



Arts Commission Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: CHAIR BEALS and COMMISSIONERS BEDNARCZYK (via teleconference), ROBERTS, KLEVEN (excused until 4:20 p.m.), WESTFIELD, DOUGLAS (excused until 4:04 p.m.), DE SANTIS (via teleconference), CHEUK, PORTNOY, VONBASTIAANS, and GALATI

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONER CHI

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:

CHAIR BEALS welcomed COMMISSIONER GALATI to the Arts Commission.

COMMISSIONER GALATI said he grew up in Las Vegas and practiced architecture. He led LGA Architecture for many years, semi-retired in July, and was pursuing a career in art.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2025

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve

NOTE: Commissioner Galati abstained from voting on this item, as he was not present at that meeting.

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

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

5. Report by Carmen Beals, Arts Commission Chair, regarding a monthly summary of current initiatives, cultural events and opportunities - All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER CHEUK stated the Nevada Arts Council FY (Fiscal Year) 26 Teaching Artist Directory was

open. The teaching artists could also apply for Learning Express Grants to teach art workshops throughout Nevada. Further information could be found at www.nvartscouncil.org and the application would close December 19th.

CHAIR BEALS announced there would be no Arts Commission meeting in December due to holidays and travel, and the next Commission meeting will be held January 15, 2026. Thereafter, the Chair reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the Tamales & Mariachi Festival on December 6th, CritChat led by SARA ODAM on December 16th, and the unveiling of The Night We Met by KRYSTAL RAMIREZ on January 8th. 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 DOUGLAS said IndigenousAF and Scrambled Eggs would present Cosmic Chicano, an artist talk by BRYAN MARTINEZ, on November 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center. On Native American Heritage Day, November 28th, there would be a Holiday Shop from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center. Lastly, in conjunction with Malinalli Productions there would be an Indigimart, which was an indigenous marketplace for jewelry, clothing and crafts with performances and food.

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 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 and initiatives. MS. ARECCHI noted the Commissioners received the staff report with updates for Percent for the Arts projects, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

Arts Commission Meeting Schedule - MS. ARECCHI noted the upcoming Arts Commission schedule could be viewed from the PowerPoint presentation and stated the next Commission meeting would be held on January 15th.

3rd Street - East Oden Avenue to Fremont Street Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO said Waiting on a Light on the Corner by Sound Exchange by DAVID RYAN was under fabrication at YESCO Studios. In addition, MR. RYAN reached his second project milestone and was on track for completion in February 2026.

AMP - Gateway and Arts Districts Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI stated the evaluation panel selected 10 artists for this project. Proposals were reviewed and would be presented at the January Commission meeting.

AMP Ward 4 - Cheyenne Avenue Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI noted this project was being reviewed by COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE and staff.

Boulder Plaza Sculpture Project - The Seed - MS. SABO announced the engineering documents for The Seed by CR2 were in review with the Building & Safety Division.

Centennial Hills Park Environmental Tile Mural Project - MS. ARECCHI said the evaluation panel selected three artists to submit proposals for this project. The proposals will be due at the end of the year and reviewed in January 2026.

Civic Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO noted Cliff Garten Studio reached its fourth project milestone, advising that the sculpture was 50 percent complete and on track for completion by May 2026.

Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO stated construction was underway for KRYSTAL RAMIREZ'S sculpture, The Night We Met, and she expected completion by the end of the year. An unveiling event will be held on January 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO reported they conduct routine condition assessments and inventory reports on items in the collection. Additionally, a conservation and maintenance vendor, HOMERO HIDALGO, was secured for collection maintenance and graffiti abatement. She said they were working with

RLA Conservation on the routine cleaning of Radial Symmetry, and conservation assessments would be conducted on Snowball in Vegas and the Monument to the Simulacrum.

Heers Park Tile Mural Project - MS. SABO said the request for proposals was directly issued to a selected artist and the proposals were due by December 31st for review.

Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI noted this project was underway and the evaluation panel selected four artists to submit proposals for an environmentally themed, gateway sculpture. Proposals were due and would be reviewed in January 2026.

Las Tres Flores Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY stated they were still contracting with JUSTIN FAVELA and waiting on his insurance approvals.

Medical District Public Art Project: Rancho Gateway - MS. LAY said LUIS VARELA-RICO was working on attaining three bids from contractors prior to fully executing his contract.

Medical District Public Art Project: Shadow Lane - MS. LAY noted WAYNE LITTLEJOHN installed the pedestal and would begin staining in December once it was fully cured. They were working with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) to receive a date for the unveiling, which would likely take place in January.

Mirabelli Community Center Mural - Finding Your Wings - MS. SABO announced artist MATTHEW MURPHY was 90 percent complete with his mural project and completion was expected by December 1st. Details for an unveiling event were to be determined.

For COMMISSIONER ROBERTS, MS. MACHADO confirmed the unveiling for The Night We Met was January 8th at 11:00 a.m. COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wondered if the unveiling would be best in the evening, since neon was a component of the art. MS. MACHADO explained that the neon would be installed on the 21st, and the idea of having the unveiling between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. was to encourage the most media promotion for the event. Additionally, MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY hosted a news conference every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., and they hoped the media would then attend the dedication. The Commissioner asked if high-resolution photos would be shared to media from being lit up at night, and MS. MACHADO assured her that they would hire a photographer.

7. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding educational initiatives - All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide an update on the Public Art Education Series. The series was launched in 2022 at the recommendation of the Arts Commission to promote professional development and celebrate Las Vegas' vibrant art community by providing access to arts education. The program helps artists share knowledge, build skills, and connect. Since 2024 (sic), the series has hosted 12 events, which can be viewed from the presentation and included: artist talks, workshops, and panel discussions regarding grants, contracts, interactive art, civic engagement, and professional development for artists. The events provided valuable learning opportunities and fostered connections within the Arts Commission. Further, a list of upcoming events was provided for December 2025 through June 2026. The series would feature CritChat sessions hosted by SARA ODAM every other month at the Las Vegas Community Center, artist talks and workshops. The events were wonderful opportunities for artists to learn, connect with peers, and grow their practice. MS. MACHADO encouraged the Commissioners to attend the events, noting staff would provide the date for each event through the newsletter. She believed the artists involved would appreciate meeting the Commissioners and learning about further involvement.

MS. MACHADO highlighted the next CritChat would be held in December, and there would be an artist panel in January with GIG DEPIO, ALEXIA CHEN, architect, and GORDY GRUNDY regarding the Civic Center building and the artwork within. In February, they would be working with DAVID RYAN, who was installing a sculpture on 3rd Street. Lastly, she noted COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS and SAM GANADOS would have an artist talk in the Civic Center.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding the purchase of Enriched Heritage by Adolfo Gonzalez, located at 1300 C Street (Not-to-Exceed \$35,000 of the Percent for the Arts Fund) - Ward 5 (Summers-Armstrong)

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that Enriched Heritage by ADOLFO GONZALEZ was installed in January 2024 and was part of the Contemporary Public Art Project to install artwork in every ward for one to two years. The sculpture was originally installed for one year, and the loan period was extended for an additional year and will end in January 2026. Subsequently, the artwork would be returned to the artist or could be purchased for permanent installation.

The sculpture is located in the Historic Westside at the Obodo Collective, who expressed interest in the sculpture becoming a permanent piece. Additionally, the community was fond of the sculpture as well. The steel sculpture's foundation was originally engineered for permanent installation and long-term durability. The purchase price that the artist suggested is \$35,000, and staff recommended moving forward.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY believed the artwork was beautiful and wondered if the artist would consider doing a three-year period of installment payments, and MS. MACHADO said she could ask the artist.

For COMMISSIONER CHEUK, MS. MACHADO confirmed the Commission had the necessary funds to purchase the piece. The Commissioner opined it was a wonderful piece and in the right place. Considering the former extension, she did not see any issues with the purchase.

COMMISSIONER VONBASTIAANS wondered if anyone had completed a survey regarding the sculpture's current condition. MS. MACHADO informed the Commissioner that they drove by the piece on their last public art tour, opining it was in good condition with no wear and tear; however, a condition report could be conducted prior to purchasing. The Commissioner wanted to ensure the piece was in the best condition and could last several more years.

For COMMISSIONER ROBERTS, MS. MACHADO confirmed that the sculpture was steel with epoxy paint.

MS. MACHADO said MR. GONZALEZ is a well-known local artist, painter and sculptor that works at YESCO Studios. He designed and engineered the stainless-steel piece for permanency.

COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS and DOUGLAS requested the condition report prior to purchasing, and MS. MACHADO stated the report could be presented in January.

YVETT LOZOYA, Deputy City Clerk, suggested abeying the item in order to hear the report, and CHAIR BEALS agreed to hear the item at the January Commission meeting.

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Hold in Abeyance to 01/15/2026

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

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

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 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:

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS wanted to discuss subcommittees. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained the subcommittees were previously dissolved to have the open discussions at the Arts Commission meetings.

COMMISSIONER GALATI stated Ward 2 was not active in the arts for many years and that COUNCILWOMAN KARA KELLEY was very interested in increasing activity. He said he would take the Councilwoman on a tour of the ward, and he expressed excitement for the opportunity to show support.

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:
None.

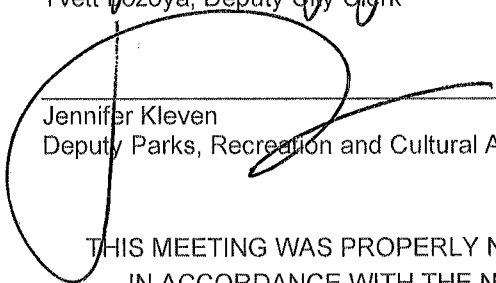
11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
This meeting was adjourned at 4:27 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