



## Arts Commission Minutes

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

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: ACTING CHAIR BEDNARCZYK and COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS, ROBERTS, KLEVEN, WESTFIELD, DE SANTIS, CHEUK, CHI, LEE, BEALS, and PORTNOY

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER HACKETT-MORGAN

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; BRIAN CARROLL, Senior Deputy City Clerk; and YVETT LOZOYA, 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 October 17, 2024

Motion made by Fawn Douglas to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

ACTING CHAIR BEDNARCZYK reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city which included: three free opening receptions for All Out of Bubblegum by MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, the Public Employee Art Exhibition, and the Windows on 1st Street featuring artist SARA JEAN ODAM, the Tamales and Mariachi Festival, and the Contemporary West Dance Theater's A Cool Yule Holiday Spectacular.

She provided further details regarding the event and exhibit locations, dates and times, noting additional information could be found at [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org) or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK announced the Nevada Arts Council has a FY (Fiscal Year) 26 Project Grant for Organizations, which supports the arts and cultural activities of organizations and public institutions. Funds may be used to support the execution of art and culture projects, including art exhibitions, performance readings, and festivals. The application opens December 2nd and closes February 3, 2025. Additionally, the grant amount is up to \$7,000 and requires one-to-one cash or in-kind match. The Commissioner stated more information could be found at [www.nvartscouncil.org](http://www.nvartscouncil.org).

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS announced on November 22nd an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) Exhibition, *Figuratively Speaking*, will be at the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) GRS (Graduate Art Studios) Building from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where the Graduate Open Studios was concurrently happening. The Commissioner reported that *Tejido at Sohn Mending Workshop*, a community sewing and skill-sharing event, hosted by *Welcome Home*, *The Solidarity Fridge*, and *Sohn* would take place on November 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 220 East Charleston Boulevard. Additionally, at *Indigemart* on November 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the *Children of the CORN-INDIGENOUS-AF* will present *Native American Heritage Day* to support *Native Americans*, small businesses, arts, crafts, jewelries and indigenous artists. Upcoming on December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the *Native American Holiday Market* hosted by the *Las Vegas Indian Center* will include bead work, pottery, music, and food, which will be held at the *CSN (College of Southern Nevada) Student Union Auditorium* at 3200 East Cheyenne Avenue. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said the 2nd Annual *Native American Holiday Market and Toy Drive* will be hosted by the *Las Vegas Indigenous Market Committee*. Lastly, she announced the *Moapa Paiute Tribe* has their *Christmas Crafters Fair* on December 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., which will include handcrafted items by members of the *Moapa Paiute Tribe* and other inter-tribal friends at the *Moapa Powwow Grounds*, where the gateway to the *Valley of Fire* is located. Additionally, COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said there is a free lecture series reading by Chicano Author DANIEL A. OLIVAS, at 7:00 p.m. at the *Margorie Barrick Museum of Art*.

COMMISSIONER CHI stated a memorial service for LEVI FACKRELL, Founder and former Artistic Director of the *Vegas Theatre Company*, will be held Sunday the 24th at 12:00 p.m. at the *Judy Bayley Theatre* on the UNLV campus.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS noted on December 14th the *Las Vegas Urban Sketchers* will be holding their monthly open sketch meeting at the *Las Vegas Springs Preserve* at 10:00 a.m. Another event open to the community is the *Watercolor Workshop* that will be hosted by the *Nevada Watercolor Society* on January 24th, 25th, and 26th, with artist KRISTI GRUSSENDORF; further information can be found at [www.nevadawatercolorssociety.org](http://www.nevadawatercolorssociety.org).

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN highlighted the official opening of *MAD Gallery* on November 29th from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the *Arts District*, located at 1312 South Main Street. She encouraged people to visit the *Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery*, opining they have a great exhibit called *Viva Las Vegas* open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until December 13th.

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

Minutes:

HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, noted the Commissioners received the staff report, which included updates to *Percent for the Arts* projects and was submitted for the record. Following, MS. LAY, MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialist II, and LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, regarding additional activities and initiatives.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule - MS. LAY reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule, noting the first meeting in 2025 is January 16th. Additionally, she stated the December meeting is traditionally canceled due to holiday travels. After discussion among the Commissioners, ACTING CHAIR BEDNARCZYK said the Commission agreed to cancel the December meeting; therefore, the next meeting would be January 16th, at 4:00 p.m. COMMISSIONER LEE confirmed with COMMISSIONER KLEVEN and CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED that there is no statutory requirement to have a certain amount of meetings per year. Moreover, MS. LAY noted nine of the Commissioners have confirmed attendance for the February public art

tour and requested those who had not to notify her by the end of the year. She stated there will be a regular Commission meeting in March at 4:00 p.m. MS. LAY announced signing up for the public art and galleries newsletter to receive information about receptions, events, and opportunities.

Public Art and Gallery Program Open Call for Artists - MS. SABO listed two open calls for artists, including the Lunar New Year Exhibition Year of the Snake, which closes December 30th at 6:00 p.m., and the Aerial Gallery Banner Program Artwork License, which closes February 6th.

CODA Summit 2024: Annual Public Art Conference - MS. SABO noted the City sent MS. LAY and herself to the CODASummit last month in Cincinnati, Ohio, which is an annual conference that brings national and international public artists and art professionals together. Additionally, MS. SABO explained CODAWorx is an organization and online community that serves as a hub for connecting artists with commissioners. Key themes from the conference included impact, innovation, and collaboration. They attended panels with art professionals and came back with new inspiration and ideas, and they also attended the BLINK Festival, an art festival that transformed Cincinnati with projection mapping and installations. MS. LAY said the takeaways from the Summit included projection mapping, different funding models, developing programs such as ArtWorks to engage local youth and provide mentorship, and documenting public art projects.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project - MS. SABO noted there may be a name change for this project for upcoming staff reports and presentations. The contract for this project was awarded to CR2, an artist team consisting of RANDY MENDRE, CAITLYN SAVILLE, and ROBERT GURDISON, for their project The Seed. They completed their first milestone, but their second milestone is on hold due to an announcement by Dapper Developments that the pocket park will be next to a proposed nine-story parking structure with the Neon Museum and Evel Knievel locations. Through discussions with Dapper Development and Public Works, it was determined the pocket park was not an ideal location for the sculpture; however, Boulder Plaza was identified as an alternative location, and they were working on a contract modification with the artist team.

Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO reported the City is continuing to work with Cliff Garden Studio to complete the Civic Center Plaza public art project Harmonic Ascension, which is scheduled to be installed May 2026. They met their first two milestones and are in the process of receiving permits to move forward with pouring the foundation and working with the City's architect to ensure deadlines are met.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO said conservation and maintenance is an ongoing challenge with the increasing number of work in the collection. Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to contact the Department at [publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov) with any conservation, maintenance, graffiti, and collection care concerns. MS. LAY informed the Commissioners J & J Window Washing completed their quarterly power wash that morning of the Charleston Boulevard underpass mural and believed they would return later that night to finish the other side.

Historic Westside Legacy Park Honoree Bronze Plaques - MS. LAY noted the Honoree bronze plaques had been installed.

Listos y Seguros Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY stated JUSTIN FAVELA hosted the Family Fiesta event at Roy Martin Middle School on October 20th, which is near the area of the proposed sculpture. She hoped to have MR. FAVELA present his design at the January Commission meeting.

Medical District Public Art Projects - MS. LAY mentioned the Rancho Gateway location was to be determined and the artist is in the contract phase. In addition, Star Child by artist MARK BRANDVIK will be in fabrication after receiving all permits and was on schedule to be completed April of the following year. A rendering was shown of Star Child which will be placed on the northeast corner of Shadow Lane and Wellness Way. Further, Wellness Way Gateway is to be determined, as they are still developing the scope of work. Moreover, Shadow Lane is in contract with the artist, and UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) has signed the land use agreement. Lastly, MS. LAY advised Harmony Bloom is complete.

Mexican Mythologies: Past & Present - MS. LAY said they hosted the annual collaborative show with the Mexican Consulate at the Mayor's Gallery, and a photo was displayed of Best in Show by artist MARIANNA ROMERO, which will be on view through January 16th.

Westside Education & Training Center Public Art Projects - MS. SABO reported finalists were selected by the

evaluation panel and issued a request for proposals (RFP), which were due on October 24th. Additionally, in-person presentations were on November 6th, and the evaluation panel made their selection. They are in the process of notifying everyone, and she hoped to provide further information at the next meeting.

Windows on First - Rainbow Spotting by Sara Jean Odam - MS. LAY stated SARA JEAN ODAM completed her installation of Rainbow Spotting at the Windows on First Street outside of City Hall. She invited the Commissioners to view the reception after the meeting.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS noted she attended the Family Fiesta at Roy Martin Middle School and opined it was well attended and intergenerational. She felt appreciative of the City for their support.

