



## Arts Commission Minutes

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

Minutes:

CHAIR CHEUK called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR CHEUK and COMMISSIONERS BEDNARCZYK, KLEVEN, DOUGLAS, DE SANTIS, CHI (excused until 4:23 p.m.), LEE, BEALS, and PORTNOY

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS, HACKETT-MORGAN, and WESTFIELD

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 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 the Arts Commission and the Education Subcommittee of the Arts Commission Meeting of November 21, 2024

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 4

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

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

Minutes:

CHAIR CHEUK reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: a Peace Week celebration with dance, music, and food at the DooLittle Active Adult Center; an opening reception of the Lunar New Year: Year of the Snake group exhibition in the Mayor's Gallery at the Historic Fifth Street School; and an opening reception of the People of Color exhibition curated by BRENT

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

The Chair announced the Nevada Arts Council has three in person workshops for upcoming grant opportunities on February 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Aliante Library, February 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in English and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Spanish at the East Las Vegas Community Center, and February 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the James Gibson Library. More information can be found at [www.nvartscouncil.org](http://www.nvartscouncil.org).

COMMISSIONER LEE stated that Chinese New Year in the Desert (CNY) was celebrating the Year of the Snake on January 30th through February 1st. The Las Vegas Spring Festival, also known as the Lunar New Year parade, would take place at Downtown Container Park on February 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Additionally, she advised that CNY had many activities throughout the weekend to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY noted the Cities of the World exhibit was at Portnoy Gallery on weekdays through January from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER BEALS reported that ThirtyThree Gallery was hosting a book release celebration and installation for REINCARNATED: Poems from Prison by JAGADA CHAMBERS starting at 5:30 p.m. with an author conversation at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS announced several events starting on January 17th at the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art, including: Yoko Kondo Konopik: On Canvas, Color Made, Women's Rights Are Human Rights and an exhibit by artist GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ with an opening reception on January 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Veil by Q'SHAUNDRA JAMES was on view at the Left of Center Gallery until April 5th, and a reception for the artist would take place on January 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additionally, LOLITA DEVELAY'S High Roller Blooms exhibition will be held at the Nuwu Art Gallery on January 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Commissioner advised there will be programming through the end of April. Lastly, on February 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. there will be Weaving Wednesdays; COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS stated artist ASHANTI McGEE will lead weaving workshops, which are free, open to the public, and supported by the non-profit IndigenousAF.

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

Minutes:

HOLLY LAY and MARY SABO, Visual Arts Specialists 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. Additionally, MS. LAY noted the Commissioners received the staff report with the financials, which was submitted for the record.

Upcoming Arts Commission Schedule - MS. LAY stated it was recommended they do not host the public art tour with a quorum present after discussion among staff; however, a recommended route could be provided to Commissioners interested in seeing the collection. She announced the next Commission meeting would be held on February 20th at 4:00 p.m. and MS. LAY recommended 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. LAY listed two open calls for artists, including the Aerial Gallery Banner Program Artwork License, which closes February 6th at 6:00 p.m. and the Las Vegas Perspectives, which closes February 28th at 6:00 p.m. Additional details could be found on the Arts Registry.

Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project - MS. SABO stated The Seed by CR2, which was formerly known Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture Project, was being relocated to Boulder Plaza. The artist team was working on their engineering documents, which will be due for review by the Public Works Department by January 24th.

Civic Center Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO noted the Civic Center Plaza public art project by Cliff Garten Studio was moving forward smoothly, stating they met their three project milestones. Their permit had been issued, and they would begin pouring foundation by the end of the month.

Civic Center Building Interior Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO advised they are working on the interior artwork for the Civic Center. Further, the evaluation panel selected four artists, GIG DEPIO, VALENTIN YORDANOV, FAWN DOUGLAS, and SEBASTIEN COURTY, and their contracts had been executed. Images of the artwork will be shared at the following Commission meeting.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. LAY reported they continuously address ongoing maintenance and conservation issues as they arise. Moreover, staff secured services from artist ADRY DEL ROCIO for repair of the East Las Vegas mural that was vandalized by thrown rocks. The artist will perform repairs in March, and a scaffolding company will be hired.

Conservation and Maintenance - Paintbrush Gateway - MS. MACHADO stated a request for proposals (RFP) was sent out for vendors to restore the Paintbrush Gateway, which closed on January 9th. Three submissions were received and were being reviewed by an evaluation panel. She hoped to have a vendor selected by the end of January, noting the budget for the project is \$110,000.

Listos y Seguros Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY said the public art program is continuing its work with artist JUSTIN FAVELA. He completed community engagement for the project, and would present his design.

Medical District Public Art Projects - MS. LAY acknowledged Brainstorm by WAYNE LITTLEJOHN was in fabrication and would be placed in front of the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Dental School on Shadow Lane, and The Healer by LUIS VARELA-RICO was in the contract phase. Additionally, a community survey took place for The Healer, as they were still searching for a location for the piece. She said Star Child by MARK BRANDVIK was in fabrication and would be placed on the northeast corner of Shadow Lane and Wellness Way. Lastly, MS. LAY stated Star Child and Brainstorm should be installed by the end of this year.

Westside Education & Training Center Public Art Projects - MS. SABO hoped to share the artist selected by the evaluation panel; however, they were still pending final licenses and insurance. She could share the artist name once everything was signed and executed.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding a design proposal presented by Justin Favela, Artist, for the Sunrise Avenue Sculpture Project, located at North 26th Street and Sunrise Avenue (Not-to-Exceed \$192,500 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

JUSTIN FAVELA utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to present art pieces he created and his design proposal. He stated he was born and raised in east Las Vegas and attended high school and college in Nevada, adding he has been an independent artist for years. MR. FAVELA created a replica lowrider piñata to scale of the famous west coast lowrider, Gypsy Rose, for the Petersen Automotive Museum, Sahara West Library, Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center, which was on exhibit at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAAM). He advised much of his work is based on the piñata style to celebrate his culture and investigate the layers behind the history, such as layers of a piñata. Additionally, he created an immersive environment at the Denver Art Museum with references to artists JOSÉ MARIA VELASCO and FRIDA KAHLO. Further, MR. FAVELA created a mural for the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling in New York, where he took animation cells from children's movies depicting Latin America, such as The Three Caballeros of the Amazon Jungle. In addition, he noted some of his work talks about the authenticity of Mexican food; therefore, he created piñata nachos for the Metropolitan (sic) Arts Centre (MAC) in Belfast, Ireland in 2017 and for the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

MR. FAVELA expressed joy to create public artwork in east Las Vegas where he and his family grew up and worked, adding he felt his family's and community's opinions were important. Programming was developed with help from the City to educate and receive input from the public. A reception was held at the East Las Vegas Community Center to showcase some work in the collection and introduce his public art project. In addition, a Family Fiesta and lowrider show was held at Roy Martin Middle School. After visiting Equipo Academy with SERGIO SALGADO, he received input from students that they wanted something accessible that came from someone in the community. Further, MR. FAVELA noted he volunteered with Get Outdoors Nevada and learned about the ecology on the of East Las Vegas, wherein he had the initiative to designate a monument and include something from Sunrise Mountain. The sculpture would be located on the intersection of 26th Street and Sunrise Avenue near Roy Martin Middle School. He wanted to ensure the sculpture would blend into the neighborhood. He learned about the Las Vegas bearpoppy after hiking, which is an endangered plant that only

grows in the Clark County area due to the amount of gypsum in Frenchman Mountain, and he wanted to include yellow flowers for his grandmother. Subsequently, he wanted to create a replica sculpture of the Las Vegas bearpoppy with three metal poppies coming out of the leaves. It would be surrounded by desert landscaping and boulders to reference Sunrise Mountain, the gypsum, and the minerals found there. MR. FAVELA believed symbolism of the blooming yellow poppy was powerful and represented optimism, friendship, and remembrance of the people who came before them. Moreover, he wanted to place a cicada shell cast in resin or plastic onto one of the existing NV Energy utility poles or create a replica utility pole.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS thanked MR. FAVELA for his presentation and enjoyed the idea of bringing the outskirts of the city into an urban area. She stated the plant was of cultural significance, noting several conservation groups and Southern Paiutes gathered to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument and recognized the bearpoppy was a part of the area. The Commissioner had seen the poppy sparingly when she would go hiking or visit artifact sites. She opined it was beautiful and appeared as stained glass when the sun shined through it. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if the City could support further beautification of the area by adding more stones or plants, such as a desert daisy to elevate the art work. She believed the area appeared bare of art and color. HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, advised they would contact the Public Works Department to fix the curb, and she believed the stones were part of MR. FAVELA'S proposal. She stated staff could work with him following the installation so he could curate and select certain boulders. MR. FAVELA confirmed he would add to existing stones on the site and would be open to the addition of further plant life.

COMMISSIONER LEE expressed admiration for the flower concept; however, she wanted to ensure it would not obstruct the viewpoint of the intersection and requested MR. FAVELA to be mindful of sizing and proportion. The Commissioner opined one cicada appeared to be accidental, and she wondered if there could be more included. MR. FAVELA confirmed and explained the leaves would be lower and the stems would be thin to see through them. MS. LAY confirmed the plans showed what would obstruct the intersection and MR. FAVELA would put the sculpture within it.

COMMISSIONER LEE questioned how they would prevent graffiti or if they would use a specific material, adding a lot of their budget was dedicated to renovation and maintenance. LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, announced there was not much graffiti in those neighborhoods, unlike the Arts District. Additionally, murals in the Historic Westside had not been vandalized. She believed the community would take pride in the sculpture. They could also apply anti-graffiti coating, but it could fade over time. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN concurred with MS. MACHADO and opined MR. FAVELA did a good job with community outreach to expose the public to the public art piece in the area, and essentially making it for them. She believed they would protect it.

COMMISSIONER CHI questioned the cost of materials. MR. FAVELA advised the flower would be made of steel, the cicadas would be cast in resin, and the boulders and pouring for the foundation were included in the price.

CHAIR CHEUK acknowledged the bottom of the flowers had a translucent quality and wondered how different the metal material would appear. MR. FAVELA wanted to find a person to fabricate a resin cast or see-through plexi, yet he also appreciated the metal to reference historic art, such as sculptures from artist CLAES OLDENBURG. MR. FAVELA said he would be open to edit the piece and work with the City. Lastly, he was thinking of longevity with the material being under the sun, noting they may not appear as transparent if it was the same material as the stems and leaves.

COMMISSIONER LEE questioned if lighting would be placed in the artwork. MR. FAVELA responded he would have to see if the budget would allow lighting.

COMMISSIONER BEALS admired MR. FAVELA'S work, adding he had a beautiful and authentic way of bringing visibility to the invisible.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS noted she attended the Family Fiesta and noticed it was an intergenerational event, where everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and appeared to be proud to have someone from their neighborhood portray themselves. Therefore, she concurred with COMMISSIONER KLEVEN and believed the neighborhood would take care of and not vandalize the art piece. The Commissioner felt the art piece would also bring visitors to the area and hoped to have an additional Family Fiesta event to unveil the art piece.

Motion made by Fawn Douglas to Approve the proposal

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

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

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the acceptance of a donation of artworks, titled Temptress and Valet by Linda Alterwitz, Unknown by Alex Krasky, Unknown by an artist from Ghana, and Mayor's Portrait by James Henninger, into the City's permanent artwork collection (No Fiscal Impact) – All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, noted with transition in the Mayor's office, staff learned they had artwork on display that they were bringing to the Commission and staff recommended accepting the donations. There were two pieces being offered from LINDA ALTERWITZ, the Temptress and the Valet, which are framed photographs that had been on loan with the City for over 10 years. Additionally, there were three pieces gifted to former Mayor CAROLYN GOODMAN that she wanted to donate to the City, which included a drawing on panel from ALEX KRASKY, a painting on canvas from an artist from Ghana, and an encaustic on metal by JAMES HENNINGER.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered where the pieces would be displayed if accepted. MS. MACHADO advised that the pieces from MS. ALTERWITZ would remain in the Mayor's suite, a location would be needed for the artist piece from Ghana, and the other pieces would go into MS. GOODMAN'S storage area along with other pieces from the collection focused around the GOODMANS.

For CHAIR CHEUK, MS. MACHADO stated the pieces could be accepted individually or altogether and following the vote, staff would need to draft paperwork for approval from the City Manager's Office.

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Approve the donation

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

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

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the lease extension of contemporary project sculpture Enriched Heritage by artist Adolfo Gonzalez, located at 1300 C Street – Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, reported Enriched Heritage by ADOLFO GONZALEZ was located at The Obodo Collective at 1300 C Street and was on display through the Contemporary Public Art Program. The program works with artists and had installed artwork throughout the wards for temporary display. MS. MACHADO noted The Obodo Collective enjoyed the sculpture and would like to have it stay, stating that a one-year extension would cost \$3,000. However, if the Commission preferred purchasing the piece it would cost \$40,000.

COMMISSIONER LEE wondered if the City incurred the cost of removing the sculpture at the end of the lease. MS. MACHADO explained they did not, adding that the loan agreement included the installation and removal. The Commissioner favored the lease extension as opposed to purchasing it in order to rotate art and allow different artists to display their work.

CHAIR CHEUK requested further context of the sculpture, which MS. MACHADO said MR. GONZALEZ was familiar with the historical side and also created a piece near Doolittle Community Center. The male art piece was in response to the Queen of Arts, located at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. The piece is welded in steel with a concrete foundation to have a strong male figure in the community.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY believed the piece was beautiful and questioned if the City had a program to commission temporary exhibits and rotate works of art to avoid extending leases or purchasing pieces. MS. MACHADO explained a purchase or lease would be required to compensate the artists for their work. COMMISSIONER PORTNOY believed a program could be created to purchase and rotate art pieces throughout different neighborhoods to integrate cultures. Additionally, exposure for the artist would have value

and he suggested inserting that into the annual budget. MS. MACHADO advised that was the intent of the Contemporary Program and was morphed into the 3 On Main program with three rotating sculptures and for two years.

For COMMISSIONER LEE, MS. MACHADO and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, noted it would be less expensive for a one-year lease extension than commissioning a \$10,000 sculpture for a two-year lease. The Commissioner wanted to be fiscally responsible, since the City did not have income coming in. Subsequent to the motion, COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS stated The Obodo Collective enjoyed the sculpture and would be opening a grocery store on February 22nd, and she opined it would be worthwhile to keep the sculpture there for the next year.

Motion made by Pauline Lee to Approve a one-year lease extension for \$3,000

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

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

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 LEE said she spoke with LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, and a staff member at the Howard Hughes properties regarding a presentation of the public art displayed in Summerlin and commissioned by the Summerlin HOA (Homeowners Association) and Howard Hughes Corporation. MS. MACHADO clarified the presentation would be by City staff.

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:

MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY wanted to meet people that impacted the City that she did not have daily contact with. She thanked the Commissioners for their service to the City on behalf of all citizens of Las Vegas. She opined it was exciting to see what they did and stated they make the community beautiful. Additionally, MAYOR BERKLEY advised the Commissioners if they needed assistance to reach out to her.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS thanked MAYOR BERKLEY for her advocacy for Native issues while she was a congresswoman and for her recent support at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's fashion show at CSN (College of Southern Nevada).

12. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Yvett Lozoya, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

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

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor