



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, KLEVEN, WESTFIELD (via teleconference), DOUGLAS (via teleconference and excused until 4:05 p.m. and from 4:12 p.m. to 4:13 p.m.), DE SANTIS, CHI, BEALS (seated as Chair subsequent to Item 12), PORTNOY, and VONBASTIAANS

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER ROBERTS

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist; PARKER ARECCHI, Visual Arts Specialist 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:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2025

Motion made by Terry Chi to Approve

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

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

5. Report by Sapira Cheuk, Arts Commission Chair, regarding a 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: the artist reception of the 2025 Public Employee Exhibition and the opening reception of The Afterparty by KAT RYALS and DEBORAH NEWMAN on October 16th, the Windows on First installation, See the Music All Around Us by LOISSE LEDRES on October 23rd, the opening reception of A Visual Mixtape by DON MICHAEL JR. on October 30th, and Meet the Artists for the 3 on Main Temporary Sculpture Project on November 6th. The Windows on First installation will be on view through March 2026. She provided further

details regarding event times and locations, noting additional information could be found at www.artslasvegas.org or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER BEALS announced that Skye Canyon Chalk & Cheers would be held on October 25th at Skye Canyon's recreation center. Artists would be required to take their own supplies and could register as a student amateur or professional for a chance to win monetary prizes. The Commissioner also looked forward to attending the Book Fair (Las Vegas Book Festival).

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS stated the Sun City Summerlin 32nd Annual Juried Art Show would be held on November 1-2 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Desert Vista Community Center. She noted over 100 works of art will be exhibited, greeting cards will be available for sale, and admission and parking would be free.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN said the Las Vegas Book Festival would be held on October 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Historic Fifth Street School with a wide variety of panel discussions and headliner authors in attendance. In addition, the UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Art Walk would be held on October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and would include the Barrick Museum of Art, the Performing Arts Center, and the Alta Ham Fine Arts building.

CHAIR CHEUK shared the Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artists Roster would be open on October 20th. Any individual artists, arts and culture groups, and non-profit arts organizations interested in promoting arts-based learning experiences were encouraged to apply. The roster was designed as an online resource for communities to diversify participation in the arts through the engagement of artists in residencies and programs. Individuals on the roster would also qualify for the Arts Learning Express Grant through the Nevada Arts Council.

See Item 9 for related discussion.

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

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, and PARKER ARECCHI, Visual Arts Specialist 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 noted the upcoming Arts Commission schedule could be viewed from the PowerPoint presentation.

Public Art and Gallery Program - MS. SABO reminded the Commissioners of the opening receptions for the Public Employee Art Exhibition at City Hall and The Afterparty at the Historic Fifth Street School.

3 on Main - MS. SABO said the sculpture project was completed and a reception would be held on November 6th.

3rd Street - East Ogden Avenue to Fremont Street Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO stated the project by DAVID RYAN was moving along steadily, and the off-site permit was approved. Completion was expected for the first quarter of 2026.

Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO opined KRYSTAL RAMIREZ'S sculpture was moving along wonderfully, and completion was expected by the beginning of November. A dedication event will be held at the end of November, and further updates will be provided through the newsletter and at the following Commission meeting.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO reported they were working with a vendor to set up regular graffiti abatement and routine cleanings on the public art collection. They would focus on areas with heavy tagging.

Mirabelli Community Center Mural Project - Finding Your Wings - MS. SABO said the project was underway and MATTHEW MURPHEY, artist, was working on the first portions of the mural. Completion was expected by December 1st.

Westside Education & Training Center Public Art Projects - MS. SABO stated the sculpture and mural projects were completed and ADOLFO GONZALEZ, artist, did a beautiful job.

Windows on First: Loisse Ledres - MS. SABO announced a new art installation in the Windows on First project space by LOISSE LEDRES titled See the Music All Around Us, which will be on view through March 2026. The artist reception will be held on October 23rd.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the acceptance of a donation of artwork by Armand Thomas into the City's permanent artwork collection (No Fiscal Impact) - All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, stated the listed value, image, and description of the artwork could be found in the backup documentation provided to the Commissioners, a copy of which was submitted for the record. The acrylic print, Las Vegas Civic Center Layered, was commissioned by LGA Architecture and is a collage of the construction process of the Civic Center Plaza. Additionally, the piece was hanging on the administrative side of staff's offices and staff recommended accessioning it into the collection.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN opined the artwork was beautiful and showed a true progression of how the project came to be.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve the donation

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

8. Discussion regarding the Call for Guest Curators for the Public Art and Gallery Program - All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, noted this item was placed on the agenda at the request of COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS felt curation fees were low in comparison to other places, and she opined there would be a higher caliber of curators applying for opportunities if the prices were raised. Further, she thought other opportunities would arise within City spaces and other spaces that the City could be partnering with, and she believed the prices should be raised.

CHAIR CHEUK asked about the price range and was unsure if artists were paid to exhibit.

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, explained that the Arts Commission oversees the Percent for the Arts fund where projects are reviewed. The municipal fund has City code related to how money can be allocated and is only for permanent projects. Therefore, Cultural Affairs staff programs exhibitions through their gallery program, which is funded from the general budget as opposed to the Percent for the Arts fund. She noted they would appreciate feedback on what would be an appropriate range for the community they serve. Lastly, MS. MACHADO said other municipalities had developed a granting program for exhibitions, which she recommended as a place to start.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN wondered about the base line amount COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS intended for the call for curators and if that would include a direct payment from the curator to the artists. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS suggested \$5,000 to \$10,000. She believed there should be a review regarding artists not being paid or felt prizes should be provided, and she thought the community would get more involved if they saw more opportunities. She wondered if the Percent for the Arts could assist in funding the initiatives; however, she acknowledged this was being granted from another department.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY wanted to know the qualification process for curating an event. Additionally, he felt many people would appreciate the opportunity to curate an event for no fee.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS emphasized the discussion was to look at other opportunities for artists and the community. She saw a curation gap in comparison to other places, and she felt this was a topic of discussion to support the arts.

For COMMISSION PORTNOY, COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained the review process for calls for curators, which includes reviewing previous curating history and the length of time, topic, and artists for the proposed exhibition. She noted exhibitions are displayed for up to four months in typically smaller galleries. The Commissioner believed curator fees ranged from \$2,000 to \$2,500, which MS. MACHADO clarified was \$500 for emerging artists, \$1,000 for Las Vegas based artists, and \$2,000 for national artists. She added they also reviewed resumes provided with submissions.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS confirmed with MS. MACHADO the amount was for curators and not the artists.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY acknowledged there was a fee structure, and MS. MACHADO said many of the curators were also artists; however, that did not necessarily mean they were displaying their own work. The Commissioner gave kudos to staff running the galleries and opined the galleries he had seen were outstanding.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS noted the Wage website broke down fees for artists, curators, spaces, and equal pay to compare with other places. She opined curation took a lot of work and organization, and she thought they would get more people interested in presenting and curating at City spaces if the prices were raised to be comparable. She expressed gratitude for the dialogue among the Commissioners regarding this topic.

CHAIR CHEUK understood it was not within the Commission's purview to decide funding to add to the curatorial fees, and she stated the Nevada Arts Council's Project Grant for Artists also supported curatorial projects, which she believed could be a stop gap to encourage curators to apply.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS thought educational workshops could be offered to the community in 2026 for those looking to curate.

9. Discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of Arts Commissioners - All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and noted this item was brought up at the last Commission meeting regarding ways for the Commissioners to get involved, which included highlights previously given from the Public Art Master Plan.

Project Identification and Evaluation - MS. SABO noted staff wanted Commissioners to serve on evaluation panels for projects within their ward if appointed by a City Councilmember.

Community Engagement and Outreach - MS. SABO said this was leveraging connections to foster relationships for public forums, workshops, and events.

Policy Development and Strategic Planning - MS. SABO stated this was getting involved in the formulation and review of policies related to public art within the Commission's purview.

Artist Selection and Oversight - MS. SABO noted this included Commissioners serving in selection panels. She provided an example such as expanding the role beyond serving just as an evaluator, helping to plan events around a project to create awareness, and recommending other stakeholders.

Advocacy and Fundraising - MS. SABO said they could not ask for funds; however, funds offered could be filtered through the Mayor's Fund.

COMMISSIONER CHI said there was a discussion of Commissioners attending events, and she acknowledged COMMISSIONER BEALS attending the Book Festival (Las Vegas Book Festival). She planned to attend the Windows on First installation, since she was part of the evaluation panel. The Commissioner thought it would be nice for one or two Commissioners to attend every event.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN and CHAIR CHEUK planned to attend the events taking place after the Commission meeting.

CHAIR CHEUK wondered if it would be helpful to discuss who could attend each event after the announcement was made during the meeting. COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS believed it would be helpful, noting she would attend an event she announced in Sun City. Additionally, she thought confirmations could be sent in an e-mail to everybody; however, COMMISSIONER CHI worried that would conflict with Open Meeting Law. MS. SABO confirmed when staff sends correspondences to the Commissioners they ensure everyone is blind copied; therefore, the Commissioners could send the information to staff who could blindly forward the information as a newsletter.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said she would share a list of events for November to staff, and she agreed with COMMISSIONER CHI that this would be good moving forward.

As a former employee for the Las Vegas Review Journal, COMMISSIONER PORTNOY said an arts writer typically attends events, and he thought it was important that the Commissioners were recognized; therefore, he felt the Commissioners should have a badge to increase visibility. MS. SABO noted they had name badges, and staff would complete an order for the Commissioners who were missing a badge.

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, confirmed that the Commissioners were signed up to receive the biweekly newsletter, which had information about all of the events that staff produces.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN opined Commissioners being responsive and agreeing to staff requests to speak at an event or be on an evaluation panel would be great.

CHAIR CHEUK and COMMISSIONERS BEDNARCZYK, KLEVEN, BEALS, CHI, and VONBASTIAANS discussed who would attend events announced during Item 5.

10. Discussion regarding Heritage Month celebrations - All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, noted this item had been requested by COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS announced several Heritage Month events for November, which included a film screening for Imagining the Indian on November 6th at UNLV'S (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) Artemis Ham Hall at 4:00 p.m. The directors and filmmakers would discuss the film and the history and image of Native Americans within sports and mascots. Additionally, DANIELLE SEEWALKER, Lakota artist, would present at 7:00 p.m. for the Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Further information could be found at UNLV's website. The American Indigenous Heritage Celebration will be held on November 9th in Henderson with a presentation of Native American dance and include Calpulli Tlatelolco and Nuwu Wonumeeyah Pow Wow Dancers, bird singers, bird dancers, storytelling, flute playing, artists and vendors. In addition, the Indigemart's Native Heritage Day will be held on November 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., which will include a pop-up shop of Nuwu Art and IndigenousAF at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center and showcase Indigenous dancers, shopping, free arts, and arts presentations. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS welcomed attendance to celebrate Native Heritage Month and learn about the culture and arts in Las Vegas.

CHAIR CHEUK thanked COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS and stated she would add the events to her calendar.

11. Discussion regarding public art in parks - All Wards

Minutes:

MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, narrated from a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide an overview of recently completed projects in City parks, including the Pro Park Paint Project at Doc Romeo skate park, COMM-UNITY at Police Memorial skate park, and several murals at Doug Selby Park in partnership with Life is Beautiful. She felt they were lucky to have many great parks in the city, which she believed were wonderful places to incorporate public art. She said there were many Art in the Park festivals typically held in the springtime; however, they were not within the purview of Cultural Affairs staff and were generally hosted by City Councilmembers in parks within their respective wards. She reminded the Commissioners of public art projects that were in various stages and funded with Percent for the Arts money, which included the Centennial Hills Park Environmental Tile Mural Project, Heers Park Tile Mural Project, and the Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Public Art Project. MS. SABO referred questions regarding the projects to the project manager, who would share further information.

COMMISSIONER DE SANTIS said there were many mural projects and paintings in the skate parks, which she opined were great; however, she felt there was an opportunity for mosaics on top of benches or other places in the parks. She thought this would be an opportunity for a different type of public art and artists. MS. SABO agreed that there were many murals and that it would be nice to diversify the artwork. She informed the Commissioner that they were specifically searching for an artist that worked with ceramic, mosaic or tile for the Centennial Hills Park and Heers Park projects.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY requested information on the Art in the Sky Project and questioned the reasoning for only having murals. He suggested putting art on banners, noting there was a lot of open-air space in parks. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained they usually reserved banners or vinyl material to the Office of Communications, since that could not be funded through the Percent for the Arts fund. She offered to share that suggestion with the Office of Communications to see if they had interest in working with graphic designers.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN opined it was wonderful to work with Parks staff since becoming the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and were proactive in placing artwork to avoid moisture, which was previously an issue. In addition, the Parks and Grounds Maintenance team ensured that the programmed artwork was well preserved and notified staff of any issues. She felt it was nice to have the whole group working together to focus on serving the community through the arts.

MS. SABO wanted to hear from Commissioners regarding parks in their community that could benefit from public art projects, which could be developed into new project proposals when they receive their annual budget.

12. Discussion for possible action regarding the annual election of officers - All Wards

Minutes:

For COMMISSIONER CHI, LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, confirmed the Chair position could serve up to two years and was elected annually.

CHAIR CHEUK asked if there were any Commissioners who wished to be in a different position.

For COMMISSIONER KLEVEN, MS. MACHADO said the current slate of officers were CHAIR CHEUK, COMMISSIONER BEDNARCZYK was the Vice Chair, and COMMISSIONER ROBERTS was the Second Vice Chair. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained that the Chair organized the meeting and ensured the meeting was moving forward as agendized, the Vice Chair stepped in if the Chair was absent, and the Second Vice Chair would take over the duties if both the Chair and Vice Chair were absent.

CHAIR CHEUK wondered if there were any Commissioners who wished to be Chair, and COMMISSIONER BEALS expressed interest.

COMMISSIONER BEDNARCZYK said she would be honored to continue serving as Vice Chair.

For CHAIR CHEUK, MS. MACHADO confirmed it was the Chair's discretion to have COMMISSIONER ROBERTS remain Second Vice Chair although he was absent.

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve the nomination of Carmen Beals as Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve the nomination of Heather Bednarczyk as Vice Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve the nomination of Eric Roberts as Second Vice Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

13. **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 items 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:

CHAIR BEALS requested an update on education and outreach efforts.

14. **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.

15. **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