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

Minutes:

MICHAEL HOWE, Planning Project Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to discuss the history of the Arts District with businesses pushing the redevelopment downtown and the Downtown Centennial Plan. The Downtown Centennial Plan was driven by the Manhattanization of Downtown Las Vegas and emphasized block-sized development from 2000 to 2016. MR. HOWE stressed the importance of the Arts District during the recession, noting that the Vision 2045 Downtown Master Plan (Downtown Master Plan) was created from 2010-2016. The Downtown Master Plan was made to make downtown more connected, retain and attract new residents, and provide better access to cultural resources. Further, more defined districts were created, including the 18B Las Vegas Arts District. The Arts District is considered the creative heart of the city with local stores, art galleries, and artists. MR. HOWE noted conceptual drawings were created to visualize how buildings would look, adding they were trying to partner with the developer. For their initial effort to rezone the Arts District with a form-based code they held a 2021 Hybrid Charrette. The Charrette takeaways included providing greater intensity and density adjacent to key thoroughfares while remaining cognizant of the scale of the existing core; including incentives for gallery space to be provided in retail, commercial, and food and beverage; and adding incentives for public art to be provided in conjunction with open space standards. He stated the boundary of the Arts District was originally set for specific urban lounge and entertainment overlay use to allow noise and performances, and he expressed they were trying to get aligned with what the public understood as the Arts District by expanding the boundary. For strategic reasoning, they would cast a wider net since art housing was needed in the Arts District; therefore, they partnered with Art Space, an affordable housing developer from Minnesota. From a planning perspective, MR. HOWE described the boundary as the place to control different development standards, stating the proposals would be bound to the developers of the area.

MR. HOWE advised that key recommendations from the Public Art Master Plan were to expand funding and partnership opportunities to support the Public Art and Gallery Program and explore the creation of a Private Percent for the Arts. He explained using development standards would have public art requirements, which he read from the PowerPoint presentation. He clarified there would be a subtle standard for new development regarding when visible public art would be needed. A proposal was created to notify developers in the Arts District that they needed to work with local artists, which he advised many developers already do since they know their market. However, sometimes alternatives are required which would include in-lieu of contributions, alternate locations, and alternate land use and programming. He felt the Arts District needed to strategically support the performing arts. Additionally, zoning would encourage different things besides types of trees and building setbacks. The standard language would include public arts requirements, such as the ownership, maintenance requirements, and the removal process policy. In addition, the language would be part of the Arts District Form-Based Code implementation. A draft development code would be provided in December, and detail language would be shared with Cultural Affairs. The draft code and regulating plan was anticipated by mid-January with adoption slated for June or July 2025.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS questioned how the percentage going towards development would integrate into the Arts Master Plan and if it would engage with murals or supporting an artist. MR. HOWE did not want to limit on the type of art, noting there were alternatives to a mural.

COMMISSIONER LEE stated there was a focus on visual arts as opposed to performing arts and recommended providing performing art space to bring people into the Arts District. Regarding ownership and permanent displays, she asked for consideration on rotating works of art, and she proposed stating that art

needs to be replaced for an artistic reason rather than not being replaced at all. She believed it would not give the developer the ability to freshen up property and suggested adding flexibility.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered why the language did not require developers to use local artists. MR. HOWE responded they worked with the City Attorney's Office and preferred to not mandate, adding they are cautious to let the art perform for itself. Additionally, he noted the Public Art Master Plan had a bigger objective to support the artists. COMMISSIONER CHI stated it was hard to trust corporations to do the right thing. Further, she believed there were many law offices along Gass Avenue where they would expand the boundary, and she wondered if there were any benefits the businesses would receive for being in that area. MR. HOWE noted north of Hoover Avenue there were a few law offices but not as much as east of the Founders District. He added ownership of the parcels were not visible and several of the blocks could be under control by one developer. He said the land was right for multi-family, mixed-use development and there were entitlements in place, stating it was hard to read the future. Moreover, he anticipated a change north of Hoover Avenue that would be aligned with what the Arts District supports rather than what the current Downtown District does. He believed the area would support more art housing and residential opportunities and emphasized wanting to see affordable housing in the Arts District.

COMMISSIONER LEE opined she loved the Arts District with the exception of parking, and she wondered if the development plan talked about parking. MR. HOWE clarified the greater Downtown Master Plan talked about parking and added they were trying to be strategic with a district parking management plan. Additionally, he noted the City approved a 500-space parking garage on Utah Avenue and Casino Center Boulevard, and J DAPPER had proposed a parking garage north of Charleston Boulevard with nine levels and approximately 500 spaces. He believed there were many surface parking lots in the Arts District that were managed by the City that make money. Subsequently, people need to be encouraged to park in the Arts District to give up land for development. Further, he suggested transitioning out of temporary parking lots if parking garages were being made. COMMISSIONER LEE appreciated the security a parking lot could provide and opined it would encourage people to visit the Arts District. MR. HOWE agreed that it would provide community friendliness and said they would look at using Charleston Boulevard for a higher order transit to accomplish the goal of not having to park at all.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS said he was part of the workshops as an architect and was a fan of form-based code. He said developers were on board and believed this was the direction the Arts District was going. The Commissioner opined art should be in communities in addition to the Arts District, and he questioned if there was an inducement in the form-based code for developers or if one could be added. MR. HOWE stated anything was possible and that other communities were already doing this including Tempe, Arizona and Santa Clara, California, which were listed in the appendix of the Public Art Master Plan. Additionally, the Medical District had an urgent initiative to get public art, and MR. HOWE wanted to be consistent and try with the Arts District first. He believed art that fit well with the Arts District could be different with what may fit in the northwest or Centennial Hills.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY felt there was not enough space for artists in the Arts District and rents were high. He questioned if there was a way to combine a commercial property with residential and offer the first floor for galleries or mixed-use. He agreed the Arts District needed to be expanded and concurred with the Commissioners that security was an issue. Lastly, he suggested designing new development in a fan friendly manner. MR. HOWE said they had seen a trend of properties selling and going to residential development in the southeast. Therefore, they try to work closely with the developers to build residential development adjacent to active industrial locations. He said they were trying to find the balance of housing in industrial areas with the understanding that the residents would need large open maker space. COMMISSIONER PORTNOY provided Tivoli Village as an example of a wonderfully designed property with offices on the second and third level and retail operations on the first level.

In regards to the issues of safety in the Arts District, COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS believed Invictus Security patrolled the area and provided resources to the unhoused nearby. She thought many of their security officers were former marines or armed forces. Additionally, the Commissioner stated there was a rise of crime, including restaurant windows being damaged, buildings being vandalized, and garbage in the area, which can make walking feel unsafe. Further, she wondered if security could be provided in the Arts District since they were generating funding to the city. MR. HOWE stated that the City Council could provide a response; however, one of the components of the BID (Business Improvement District) is to have maintenance, lighting, and security.

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

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS nominated COMMISSIONER CHEUK to serve as Chair, who accepted the nomination and said she was happy to serve.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN nominated COMMISSIONER BEDNARCZYK to serve as Vice Chair, who felt honored to continue to serve.

Subsequent to the motions, CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED confirmed there was a new Chair and First Vice Chair, and the Second Vice Chair would carryover, which was COMMISSIONER ROBERTS.

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Approve the nomination of Sapira Cheuk as Chair

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

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

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve the nomination of Heather Bednarczyk as Vice Chair

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

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

9. **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 informed the largest master planned development in her ward was Summerlin, which is composed of Summerlin North, Summerlin South, and Summerlin West. Additionally, she stated she was in conversation with the Summerlin HOA (homeowners association) to describe public artworks they have, opining they had restrictions on what they were able to do. Further, the Commissioner wanted to invite them to speak in January or February to discuss their recent activities and installations in their parks.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS questioned which HOA in Summerlin was being referenced, which COMMISSIONER LEE explained it was the entire Howard Hughes development including Sun City. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS clarified with COMMISSIONER LEE it was not necessarily an HOA for one singular development in the Howard Hughes area but the Howard Hughes Corporation specifically.

COMMISSIONER LEE said Ward 2 was primarily in Summerlin and there were many public artworks, which were not necessarily approved or viewed by the City of Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS explained Sun City was in Ward 4 and wondered if the person in charge of their HOA could also attend. COMMISSIONER LEE believed it was a great idea and confirmed with LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, they are setting up a zoom meeting on December 3 to speak with the representative.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS requested adding vandalism occurring in the 18b Arts District and wondered if a beautification program existed. Additionally, if any business owners in the Arts District would consider commissioning an artist to do a mural, as she believed empty walls get covered with graffiti and trash, whereas painted walls receive more care. The Commissioner questioned if there was a program that could be developed for the Arts District to commission local muralists. MS. MACHADO stated the 18b Board does have opportunities to work with artists; however, she stated they were limited in the ways they could use their Percent for the Arts funding since it is tied to City assets. Further, she said they used the Mayor's Fund on the Historic Westside Mural Program to work with private developers and owners to bring murals to the area. She said they may be able to work with the Mayor's Fund and have further discussions.

10. **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:

LIGHTNING YUMEKU stated he and other members created a new non-profit, the Collaborative Artist Network, based in Summerlin, and they planned to expand throughout Las Vegas and the different counties. Their goal was to provide various artists with different workshops and provide resources and networking tools to expand their abilities. Further, he noted he has been a business owner for four years in Las Vegas and 25 years in New York City. MR. YUMEKU stated they would provide the City Council with other materials within the next several weeks, as they wished to expand and do public works with their volunteers.

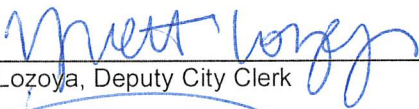
For COMMISSIONER CHEUK, MR. YUMEKU said their website would be available the following month, noting they could also be found at [www.wecannv.org](http://www.wecannv.org).

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Yvett Lozoya, 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