



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 ROBERTS (excused until 4:01 p.m.), KLEVEN, DE SANTIS (via teleconference), CHEUK, CHI, PORTNOY, GALATI, VITONE, and ANDERSON

EXCUSED: COMMISSIONERS DOUGLAS and VONBASTIAANS

ALSO PRESENT: LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager; MARY SABO, Senior Visual Arts Specialist; PARKER ARECCHI-JOHNS, Visual Arts Specialist II; TAMARA CANNELLA, 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 April 30, 2026

Motion made by Neal Portnoy to Approve

NOTE: Commissioner Galati did not vote on this item, as he was not present at that meeting.

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 2

For-Carmen Beals, Eric Roberts, Sapira Cheuk, Terry Chi, Jennifer Kleven, Joan De Santis, Neal Portnoy, Samantha Vitone, Bryana Anderson; Did Not Vote-Craig Galati; Excused-Fawn Douglas, Todd VonBastiaans;

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 Peaks and Valleys: Capturing the Highs and Lows of the Las Vegas Valley curated by DONNA FOX and featuring members of the Las Vegas Urban Sketchers, the opening reception and awards ceremony for the annual Celebrating Life! exhibition on May 29th, and an artist talk and discussion for the Healing the Heart exhibition curated by Nuwu Art and FAWN DOUGLAS. 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 that the exhibit CreAction by MICHAEL DAVIES, sculptor, would be held on June 4th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Portnoy Gallery.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK invited the Commissioners to the opening reception of Six Ways of Seeing, the Nevada Arts Council's newest traveling initiative exhibition, on May 27th at the Las Vegas City Hall Chamber Gallery showcasing the FY (Fiscal Year) 2026 visual arts fellows. This exhibition will kick-off Intersections: The Nevada Creative Conference occurring May 27th through May 29th.

COMMISSIONER VITONE announced the exhibition sister(hood) would be opening at the ThirtyThree Gallery from June 5th to July 31st and would be available by appointment only.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN invited the Commissioners to the live arts dance performances, in conjunction with the Alvin Ailey School (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) and the Nevada Ballet Theater, on May 23rd at 7:30 p.m. and May 24th 5:00 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. She also announced the dance performance Sayaw at Kultura by the Philippine Heritage Dancers on May 28th at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. The preshow will take place at 6:00 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON reported an event for the following day at MAD Gallery by NIKI J SANDS, local artist, open to the RSVP guest list from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the public from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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-JOHNS, 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. MACHADO noted their team would provide recent updates and highlights on current projects and exhibitions.

Arts Commission Meeting Schedule - MS. MACHADO announced the next Arts Commission meeting will be held on June 18th and there will be no meetings in July and August. The following Arts Commission meeting will be held in September.

Thank you for your service! - MS. MACHADO thanked COMMISSIONER ROBERTS for volunteering his time and energy on behalf of Ward 6. She appreciated his dedication to supporting the arts community, noting his impact would be felt for years to come, and she hoped to stay in touch.

Welcome, New Arts Commissioner Bry Anderson - MS. MACHADO welcomed COMMISSIONER ANDERSON, stating she is the Chief Operating Officer of MAD Gallery. MS. ANDERSON works to create a platform where local artists can be seen, supported, and celebrated beyond the traditional gallery model. With the focus on community, culture, and accessibility, the gallery wants to build and spotlight creative voices shaping the city's evolving art scene.

AMP - Gateway and Arts Districts Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS said the project was coming along, as five of the ten artists completed their cabinets. Cabinets from ANDREA PAVLES, CHALA ESCOBAR, and NATHANIEL BENJAMIN were pictured from left to right in the presentation. The remaining artists will be painting through May and into June. The project was expected to be completed on time and within budget.

AMP Ward 4 - Cheyenne Ave. Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS stated SASHA REISIN completed his portion of the project. In addition, they were working with another artist on the remaining four cabinets in the project and hoped to have contracts going through the summer.

Arts District Garage Mural Project - MS. MACHADO noted they were continuing to work with the selected artist for the project and were close to executing the contract. She hoped to share the designs at the June Arts Commission meeting.

Artwork Purchase Project - Call for artists - MS. MACHADO said the Call for Artists: Art in Public Places

exhibition was still open. This is a juried exhibition with a chance for artwork to be selected for purchase into the City's (City of Las Vegas) Permanent Art Collection (Public Art Collection). She encouraged the Commissioners to notify artists, noting the call closes in July.

Centennial Hills Park Environmental Tile Mural Project - MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS opined that artist LEE LANIER was making great progress off-site fabricating the panels to go along with the mosaic tile mural. MR. LANIER finished his first milestone and was working towards his second.

Civic Plaza Public Art Project - MS. MACHADO noted that Harmonic Ascension by Cliff Garten Studio was successfully dedicated on May 7th. The project represented many years of collaboration, and she thanked all of the departments that were involved, such as Public Works, Purchasing and Contracts, and Building and Safety. She appreciated seeing the project fully installed, stating the final building inspection was pending approval for the project to be complete.

Conservation and Maintenance - MS. SABO reported they conduct routine condition assessments and inventory reports for items in the Public Art Collection. The public is encouraged to contact publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov with concerns related to conservation and maintenance or graffiti. In addition, they worked with RLA Conservation on routine cleaning for Radial Symmetry and the Living Black Pillars by CHASE McCURDY at the Historic Westside Legacy Park.

Conservation and Maintenance: Graffiti Abatement - MS. SABO said they continued to work with HOMERO HIDALGO for graffiti abatement focusing mainly on the Arts District.

Conservation and Maintenance: Snowball in Vegas - MS. SABO stated they were working with JESSE SMIGEL to restore the sculpture, which was deinstalled and moved to the artist's studio for minor repairs, repainting, and a thorough anti-graffiti coating. The sculpture reinstallation was scheduled for First Street and Gass Avenue by mid-June.

Conservation and Maintenance: Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial - MS. SABO noted they worked with ERIC PAWLOSKI to complete slate repair and routine cleaning on the memorial by ADOLFO GONZALEZ.

Hualapai Canyon Trailhead Environmental Public Art Project - MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS announced LUIS VARELA-RICO signed his contract for the project. His design inspired by the Ponderosa Pinecone will be positioned at the northern portion of the trailhead. The project kickoff meeting was scheduled for the following month.

Grand Gallery at City Hall It's O'Clay! Animal House Pottery Member Exhibition - MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS welcomed the Commissioners to the exhibition at the Grand Gallery at City Hall, featuring 14 artists on display through July 30th.

Public Art Collection Interactive Map - MS. SABO announced that an interactive map of the Public Art Collection is available on the City's website. She thanked KIMBERLY PULIDO, Technician/Specialist, the City's IT (Innovation and Technology) Department, and MS. MACHADO for their work on the project. The map could be found on the Public Art and Gallery Program homepage by navigating to the View Collection tab.

Chamber Gallery at City Hall Nevada Arts Council Fellowship Exhibition: Six Ways of Seeing - MS. SABO invited the Commissioners to see Six Ways of Seeing at the City Hall Chamber Gallery, which will be on display through June 18th. A reception would be held the following Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Civic Center Gallery Rhythm & Resilience: Black Vegas - MS. MACHADO encouraged the Commissioners to visit the Civic Center Gallery for the Rhythm & Resilience: Black Vegas exhibition, which will be on display through August 20th. The hours will be extended in June to be open on Saturdays.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK wondered if the Art in Public Places exhibition was only available for Southern Nevadan residents. MS. MACHADO said the call was national and open to everyone; however, out-of-state applicants would have to cover the costs of transporting the artwork to Las Vegas and provide return shipping if the artwork was not purchased.

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN expressed gratitude to MS. ARECCHI-JOHNS, MS. MACHADO, MS. SABO, and HOLLY LAY, Visual Arts Specialist II, for the work they do and for bringing art into people's lives.

CHAIR BEALS congratulated COMMISSIONER ROBERTS for his departure and officially welcomed COMMISSIONER ANDERSON.

7. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment of Vice Chair - All Wards

Minutes:

COMMISSIONER CHEUK nominated COMMISSIONER CHI to serve as Vice Chair, which she accepted.

Motion made by Sapira Cheuk to Approve the nomination of Terry Chi as Vice Chair

Passed For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

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

8. Discussion regarding the development of the FY (Fiscal Year) 27 Percent for the Arts Projects List - All Wards

Minutes:

LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, said every September, new projects are presented to the Arts Commission and finalized for the next fiscal year. She hoped they could converse about important initiatives for the community. The focus was for any specific community needs or goals that public art could make a difference in. She suggested thinking about the areas they represent or their specific wards.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK wondered if there were non-conventional spaces within City-owned properties for temporary exhibitions. She wanted to expand the Art in Public Places exhibition to purchase more artwork and support more artists. She noted the NAC (Nevada Arts Council) granted a hanging system in consideration of cost.

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY suggested involvement or a partnership with sports franchises coming into town, noting the city was transforming into a sport city. He thought BILL FOLEY, MARK DAVIS, the Athletics, the Las Vegas Aces, and more could be contacted, indicating the stadiums and arenas had concourses and blank slate walls. He opined a traveling art exhibit within sports stadiums in the city would be great.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS thought the art in the westside and the Arts District was successful, and he wondered if there was an opportunity to find an artistic nexus in each ward telling the story of a place through art, history, or character. Additionally, he appreciated the art in the Hualapai Trails (Hualapai Canyon Trailhead) and wondered if something could be codified through future years into a system. COMMISSIONER KLEVEN asked if he had a location in mind for Ward 6, and COMMISSIONER ROBERTS responded that Tule Springs looms large with a lot of development happening. He was keen on the idea of developers contributing towards art in the communities.

COMMISSIONER VITONE said preservation of history is heavily considered by the Ward 5 community. She expressed excitement for the future, hoping to also honor the past.

MS. MACHADO appreciated the feedback and said she would find a connection between the projects already identified and the comments made. She believed it would be great to have a connection with historic preservation and the Percent for the Arts Fund for the incoming Ward 5 project. Relating to the sports franchises, she would try to identify areas in specific wards to work with developers, which she thought would involve a conversation with the Planning Division. For the exhibition space, she stated an additional space was identified through a community center via COMMISSIONER GALATI. MS. MACHADO encouraged the Commissioners to contact her regarding other areas and how to develop a specific project to present at the September Commission meeting. Further, she would assist with forming the project, scoping, budgeting, and identifying issues to engage Commissioners in the process.

COMMISSIONER GALATI emphasized the importance of providing public art in hubs or areas where most people are in order to receive more art advocates.

In response to COMMISSIONER ANDERSON, MS. MACHADO advised there were no meetings set for July or

August, and the Commission could not meet as a group unless it is properly agendaized. She confirmed staff will still be available.

COMMISSIONER CHI acknowledged the team was working on many projects and thought more people needed to know more through marketing communications to the community. She heard MS. MACHADO on KNPR radio interviewing an artist, which she believed brought awareness to the projects they worked on. Further, she thought the e-mails that went out were lengthy with information on dates, events, and exhibitions. She wondered how the interview came about, opining that MS. MACHADO was fantastic. MS. MACHADO said KNPR had noticed an increase in public art and requested more information relating to public art in the valley. Moreover, the Communications team took an active role in promoting their work and the public art map. The map was still being adjusted to update photographs and was a great way to tell the story of their work.

COMMISSIONER VITONE asked if there was a way to interact with or survey the community and how to promote Commission meetings. MS. MACHADO advised that the last major survey was done through the Public Art Master Plan with community meetings, surveys, and meeting with the Commissioners. She suggested the Commissioners attend City Councilmembers' town halls and meetings as representatives for this body. For MS. MACHADO, COMMISSIONER KLEVEN explained that the Councilmembers did not always have monthly community meetings, but their liaisons were available for ideas and to host a meeting to receive community feedback. Further, she believed surveys did not always reach everybody in the community or provide an opportunity for people to speak up.

COMMISSIONER CHEUK wondered if there was something within the purview of the Commission to encourage an organic development of an artistic nexus. She understood the difficulty of involving developers and the Planning Division and asked for ways to encourage growth in a neighborhood. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS suggested providing developers with a plan for the whole city of what they wished to see in the communities and offering abatements or a variance for on-site art. He said Ward 6 had Paiute and First Nation land, opining it would be wonderful to see modern art paying tribute to that. Lastly, he believed the Master Plan is a fantastic government document, but he felt developers needed to be provided more opportunities. CHAIR BEALS wished to see more art in Sky Canyon and wanted to collaborate with COMMISSIONER ROBERTS.

COMMISSIONER GALATI recommended collaboration across other departments and meeting with the Chair for Parks and Recreation (Advisory Commission) and the Planning Commission. He recalled working with MARILYN KIRKPATRICK while serving on the Planning Commission to ensure Decatur Boulevard had the same development standards between jurisdictions, and he suggested having Planning Commissioners make suggestions to developers.

CHAIR BEALS encouraged providing ideas at the next Commission meeting to propose to a Planning Commissioner and other individuals they could meet with.

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 GALATI requested advocating or assisting in creating more spaces for artists in the Arts District. He believed artists were pushed further away with little studio and affordable housing space available. He believed the City had previously attempted to make initiatives through art space or other programs, but he hoped to have a conversation with the Economic and Urban Development (EUD) Department and LAURA MACHADO, Public and Visual Arts Section Manager, to see what the Arts Commission could do to get artists in the Arts District.

MS. MACHADO acknowledged future agenda items, including new projects for FY (Fiscal Year) 27 and connecting with EUD to provide initiative information for Arts District adjacent housing. In addition, they would include an item to discuss a policy related to AI (artificial intelligence).

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS appreciated his association with everyone and said it was a pleasure to work with them, recognizing Harmonic Ascension and the map (Public Art Collection Interactive Map) were big wins.

Although it felt that art was not heard or considered secondary in the community, he opined it was the light and difference. He encouraged the Commissioners to continue doing the work and asking questions, as it made a difference and made Las Vegas the place to live. Lastly, he thanked everyone for allowing him to be there.

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:

COMMISSIONER KLEVEN thanked COMMISSIONER ROBERTS for his four years on the Arts Commission, as she felt fortunate to work with him for his perspective and feedback. She believed his conversations were meaningful.

11. **Adjournment**

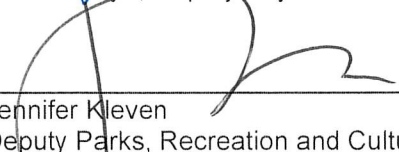
Minutes:

This meeting was adjourned at 4:43 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