



## 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 KLEVEN, DOUGLAS, DE SANTIS, CHI, PORTNOY, VONBASTIAANS, VITONE, and ANDERSON

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS, CHEUK, and GALATI

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist; HOLLY LAY, 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](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.

Prior to Public Comment CHAIR BEALS welcomed COMMISSIONERS VITONE and ANDERSON. COMMISSIONER VITONE represents Ward 5 for COUNCILWOMAN SHONDRA SUMMERS-ARMSTRONG and COMMISSIONER ANDERSON represents MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY.

### 4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2026

Motion made by Jennifer Kleven to Approve

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

For-Carmen Beals, Terry Chi, Jennifer Kleven, Joan De Santis, Fawn Douglas, Neal Portnoy, Todd VonBastiaans, Samantha Vitone, Bryana Anderson; Excused-Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Craig Galati;

### 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 Illumination Ceremony of Harmonic Ascension by Cliff Garten Studio on May 7th and the opening reception of Peaks and Valleys: Capturing the Highs and Lows of the Las Vegas Valley curated by DONNA

FOX on May 21st. She provided further details regarding event times and locations, noting additional information could be found at [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org) or by calling 702-229-ARTS.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY announced that the exhibit for his Endangered Species Series featuring 18 works of art at the West Charleston Library would be open through mid-June.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS said the opening reception of the Native Youth Art Exhibition would be held on May 9th from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center. This exhibition included Kindergarten through 12th grade students in the Clark County School District (CCSD) Indian Education Opportunities Program as well as homeschooled students. The event was not limited to native students, and available to all community members. Twenty works will be presented from different tribes and Indian tacos will be distributed for the first 60 participants. The event is sponsored by the IndigenousAF nonprofit, CCSD's Indian Education Opportunities Program, and the Andy Warhol Foundation.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN stated Vegas City Opera will be presenting Music of the Night, a concert of musical gems, on May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center Plaza. In addition, the Jazz Outreach Initiative will be performing their annual Jazz Under the Stars event on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Centennial Hills Amphitheater. Lastly, the Rainbow Company Youth Theater is staging Peter and the Starcatcher opening May 1st and 2nd with performances on May 8th and 9th at the Charleston Heights Art Center.

6. Presentation by the Southern Nevada Arts Coalition regarding a summary of current initiatives - All Wards

Minutes:

DEMECINA GRAY, JEANA BLACKMAN TAYLOR, and MATT HODGES, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record regarding their organization and what they hoped to accomplish.

MS. GRAY said SNAC (Southern Nevada Arts Coalition) was organically founded in 2024 and consisted of arts administrators, artists, and creatives. They were galvanized by the 2024 City of Las Vegas Arts & Culture Summit (Summit) held at the Historic Fifth Street School and aimed to have more conversations about deeper change and advocacy they could bring to the Las Vegas arts community. They felt moved by hearing from lawmakers at the Summit, such as FELICIA SHAW, San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition, to create a coalition. She stated the main issue was funding for the arts, which she thought brought more money into the state's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) than mining and transportation, noting it was an important economic driver for Southern Nevada. SNAC is a nonprofit agency with a clear mission to empower and sustain Southern Nevada through the arts, uplifting the arts community by becoming a regranting agency and a local arts agency. SNAC was initially established with four board members: JENNIFER KLEVEN, MICKEY SPROTT, MS. GRAY, and WENDY KVECK. Last year, the board expanded to include ALLISON MONETTE-CORDOVA, MS. BLACKMAN TAYLOR, and MR. HODGES. MS. GRAY saw the opportunity to help the community grow with SNAC. MS. BLACKMAN TAYLOR said she was a performer from Cirque du Soleil and the managing director for the Nevada Shakespearé Festival. After completing her master's degree in public administration, she explored public policy and support for the arts. She was disheartened to find that northern Nevada received a greater share of funding for philanthropy and the arts, which stemmed from a well-established philanthropic community that had been supported by creative artistic infrastructure. She desired to see a similar structure developed in her area. MR. HODGES works with Spiegelworld and was connected with the idea of an ecosystem, noting the more projects and ideas that are funded and supported the more well-rounded the work would be. MR. HODGES listed SNAC accomplishments from the past year including leading a coalition to increase funding for local organizations, sponsoring the Nevada Arts Day at the legislature, launching SNAC time, which was quarterly in-person and virtually to connect artists and creatives with each other, and they officially achieved the 501(c)3 status to open the door to fundraising ambitions. MS. BLACKMAN TAYLOR noted the overall goal of being a regranting agency is to increase the amount of funding coming to Southern Nevada for artists and art organizations. Other goals included ensuring financial stability and operational resilience by developing a strategy for funding outreach, increasing community organizational knowledge and engagement by developing consistent online communications strategy and public programming, advocating for the arts and coalition building on the state level, and securing operational and strategic growth by building staff positions and establishing a grant-making program. Further, she noted they worked extensively with the Sierra Arts Foundation. They valued the work that the Commissioners did as a local arts agency to grow artists in the region and they hoped to fill the funding gap in the area.

COMMISSIONER CHI wondered about the major expenses since the board members volunteered their time. MS. GRAY said the funding goal was intended for staff and grants and MS. BLACKMAN TAYLOR added that money was mostly spent on community outreach, SNAC time, advocacy and awareness. She noted regrating would soon become the largest bulk of expenses as they recently reached the 501(c)3 status. For the Commissioner, MS. BLACKMAN TAYLOR stated the Arts Commissioner's connections with their City (City of Las Vegas) representatives could increase knowledge and awareness for SNAC to fill an important gap, increase grant funding, and to build out an executive director.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY suggested reaching out to creatives to create connections and build relationships. In addition, he thought inclusion and opportunities were limited for different creatives in the city. MS. GRAY responded that they have various disciplines on their advisory council and board and noted SNAC was thinking of ways to sustain creative run spaces and self-run organizations that needed support. The Commissioner reiterated collaborating and using social media to go viral.

CHAIR BEALS looked forward to attending and supporting their future programs.

7. 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, Visual Arts Specialist II, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, regarding current projects and initiatives. MS. LAY 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. LAY noted the upcoming Arts Commission schedule could be viewed from the PowerPoint presentation.

Thank you for your service! - MS. LAY thanked HEATHER BEDNARCZYK and MONIQUE ELLIS WESTFILED for their service and the work they did for the Las Vegas arts community.

Welcome! Samantha Vitone - MS. LAY welcomed COMMISSIONER VITONE, stating she is a multigenerational Las Vegas native, and her career is built on a love for the city's evolving cultural landscape. Her background spans a decade in the modeling industry, leading to the founding of the agency, Vitone & Talent. She formalized her experience with an International Business degree from UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas). Her transition to the institutional art world began as an inaugural team member for the Las Vegas Museum of Art and is the Associate Director for ThirtyThree Gallery.

AMP - Gateway and Arts Districts Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO said this project was underway and on time for scheduled completion. Ten artists were painting utility cabinets throughout the Arts District.

AMP Ward 4 - Cheyenne Avenue Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO noted a portion of this project was completed. She looked forward to sharing designs and completed cabinets at the next Arts Commission meeting.

Arts District Garage Mural Project - MS. MACHADO stated they were in contract negotiations with the selected artist and hoped for a walk-through to determine the project deliverables. The new design will be shared once the contract is formalized in May or June.

Artwork Purchase Project - MS. MACHADO announced a Call for Artists for the Art in Public Places exhibition featuring DEMECINA GRAY as the guest curator. She encouraged the Commissioners to share the opportunity with any artist looking to submit artwork, noting the benefit of potential purchase for the City's (City of Las Vegas) art collection. Further information could be found on their website at [artsregistrylas.vegas](http://artsregistrylas.vegas).

Call for Artists: Celebrating Life! 2026 - MS. MACHADO said they received over 300 submissions from artists aged 50 and over for the Call for Artists: Celebrating Life! 2026, which closed on April 22nd. The juror selected pieces to install at the Charleston Heights Center, and she hoped to see the Commissioners at the awards ceremony. CHAIR BEALS will hand out the awards to the first, second, and third place winners for each category on May 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Call for Gallery Exhibit Proposals - MS. MACHADO stated City of Las Vegas has five galleries, and was expanding, so they were looking for artists to submit gallery proposals. Proposals could be from individual artists or standalone galleries.

Centennial Hills Park Environmental Tile Mural Project - MS. MACHADO noted LEE LANIER was selected for the project. MR. LANIER was fabricating the tile project, and it was set to install later in the summer.

Civic Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO said the Harmonic Ascension was recently installed at the Civic Center Plaza. The lighting would be adjusted the following week, and the unveiling would be held on May 7th. She encouraged the Arts Commissioners to attend the event, noting speaking will start at 6:00 p.m.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO reported they conduct routine condition assessments and inventory reports for items in the Public Art Collection. They were 80 percent completed with the annual inventory reporting. The public is encouraged to contact [publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov) with concerns related to conservation and maintenance or graffiti.

Conservation and Maintenance: Graffiti Abatement - MS. SABO stated conservation and maintenance was completed on Radial Symmetry. She noted the sculpture Snowball in Vegas by JESSE SMIGEL was deinstalled and moved to the artist's studio for repainting. She hoped to have the sculpture returned by June. In addition, they were working with HOMERO HIDALGO for graffiti abatement.

CritChat - MS. LAY said the monthly CritChats will begin in June at the Historic Fifth Street School. The group was consistent, and they had an e-mail chat.

Heers Park Tile Mural Project - MS. SABO shared the selected design GILA MONSTER! by MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ. MR. RODRIGUEZ completed the first project milestone and started securing supplies. The park is undergoing renovation, and the mural installation was tentatively planned for fall of 2027.

Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO announced that a design by LUIS VARELA-RICO was selected for the project, and the designs would be shared at the next Arts Commission meeting.

Grand Gallery at City Hall - It's O'Clay! Animal House Pottery Member Exhibition - MS. MACHADO said the exhibition was on display at the City Hall Grand Gallery.

Las Tres Flores Sculpture by Justin Favela - MS. LAY noted the project with JUSTIN FAVELA was in fabrication, and on schedule for a June event.

Mayor's Gallery at Historic Fifth Street School - Lunar New Year Exhibition: Year of the Horse - MS. LAY advised the Commissioners the PowerPoint slide was outdated, and the Urban Sketchers exhibition will be incoming.

Medical District Public Art Project: The Healer - MS. LAY stated the project was on track and in fabrication. Completion was expected for the end of October.

Chamber Gallery at City Hall - Nevada Arts Council Fellowship Exhibition: Notions of Erasure - MS. SABO noted the PowerPoint slide was outdated, and the Six Ways of Seeing was installed. The reception for this exhibition would be held on May 27th.

Civic Center Gallery - Rhythm & Resilience: Black Vegas - MS. MACHADO encouraged the Commissioners to visit the Rhythm & Resilience: Black Vegas exhibition at the Civic Center Gallery.

Windows on First - MS. LAY said CERISSA LOPEZ was completing the installation for Windows on First and the reception would be held on May 7th.

8. Report by Cultural Affairs staff regarding the Public Art Master Plan - All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of

which was submitted for the record, and shared a status update on the Public Art Master Plan (Master Plan). For more than 40 years, the City of Las Vegas has been commissioning and displaying public art. The Public Art Collection has grown to over 1,000 pieces supported by the Percent for the Arts fund. Over \$4.5 million has gone into the fund. In 2023, the vision and mission was updated, and 41 recommendations were outlined to be completed by 2034, and 13 recommendations have been accomplished since the Master Plan was adopted. MS. MACHADO highlighted some key accomplishments, which included the updated website to include an interactive map of the City's Public Art Collection (collection), making it easier for people to find and explore artwork. They strengthened community connections by adding Meet the Artist events to projects. They continued to install consistent labels across the collection in all of the facilities, parks, and public rights-of-way. Additionally, they hosted a public art tour for the Arts Commissioners, which was limited to half of quorum; however, they would hold another art tour soon. The Director and Deputy Director met regularly with the Public Works and Finance Departments to review upcoming projects that could benefit from the Public Arts Funding. Further, they adopted four clear policies for how they acquire, care for and manage the collection to address issues, and continued to update records digitally. Having the policies provided framework for the care, donation, and deaccession. They also extended exhibition timelines throughout the five galleries and installed shows to last longer. Moreover, they increased educational outreach opportunities with artist lectures and workshops. The collection was being shared by exploring loans with regional partners, and they recently shared a piece with UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), which they hoped to do more of in the future. Lastly, they expanded their focus on projects that connected art with the outdoors upon completing an extensive survey and meeting with each individual ward to include projects in trails or parks. Overall, MS. MACHADO believed they had strong progress and a solid foundation for the future. She acknowledged MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist, HOLLY LAY and PARKER ARECCHI-JOHNS, Visual Arts Specialists II, for their commitment and hard work. She noted the Public Art Master Plan was available on their website and on the PowerPoint presentation. She concluded with a goal for next year to have the Arts Commissioners more involved in each individual project by having an Arts Commissioner on the evaluation panel and would be invited to the kickoff meeting, a site or studio visit, and involved in planning the dedication event.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY suggested a traveling art show in the parks and MS. MACHADO responded more staff would be required. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN thought it was an excellent idea, and most of the wards included an Art in the Park event once a year to provide an opportunity to view fine arts outdoors and to purchase directly from the artists. She believed one event would be held in Ward 1 on May 2nd, and she could provide further information. COMMISSIONER PORTNOY thought the wards could work amongst each other and COMMISSIONER KLEVEN stated she would inform their council and event services team.

COMMISSIONER CHI congratulated staff on their momentum, noting she saw a difference in the last couple of years. She was unsure how many commissions the City (City of Las Vegas) managed but thought it would have been nice to attend MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY'S City Address at the Smith Center. She said the Arts Commissioners were invited in previous years. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN stated she would make a note and would ensure they were all invited for the following year.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS thanked staff for the presentation. She was involved in several mural reviews and RFPs (Request for Proposals), which she enjoyed. She felt more connected to the arts, artists, and team, and she encouraged involvement in the process. CHAIR BEALS concurred with the Commissioner that she also enjoyed her experiences with the evaluation panels and looked forward to site visits.

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:  
None.

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.

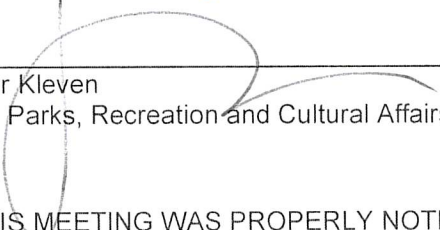
Minutes:  
None.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:  
This meeting was adjourned at 4:51 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)  
The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)  
Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor  
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor