



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR CHEUK and COMMISSIONERS BEDNARCZYK (via teleconference), ROBERTS, KLEVEN, DOUGLAS (excused until 4:11 p.m.), DE SANTIS, CHI, PORTNOY, and VONBASTIAANS

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS WESTFIELD and BEALS

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist; HOLLY LAY and PARKER ARECCHI, Visual Arts Specialists II; PAUL MATA, Deputy City Attorney III; 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: Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor; 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:

RYAN ARRIOLA, artist, thought there was a better way to fund art. He believed if someone cared about what they were doing, they would do it for free. He said money was fragile and could be used elsewhere.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2025

Motion made by Terry Chi to Approve

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Joan De Santis, Jennifer Kleven, Todd VonBastiaans, Neal Portnoy; Excused-Monique Westfield, Fawn Douglas, Carmen Beals;

5. ABEYANCE ITEM - Presentation by Sallie Doebler, of the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE, regarding Mayor's Fund initiatives - All Wards

Minutes:

SALLIE DOEBLER, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE (Mayor's Fund), utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record. She said the Mayor's Fund is a private-public partnership that was brought to Las Vegas in 2017 by former Mayor CAROLYN GOODMAN. MS. GOODMAN found a method for municipalities to fund initiatives within the city with the

mission to allow the private sector to also contribute to benefit City of Las Vegas residents. MS. DOEBLER joined the Mayor's Fund in 2023 when they were a 501(c)(3) and later became an independent nonprofit with the same mission. She stated they work with the funding sources, which include individual donors and grants from private philanthropists and corporate foundations for particular purposes, which is then granted to the City. She noted they typically match funding to fill gaps. The City provides accountability, and the impact created by the donation is shared with the donors to recognize their fulfillment.

MS. DOEBLER emphasized they were a separate group that works with and not for the City. Organizational charts were shown in the PowerPoint presentation of the Board of Directors, which included DANIELLE BISTERFELDT who continued to be a strong advocate for art and the Mayor's Fund, community leaders, and the Advisory Committee, who provides support and guidance for strategy. Areas of focus were narrowed down to the most impactful and where donors would be most willing to donate. MS. DOEBLER said the list would be modified within 30 days, and they would keep public art as an area of focus. She believed public art and culture uplifts the community, creates pride, has an economic impact, and was educational for people not exposed to art. She thought art could be more important with more private investment, noting they had a specific public art fund that had initiatives within the Mayor's Fund. All funds are held similarly to a bank with their fiscal agent, and there is an initiative for every department and need. When the City is ready to use the restricted funds, they make a request to the Mayor's Fund, and MS. DOEBLER emphasized there was tremendous oversight to ensure funds are used correctly.

Some initiatives were displayed from the presentation, which included public art sculptures, murals, statues, and art exhibitions with their donors, unveiling dates, and the artists. MS. DOEBLER expressed excitement to do work in the Historic Westside, noting the murals were an example of how a community that had been largely blighted could be beautified. She believed her legacy was the Goodman Legacy Tribute statues, which were completed in partnership with the City. Additionally, MS. DOEBLER was proud to sponsor the first art exhibit in the Civic Center Art Gallery through collaboration between the City, the Las Vegas Museum of Art (LVMA), and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), which she believed made a strong statement that art is important. She advised that the 18 bronze statues at Nevada State Veterans Memorial were relocating to Ward 4, and the anticipated completion was October 2026 with the formal launch on Veteran's Day. Lastly, MS. DOEBLER shared their social media information, and she requested the Commissioners to share with their peers to help beautify the community and further efforts to promote art and culture in the city.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY wondered how they reach people that others have already contacted. MS. DOEBLER said they did not receive federal funds, since they do not execute the program. She clarified that nonprofits must think outside of the box to fundraise with public campaigns, and looking at outside entities interested in Las Vegas. The Commissioner believed people were unaware of how many professional athletes live in the city and suggested contacting organizations such as MLB (Major League Baseball), NHL (National Hockey League), and WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association). MS. DOEBLER felt that was a good suggestion, mentioning conversations had begun with JOHN FISHER'S art, and the organization would be looking at U Sports to identify wealth in the community. COMMISSIONER PORTNOY suggested going to Gap if MR. FISHER did not invest, and he noted conversations with the President and Vice President of Marketing of the Oakland A's.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the reallocation of funding assigned to the Medical District Public Art Project; Wellness Way Gateway (\$100,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) - Ward 1 (Knudsen)

Minutes:

HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, advised the project was at the Wellness Way Gateway and MLK (Martin Luther King) intersection, and staff requested to put the money back into the Percent for the Arts Fund. For COMMISSIONER ROBERTS, MS. LAY confirmed since the project was not proceeding as considered that the vote was to cancel the project.

Motion made by Eric Roberts to Approve the reallocation of funding to the Percent for the Arts Fund

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Joan De Santis, Fawn Douglas, Jennifer Kleven, Todd VonBastiaans, Neal Portnoy; Excused-Monique Westfield, Carmen Beals;

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the increased funding for the Medical District Public Art Project - Rancho Gateway Public Art, The Healer by Luis Varela-Rico (Not-to-Exceed \$75,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) - Ward 1 (Knudsen)

Minutes:

HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, stated the project in discussion was The Healer, noting there had been many changes in the Medical District. The project budget was initially discussed two years prior, and staff requested increasing the budget for tariffs and the location change. The artist will be completing new landscaping, and the quote received was the amount listed to add to the project.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN acknowledged the money going back into the Percent for the Arts Fund from Item 6 would cover the funds requested for this item.

See Item 6 for related discussion.

Motion made by Eric Roberts to Approve the increased funding for the Rancho Gateway Public Art, The Healer by Luis Varela-Rico

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Joan De Santis, Fawn Douglas, Jennifer Kleven, Todd VonBastiaans, Neal Portnoy; Excused-Monique Westfield, Carmen Beals;

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the reallocation of funding assigned to the Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Art Project (\$82,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) - Ward 2 (Seaman)

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, requested striking the item from the agenda.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Strike

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Joan De Santis, Fawn Douglas, Jennifer Kleven, Todd VonBastiaans, Neal Portnoy; Excused-Monique Westfield, Carmen Beals;

9. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding current financial updates to the Percent for the Arts Fund - All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN announced that \$395,306.39 was allocated into the Percent for the Arts Fund for Fiscal Year 2026. The original balance was \$3,735,665.90, and they expensed \$992,683.87 last fiscal year, as projects were being moved forward. The current fund balance was over \$3 million, and the anticipated projects totaled \$2,430,907.49, which left the remaining balance at \$707,380.93 for this fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered what the surplus would be used for or if the City would return the funds.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained there would not be a surplus and the money would remain in the Percent for the Arts Fund, noting new projects could be selected and funds for projects could be reallocated.

For CHAIR CHEUK, COMMISSIONER KLEVEN confirmed the anticipated projects would be discussed later.

10. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding current Percent for the Arts Projects - All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, and HOLLY LAY and PARKER ARECCHI, Visual Arts Specialists II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, regarding current projects, activities, and initiatives. Additionally, MS. SABO noted the Commissioners received the staff report with updates for Percent for the Arts projects, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

3rd Street - E Ogden Avenue to Fremont Street Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO stated the project was moving along and the contract had been executed that day. She congratulated DAVID RYAN for being selected and said more information would be shared at the next Commission meeting.

AMP Gateway and Arts District Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI reported the project evaluation panel selected 10 artists to complete the project. Request for proposals (RFP) were issued earlier in the month and were due by mid-October. Once approved by the evaluation panel, they would be presented at the November Commission meeting.

AMP Ward 4 - Cheyenne Avenue Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI noted the project evaluation panel selected five artists to complete the project. RFPs were issued earlier in the month and were due by October 6th. They hoped to present to the Commissioners at the November Commission meeting.

Boulder Plaza Sculpture Project - The Seed - MS. SABO reported The Seed, by artist team CR2, moved from its original location, Casino Center Pocket Park, to Boulder Plaza. The project team completed their second milestone, and the sculpture's engineering documents were in review with the Building & Safety Department. The contract had been amended to update the location and timeline, and the estimated completion date was June 1, 2026.

Centennial Hills Park Environmental Tile Mural Project - MS. ARECCHI stated the request for qualifications was issued on June 30th and closes September 25th at 5:00 p.m. The evaluation panel will then meet to select three artists or teams to submit a proposal.

Civic Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO said Cliff Garten Studio reached their fourth project milestone, and the sculpture was 50 percent complete. The project was set to install in May 2026.

Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO noted The Night We Met by KRYSTAL RAMIREZ was underway, and the project should be completed by September 15th.

Civic Center Building Interior Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO reported most of the project was completed with beautiful work by FAWN DOUGLAS, GIG DEPIO, and VALENTIN YORDANOV. Additionally, SEBASTIEN COURTY'S piece would be installed by the end of September. She invited the Commissioners to Meet the Artists on September 19th, noting there would be a panel of 15 artists speaking about artwork in the building.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO stated they continue to assess the conservation and maintenance needs of the collection. The public is encouraged to contact publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov with any concerns related to conservation, maintenance, or graffiti.

Conservation and Maintenance: Paintbrush Gateway - MS. MACHADO said they were underway with the restoration of the Paintbrush Gateway by DENNIS OPPENHEIM. She hoped restoration and light testing would be completed by the end of September.

Heers Park Tile Mural Project - MS. SABO noted staff and stakeholders identified the restroom structure shown from the presentation as the location for the project, and they planned to issue an RFP to a directly selected artist.

Listos y Seguros Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY said they were finalizing the second part of the contract for artist JUSTIN FAVELA to bring a permanent sculpture to the east side of Las Vegas. They hoped to have the contract completed soon and have the piece installed by the end of the year.

Medical District Public Art Project: Rancho Gateway - MS. LAY reminded the Commission of their agreement to provide more funding to LUIS VARELA-RICO to assist with the cost of material increases. Therefore, they would be contracting with him in the following weeks.

Medical District Public Art Project: Pahor Drive - MS. LAY stated Starchild by MARK BRANDVIK would be installed in a few weeks, and she invited the Commissioners to the unveiling event on September 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Medical District Public Art Project: Shadow Lane - MS. LAY reported Brainstorm by artist WAYNE LITTLEJOHN was in fabrication and should be installed by the end of the year.

Mirabelli Community Center Mural Project - Finding Your Wings - MS. SABO noted a contract was awarded to

artist MATTHEW MURPHY for the Finding Your Wings mural. The expected completion date for the Mirabelli Community Center's Mural Project was December 1st. On July 30th, MR. MURPHY held a community workshop event for children attending the Mirabelli's summer camp program to complete projects based on his mural design.

Westside Education & Training Center Sculpture - MS. SABO said the sculpture project Striving Populace by ADOLFO GONZALEZ was complete, and the unveiling ceremony took place on August 27th.

Westside Education & Training Center Mural - MS. SABO stated the mural project was one-third complete, noting delays due to ongoing construction and temperature concerns. Once the weather cooled down, MR. GONZALEZ would complete the project.

11. Discussion for possible action regarding new projects to be reviewed by the Arts Commission for approval - All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, and PARKER ARECCHI and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialists II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a detailed overview of the proposed projects for FY (Fiscal Year) 26, project goals, and budget allocations.

Stupak Community Center Mural Project - MS. SABO noted with new stakeholders and developments expanding the Gateway District, staff identified Stupak Community Center as the site for a mural project. The identified budget was \$77,500.

Arts District Garage Mural Project - MS. MACHADO proposed commissioning a large-scale mural on the west-facing wall of the new Arts District parking garage in partnership with the Economic and Urban Development Department (EUD). She believed the highly visible artwork would enhance the neighborhood's identity and show the City's commitment to public art. The total budget was \$60,000, which would cover all artist fees, materials, and installation. The mural aimed to create a striking visual landmark and contribute to the Arts District's ongoing growth. With the Commission's approval, staff would move forward with selecting an artist.

Cimarron Rose Mural Project - MS. ARECCHI stated this project would commission an artist to create a permanent mural along exterior walls of the Cimarron Rose Community Center. The proposed budget was \$15,500 with \$15,000 allocated to artistic services and \$500 to the design honoraria.

Doolittle Pool Mural Project - MS. LAY said staff identified a mural for the Doolittle Community Center, which would be on one of the walls facing the pool. The total budget was \$70,000 with \$2,000 for design honorariums.

Pop Squires Park Mural Project - MS. ARECCHI noted this project would commission an artist to create a permanent mural on the concessions bathroom building at Pop Squires Park. The proposed budget is \$15,500.

Artwork Purchase Project - Based on the success of the Civic Center interior artwork project, MS. MACHADO proposed allocating \$91,500 to acquire original artworks for the City's permanent art collection. The artworks would be placed in City-owned buildings, offices, and public areas to enrich civic spaces and make art more accessible to the community.

Public Art Map Project - MS. LAY stated this project came from recommendations from the Public Art Master Plan to provide opportunities for different artists. This project would target graphic designers and teams. Additionally, public art tour materials were needed to be shared with the community. The budget allocation was \$20,000, which would depend on designer budgets.

Public Art Collection Maintenance & Restoration - MS. SABO advised each year their team proposed a budget for conservation and maintenance projects. For FY26, they recommended allocating \$80,000, which was the same amount as the previous year. The allocation would be used for ongoing care and maintenance of the City's public art collection. Staff had already identified several large maintenance and restoration projects for the upcoming year and were working to source quotes from qualified vendors.

City of Las Vegas Public Art Contingency - MS. SABO proposed \$20,000 for general project contingency, which would address unplanned expenses.

For COMMISSIONER CHI, MS. SABO confirmed the total budget of \$450,000 was being taken from the surplus of \$707,000.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS said he was familiar with many of the project locations and expressed excitement for the artwork. He felt this was a great way to utilize funding. Lastly, he believed the map was needed.

CHAIR CHEUK wondered if funding for the Arts District Garage Mural Project was coming from the Percent for the Arts Fund, noting they were partnering with EUD. MS. MACHADO explained that the parking garage is funded by EUD, however their funding structure did not allow artwork. Therefore, EUD reached out to use Percent for the Arts funding to provide public art from the community, which was strictly tied to public infrastructure.

The Chair questioned the timeline for the Artwork Purchase Project. MS. MACHADO wanted the funding to be used within the fiscal year, noting each project could take up to a year. Since the new Civic Center building opened, many people reached out to put artwork in their spaces. She opined this would be a great opportunity to put out a call for artists to submit artwork, and she requested the Commissioners' support in sharing the call to get representation from the whole community.

CHAIR CHEUK wondered about the intent of the Public Art Map Project, as she noticed it consisted of the Clark County map. She acknowledged an article in Art in America highlighting art in Las Vegas, and she opined different maps from different entities felt fractured. MS. LAY explained the example was from Clark County, which she thought was great since an artist from the community completed the design. Staff wanted to invite designers to come up with a way to best represent the collection. She opined this was an opportunity for an artist in the community to break up the collection into different kinds of maps to promote the City's permanent collection.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY questioned if EUD was financially participating in the Arts District Garage Mural Project. He believed there was a way for the department to contribute funds towards the artistic rendering, which would be on the facade. MS. MACHADO expressed the Percent for the Arts Fund was utilized to beautify City assets and infrastructure. Therefore, the funds were being used appropriately. She was unsure whether EUD was receiving funds from their special revenue account; however, they were building the entire structure and staff was providing a small fraction. She noted this was a way to ensure the project was relevant to the Arts District. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN believed they were priming and painting the structure white so the mural would be vibrant.

For COMMISSIONER KLEVEN, MS. MACHADO confirmed they were using the Public Art Contingency from FY25 for the AMP project in Ward 3.

For COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS, MS. MACHADO said these were the projects being proposed for FY26, however additional projects could be proposed and added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve the new projects for Fiscal Year 2026

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the video did not display the vote for this item.

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Heather Bednarczyk, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Joan De Santis, Fawn Douglas, Jennifer Kleven, Todd VonBastiaans, Neal Portnoy; Excused-Monique Westfield, Carmen Beals;

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:

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if there could be a meeting with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) to engage each other for future projects. She noted visitation was down for the city of Las Vegas, and she thought there were other avenues available to bring visitation. LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, offered to reach out and gauge their interest in speaking to the Commission. In addition, LVCVA installed their first mural with SHAN MICHAEL EVANS and were expected to have an unveiling soon, which COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wanted additional information on.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered who handled Harry Reid International Airport's exhibition of artwork. MS. MACHADO responded they had their own department to handle public art installation, which was separate from the LVCVA. She stated that most major airports had a program in place, and she was unsure of the size of Harry Reid's program.

Additionally, COMMISSIONER CHI promoted an event, Shameless Plug Arts Festival, which will be held on September 20th and 21st. She said they were looking for food and art vendors, live performers, filmmakers, and volunteers.

13. **Adjournment**

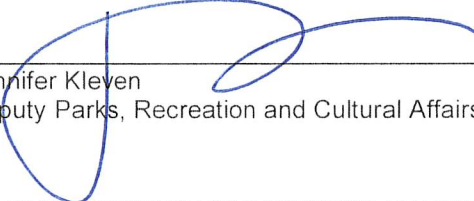
Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Yvett Lozoya, Deputy City Clerk



Jennifer Kleven
Deputy Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director

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
- Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor
- City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor