16th and stated that the artwork will be on view until September.

7. Report by Michael Howe, Planning Project Manager, regarding updates to Form-Based Code in the Arts District – Ward 3

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Hold in Abeyance to 11/21/2024

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

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

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the Civic Plaza Second Sculpture Project (Not-to-Exceed \$220,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) – Ward 3

Minutes:

CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN stated that the Commission could select one of the artist's pieces to move forward or request MICHELLE QUINN, Fine Art Consultant, to get more information and full proposals from some of the artists. The proposals would come with an honorarium, which would be one percent of the total project budget.

MS. QUINN utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a brief presentation on the five available pieces from artists GHADA AMER, KRYSTAL RAMIREZ, DAVID RYAN, DONALD SULTAN and HANK WILLIS THOMAS. MS. QUINN stated that MS. RAMIREZ had provided an updated rendering of her piece since the last Commission meeting on May 16, 2024.

COMMISSIONER LEE noted there was support for MS. RAMIREZ for being a local artist and bringing elements of Caesar's Palace to her piece. MS. QUINN confirmed the breeze block was from JAY SARNO, Caesar's Palace. She clarified that MS. RAMIREZ'S piece was not the final rendition, since they had not provided MS. RAMIREZ an honorarium for a full proposal.

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, stated that the Commission could select a specific design proposal from one artist or ask for additional information from a select group of artists. The second option would pay the artists an honorarium to fully develop the design proposal and include the budget and materials.

COMMISSIONER CHI verified with MS. QUINN that MR. THOMAS lives and works in New York.

COMMISSIONER LEE motioned for further discussions with MS. RAMIREZ on her project and wanted to ask for a more definitive art piece.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS inquired if it would be wiser to request additional information from two artists, in the event they do not select MS. RAMIREZ'S piece. COMMISSIONER CHI agreed with the proposal to have two artists, and COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS suggested having proposals from all artists that had not fully executed their sculptures. MS. QUINN clarified that only MR. RYAN and MS. RAMIREZ did not have readymade pieces.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS believed they should wait to select the secondary sculpture until the primary sculpture was selected by the City Council in hopes they complement each other. MS. QUINN suggested having the artists propose art for both sites for the same fee.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN noted that the first piece had gone through a rigorous evaluation process for two years and would be voted on by the City Council in the next few weeks. She confirmed with MS. MACHADO that the pieces should be presented to the City Council on July 17th, which would be before the design proposals would be submitted in order to give the artists 90 days.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD wondered if they could approve a design and ask the artist to change it later. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN said it would be uncommon to ask an artist to change their vision in relation to another artist's vision and felt it would be unrealistic to have the pieces complement each other. She added that the artists would have participated in the survey for the first sculpture and specified that the vote would be to offer the artists an honorarium to develop their proposal in the final version. She believed they could select an artist or request modifications at the September or November Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY asked about the initial theme of the main sculpture project. MS. QUINN explained that she was not involved in the centerpiece project. She was retained to present artworks within the budget that would fit the space and was requested to include two local artists. The Commissioner questioned if schools could have been involved to come up with designs for the artists. MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, offered to speak with COMMISSIONER PORTNOY to clarify the process.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered if MR. THOMAS should be considered, as she believed his artwork was more social media friendly. MS. QUINN offered to ask MR. THOMAS to hold a piece and suggested that it would still be available in September.

Subsequent to further discussion, COMMISSIONER LEE amended her motion to request fully-formed proposals from MR. RYAN and MS. RAMIREZ.

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Approve acquiring fully-formed artwork proposals from David Ryan and Krystal Ramirez

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

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

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment or re-appointment of members to the Arts Commission Subcommittees – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN advised that the Commissioners were provided the subcommittee membership list, a copy of which was submitted for the record, noting there were four openings on the Project Development Subcommittee, which would meet in August. She said each subcommittee can have no more than six members. The Chair clarified that the Education Subcommittee was at full capacity, and she was willing to remove herself from that subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN wanted to leave the Project Development Subcommittee and nominated COMMISSIONER ROBERTS to serve on that subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER CHI asked for a description of the subcommittees. MS. SABO explained that the Project Development Subcommittee meets in August to review projects for the upcoming fiscal year, noting that

subcommittee and the Education Subcommittee were the most active. She clarified that the Public Art Advisory and Fast Track Subcommittees had never met, and she advised that staff considered removing the subcommittees and bringing those discussions to the full Commission.

COMMISSIONER BEALS volunteered to serve on the Project Development Subcommittee, and COMMISSIONER PORTNOY wanted to volunteer.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve the appointments of Eric Roberts, Neal Portnoy, and Carmen Beals and reappointments of Monique Westfield and Joan De Santis to the Project Development Subcommittee, appoint Carmen Beals as Chair of that subcommittee, and appoint Fawn Douglas as Chair of the Education Subcommittee

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

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

10. Presentation by Renato Fernandes, Founder and Director of the International Circus Festival of Las Vegas, regarding events planned for the 1st International Circus Festival of Las Vegas – All Wards

Minutes:

RENATO FERNANDES, Founder and Director of the International Circus Festival of Las Vegas, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to cover the proposal of the 1st International Circus Festival. MR. FERNANDES is a third-generation flying trapeze artist and sixth-generation circus performer from Brazil. He and his fiancé have won numerous awards as performers and also worked globally as judges. He discovered the large talent pool in Las Vegas while teaching flying trapeze to UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) students. He said the mission of this project is to provide local performers with an opportunity to work with Cirque du Soleil, a Canadian entertainment company that produces circus art shows in many countries. He indicated that the 10-day festival will be held from November 1st to November 10th, stating the event would be held once per year. For this event, MR. FERNANDES will rent a big-top circus tent that holds 1,230 people, and he explained that around 100 international flights will be coordinated to host international circus performers, judges, artistic directors, and crewmembers. Each of the 14 accredited judges will be able to offer multiple contracts to the 54 performers during this festival. The performers will be split into two groups and the shows will be scheduled for 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Group A will perform on day one and Group B will perform on day two. Day three will give both groups a second opportunity to showcase their talents. A gala dinner will be hosted for the performers on the fourth day to announce the finalists that will perform in the Gold Show on November 5th. The remaining days of the festival will be daily winner shows. MR. FERNANDES noted that the sponsor list found in the PowerPoint presentation was not updated, but he said they have received support from international circus' and media companies. He expressed that his dream is to have a permanent tent in Las Vegas that offers programs to work with children to inspire a new generation of performers. He also wanted to provide outreach programs that help people with substance use disorders and concluded that the tent could also serve as a convention center that holds business events throughout the year.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD asked what help was needed for this project. MR. FERNANDES said he wanted to raise awareness for the project and felt that bringing in the Las Vegas community was important. He added that they have contacted the Silverton Casino Lodge, Rio Hotel and Casino, and Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino but do not have a finalized lot, since the project is unique and permanent.

CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN thought the project was a good idea and explained to MR. FERNANDES that the Las Vegas Strip lies within the County (Clark County) and not within the city of Las Vegas. She suggested that he visit www.TravelNevada.com and believed that he should consider Downtown Las Vegas for this project.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD noted that Cashman Field could be a candidate for this project in November. She informed MR. FERNANDES that there is also land available in the Moulin Rouge Entertainment District on Bonanza Road as a part of The HUNDRED (Historic Urban Neighborhood Design Redevelopment) Plan.

MR. FERNANDES added that they are working with the Las Vegas Review-Journal and Humanitix, which is a non-profit ticket platform where 100 percent of the booking fees go to donations. He also included that they are members of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN was excited to attend and looked forward to the success of this project.

COMMISSIONER LEE offered to contact MR. FERNANDES with the Nevada Office of the Lieutenant Governor for their support. She believed they would love to support this project and help him find a way to accomplish this project. CHAIR HACKETT-MORGAN added that LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR STAVROS ANTHONY is also the chair of the Nevada Commission on Tourism and encouraged MR. FERNANDES to reach out, since she felt this project could do a lot for the city of Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER WESTFIELD said this project would be a great way for kids to be active. MR. FERNANDES agreed and added that the sport is another way for people of all ages to obtain confidence and a healthy lifestyle.

11. **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 LEE wanted to invite RANDY ECKLUND, Vice President of The Howard Hughes Corporation, to discuss and provide an overview of art in Ward 2 in August. MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, opined that would have to be in November, since the subcommittee would meet in August. She offered to work with the Commissioner and noted that a tour may take place in November.

12. **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.

13. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk



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

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor