



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, KLEVEN, DE SANTIS, CHEUK, CHI, PORTNOY, VONBASTIAANS, and GALATI

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS, WESTFIELD, and DOUGLAS

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; TAMARA CANNELLA, Deputy City Attorney II; 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 November 20, 2025

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve

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

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

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

Minutes:

CHAIR BEALS reviewed the list of exhibitions and cultural events taking place throughout the city, which included: the opening reception of It's O'Clay the Animal House Pottery Member Exhibition on January 29th, the unveiling of Waiting on a Light on the Corner by Sound Exchange by artist DAVID RYAN on February 2nd, and a proposal presentation meeting for the Hualapai Canyon Environmental Sculpture Project on February 4th. 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 PORTNOY announced the upcoming National Pop Art Day: Meet the Artist Night at Portnoy Gallery from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with featured entertainment from JOEY MELOTTI. Additionally, he said his Endangered Species Series artwork would be on exhibit from April 9th through April 14th at the West Charleston Library.

On behalf of the Nevada Arts Council, COMMISSIONER CHEUK stated the application for the Project Grant for Organizations was open for non-profit organizations or public institutions and would close February 3rd at 5:00 p.m. The grant was for \$7,000 with a one-to-one match. In addition, the Nevada Arts Council was looking for a portrait painter for the Governor's portrait, and the contract was for \$40,000. Further information could be found at www.nvartscouncil.org.

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 Commission meetings would be held the third Thursday of every month.

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 being installed that week and the opening would be on February 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

AMP - Gateway and Arts Districts Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI noted the finalized artists would present their proposals during the next agenda item.

AMP Ward 4 - Cheyenne Avenue Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI stated this project was moving forward and 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 hoped the evaluation panel would select an artist by the end of the month.

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 installation was scheduled for the end of April. They hoped to schedule the dedication event for the beginning of May.

Civic Center Plaza Second Sculpture Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO shared KRYSTAL RAMIREZ'S sculpture, The Night We Met, was officially dedicated, opining it was a wonderful addition to the public art collection. The project still required one more step for permitting in order to be completed.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO reported they secured HOMERO HIDALGO for collection maintenance and graffiti abatement. She said they worked with RLA Conservation on the routine cleaning of Radial Symmetry, and conservation assessments would be developed for other pieces in the collection. The public is encouraged to contact publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov with concerns related to conservation and maintenance.

Heers Park Tile Mural Project - MS. SABO said the request for proposals was directly issued to a selected artist. Proposals were received in December and were under review by project stakeholders.

Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI stated the proposal presentation for this project to award the artist would be held on February 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Las Tres Flores Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY noted they were finalizing the contract with JUSTIN FAVELA and changed the installation date to May.

Medical District Public Art Project: Rancho Gateway - MS. LAY said they were still contracting with LUIS VARELA-RICO. He was almost complete with his third bid and then they could move forward.

Medical District Public Art Project: Shadow Lane - MS. LAY announced WAYNE LITTLEJOHN would be installing the piece next month, and an event was scheduled for February 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mirabelli Community Center Mural - Find Your Wings - MS. SABO stated this project by MATTHEW MURPHY was completed in early December and had an unveiling ceremony. She encouraged the Commissioners to see the project.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered which Commissioners would attend each event. COMMISSIONERS CHEUK and VONBASTIAANS confirmed they would attend the February 2nd opening and the February 20th event.

For COMMISSIONER CHI, MS. ARECCHI said she could provide a list of the events, dates and times.

MS. LAY noted an event was recently scheduled with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and she would provide further information after it was finalized.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN thanked staff for the completed projects and appreciated their hard work for stewarding the projects forward. She opined it was great to see some of the projects come to fruition, as some of the processes had taken several few years.

See Item 7 for related discussion.

7. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding AMP Gateway District and 18b Arts District Project design proposals for various locations - Ward 3 (Diaz)

Minutes:

PARKER ARECCHI, Visual Arts Specialist II, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and reported the evaluation panel had vetted all project proposals. For the presentations, an artist was present to speak, and MS. ARECCHI stated she would speak on behalf of the other presentations. Each presentation included renderings of the pieces.

SHAN MICHAEL EVANS at Industrial Road and Wyoming Avenue - The design featured a series of colorful geometric flowers painted on utility boxes in an industrial undeveloped area. The stylized flowers brought an intentional burst of vibrancy to a place defined by concrete and dust and created a visual contrast that was surprising and positive. The work served as a gesture of transformation and a signal that the area was part of a living city. The design invited curiosity and the presence reclaimed the space with creativity. The design was superimposed to the sidewalk.

ANDREA PAVLES at Oakey Boulevard and Las Vegas Boulevard - The utility cabinet sat at the entryway of the Las Vegas Arts District, and the lemons and cherries were used to symbolize Las Vegas being linked to gambling, as they were iconic symbols of slot machines. The box also sat in front of a restaurant, which influenced the food and beverage theme. In terms of the composition, the phrases Glass Half Empty or Half Full and the Cherry on Top inspired the box being divided into separate stacked sections to resemble a glass filled with fruit with the cherries on top and played with the themes of luck and positivity.

MADDO HUGHES at St. Louis Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard - This design focused on animals rendered in MR. HUGHES' personal style. The chosen animals included the red-tailed hawk, coyote, mule deer, and bighorn sheep, which all embodied characteristics such as perseverance, adaptability, bravery, strength and wisdom. The creatures acted as mirrors of human character to remind people of the resilience and beauty within themselves. In addition, Mojave yucca, desert marigolds, barrel cactus and beavertail prickly pear cactus were included for the smaller electrical box.

SAMEER ASNANI at St. Louis Avenue and Paradise Road - MR. ASNANI stated his piece was near the gateway arches, and he wanted to incorporate the elements with a bright palette to create contrast from a far distance. He included a car driving underneath the gateway arches, a showgirl gesturing towards the STRAT Tower, and gaming symbols for Las Vegas such as cards, poker chips and diamonds.

BONNIE KELSO at Bob Stupak Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard - The mural series for the utility cabinets explored themes of whimsy in nature and concealment, and each cabinet was transformed into a faceless monochromatic avian creature rendered in bright and vivid hues. The largest box was painted in pink to represent a maternal figure followed by four smaller chicks each showcasing their individuality through color. The flowing feathers guided them towards the Arts District to symbolize movement, identity and purpose.

NATHANIEL BENJAMIN at California Avenue and Commerce Street - The two larger cabinets showed the shoes of people from different walks of life. The top of the cabinet had stars in space extending into legs with shoes on each side. The other cabinet presented the texture of earth extending into its respective shoes. The smaller cabinet said Many Feet One Path across the two sides facing towards the intersection, the other side showed a spiral reminiscent of a thumb print, one side was a circle of people holding hands, and the top was the atom symbol. MR. BENJAMIN hoped to form a sense of connection and represent a diverse cast of characters with small details to tell their stories.

CHALA ESCOBAR on California Avenue at Casa Don Juan - This piece is located near a restaurant whose atmosphere celebrates Mexican culture and the art of FRIDA KAHLO. The piece was designed to pay tribute to Latin art and culture and is inspired by Loteria cards, a beloved bingo game played across many generations and within parts of Latin America. The iconic symbols of El Corazon and La Calavera were selected to represent the duality of existence prominent in Latin American culture.

CHALA ESCOBAR on California Avenue at Esther's Kitchen - These boxes honored the importance of storytelling by depicting a continuous fantasy landscape that focused on a young heroine's journey.

MIGUEL HERNANDEZ on California Avenue - This was a series of four boxes, and the concept was inspired by MR. HERNANDEZ'S love of flowers, nature and realism through art. He wanted to paint the boxes to resemble 3D (three-dimensional) barrel cactus plants with vibrant flowers on top.

GEOVANY URANDA on California Avenue at YU-OR-MI - This piece was titled Sweet Treats and was MR. URANDA'S first mural project on an electric box. He wanted to create something fun, light and happy, and the artwork focused on themes of clowns to bring joy and remind people to be silly and clown around. He believed anyone who would see the work should have fun and get in touch with their inner child.

MILA MAY on California Avenue at Mezcla Tequila Bar - The proposed designs transformed an ordinary utility cabinet into a playful reflection of Downtown Las Vegas, which was vibrant and full of energy. The designs connected to its environment by imagining what may be happening inside the mysterious boxes, turning function into fantasy. The design blended circuit board-like patterns and smiling faces, revealing an imagined inner world.

MS. ARECCHI thanked the evaluation panelists COMMISSIONER VONBAASTIANS, YDO YTURRALDE, LYLE WILCOX, STASIA FISHER and DAVID RAANAN for their work.

8. **ABEYANCE ITEM** - 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 originally installed in January 2024 as part of the Contemporary Public Art Project. The installation was originally planned for one year and was extended for an additional year. The loan period would end that month; therefore, staff brought forward this item to discuss purchasing the sculpture.

MS. MACHADO noted that questions raised during the last Arts Commission meeting were addressed regarding maintenance, ongoing care, structural stability and weather protection. A condition report was completed in December, and staff determined there were minor rust issues. The artist cleaned the sculpture and repainted the rust areas to resolve the issues. The annual maintenance would be minimal and consist of cleaning with soap and water followed by drying with cloth. Staff would reach out to MR. GONZALEZ with any rust or open space issues. The sculpture's foundation and anchorage were approved by a Nevada-licensed engineer that the City hired when the piece was installed, and the anchorage was rated to last more than 10 years with no additional support needed. The sculpture had a durable automotive-grade paint, and no weathering protection was needed. MS. MACHADO said staff completed a yearly inventory and would make an assessment if anything needed to be addressed, and they did not anticipate additional maintenance beyond the annual standard cleaning. Lastly, she opined the artist was responsive and wonderful to work with, and the business owner wanted to retain the piece; therefore, staff recommended acquiring the sculpture into the City's Public Art Collection.

Subsequent to the motion, COMMISSIONER CHEUK thanked staff for doing the due diligence to ensure the Commissioners were comfortable with the purchase.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN noted the area was disinvested for a long time, and the City realized it was a great location for temporary artwork. She felt programming with permanent artwork put a stamp on the area as an important community space and showed reinvestment into the community.

Motion made by Craig Galati to Approve

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

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

9. Discussion for possible action regarding the acceptance of a donation of artworks titled Ruby's Pull, Parking Lot Pano, Hammergren Pano, and Liberace by Linda Alterwitz into the City's permanent artwork collection (No Fiscal Impact) - 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 report that staff located four pieces that were on loan with the City during their annual inventory, noting the loan had expired. She contacted the artist LINDA ALTERWITZ, who offered a generous donation of the pieces for the City's Public Art Collection. There was no fiscal impact associated with the donation. The pieces were two-dimensional and in good quality, and they did not require additional maintenance or conservation. She believed there was a location open for the pieces within the Finance Department. Staff recommended accepting the donation.

Motion made by Terry Chi to Accept the donation

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

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

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 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 PORTNOY said he was contacted by artists in the district (Arts District) regarding the inconvenience of raised parking prices, and he thought this could be brought up for discussion at a future date. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN said it did not fall under their jurisdiction but they could ask for a report from Parking Services.

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:


None.

12. **Adjournment**

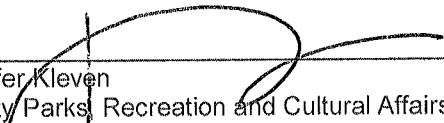
Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 4:30 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