

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 29, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair J. Dallas Dishman at 5:03 p.m.

A. Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioner Chair J. Dallas Dishman
Commissioner Vice-Chair Yelena Zhelezov
Commissioner Beverly Denenberg
Commissioner Candice Illoulian
Commissioner Peter Mays
Commissioner Madeleine Rackley
Commissioner Todd Williamson

Staff Liaison: Andrew Campbell, Cultural Affairs Administrator
Recording Secretary: Michael Che, Economic Development and Cultural Affairs Coordinator.

Also Present:

Marc Hauptert, West Hollywood Library Foundation
Shawn Mimbs, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board
Elizabeth Sandberg, Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board
David Strasberg, Lee Strasberg Theater & Film Institute.

B. Posting of the Agenda

The agenda was posted per proper noticing procedures at West Hollywood Park and Library, Plummer Park and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

C. Staff Comments on the Agenda

The Commission had requested to receive a presentation from other municipalities to see how Cultural Plans have been developed, implemented, and used for their respective cities and what has been successful for them. Staff has been talking with other cities but no one was available for the November 29, 2012 meeting. Staff would like to agendize the Cultural Plan when a representative is available from another City, possibly in February.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Illoulian moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the November 29, 2012 meeting agenda.

Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Commission requested the following additions be made to the Urban Art Subcommittee actions of November 15, 2012:

- Also present at the meeting was Stephanie Reich, Urban Designer for the City of West Hollywood.
- Under the 'reviewed and discussed a draft of the de-accession policy', one follow-up step was that Commissioner Denenberg and Consultant Alice Schock should meet and follow up regarding the draft.

Commission Denenberg moved that the Commission approve the consent calendar that included the following items:

- Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission minutes of October 25, 2012.
- Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee actions of November 1, 2012.
- Urban Arts Subcommittee Actions of November 15, 2012 with additions noted above.
- West Hollywood Library Arts and Cultural Programming

Commissioner Illouloulian seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Shawn Mimbs, resident of West Hollywood and Lesbian and Gay Advisory Boardmember spoke on a proposed Gateway project that would place visible large entrance markers for the City of West Hollywood to delineate when you enter the City of West Hollywood, and would relate to each neighborhood and the demographics of West Hollywood. He also lent support to Elizabeth Sandberg who was to speak on utility box wraps.

Elizabeth Sandberg, resident of West Hollywood and Lesbian and Gay Advisory Boardmember, spoke regarding decorating utility boxes as was recently done in San Clemente and possibly holding a competition that would invite artists to come up with designs. She requested the Commission agendaize the item for their next meeting if they found this project to be interesting.

Marc Hauptert, resident of Burbank and Executive Director of the West Hollywood Foundation, spoke regarding the new name, mission and logo for the West Hollywood Library Foundation, formerly the West Hollywood Library Fund. The Foundation has received its first large donation from the Elton John AIDS Foundation and is concentrating on long term fundraising to support ongoing projects and programming at the Library.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute

The Commission received a presentation from David Lee Strasberg, Creative Director and CEO of the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, on a proposed mosaic inspired by an impressionist rendering of Lee Strasberg by artist James-Paul Brown as part of the Institutes façade renovation. The Lee Strasberg Theatre has a long history of being a center for method acting and training for many famous actors. The proposed mosaic would be approximately 10 feet by 15 feet in size. The Commission advised the Theatre to consider what sort of maintenance and cleaning would be required for a piece of art located in a public place

Commissioner Mays made a motion to approve the mosaic as "art" and not "creative signage."

Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. 2013 ACAC Meeting Calendar and Meeting Date

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2013 ACAC Meeting Calendar, discussed changes and conflicts, and discussed the possibility of changing the standing 4th Thursday meeting day to either the 1st Tuesday or the 4th Monday of each month in accordance with City policy and procedures.

Commissioner Mays moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting on January 24, 2013 be moved to January 31, 2013. Commissioner Illoulia seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mays moved that the Art on the Outside Subcommittee meeting on January 24, 2013 be moved to January 31, 2013. Commissioner Denenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Zhelezov moved that all Subcommittee and Commission meetings for November be moved earlier one week to accommodate all the dates as follows:

- Performing Arts Subcommittee meets on November 7, 2013;
- Urban Art Subcommittee meets on November 14, 2013;
- Art on the Outside Subcommittee meets on November 21, 2013
- Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meets on November 21, 2013.

Commissioner Illoulia seconded this motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report of the Art on the Outside Subcommittee's meeting held on November 29, 2012. Commissioner Zhelezov reported that the Subcommittee:

Reviewed a proposal from curator Catherine Lee on a proposed one-year long rotating visual arts exhibition "Elevated Stasis" for installation on the standing pole sign located at 8752 Sunset Boulevard. The project consists of 4 artists providing artwork for a billboard sign which would be rotated on a quarterly basis. The Subcommittee made a motion to approve having the Commission ratify the work as "art" versus a "creative sign".

Received a presentation from Aandrea Stang regarding a one-day Contemporary Art Encounters / Intervention / Residency project that would involve performance art and/or interactive installations. The Subcommittee provided some direction to Aandrea Stang regarding adding an additional location where people could encounter art that would be even more unexpected than Plummer Park and to keep in mind a maximum budget of \$10,000.

Discussed guidelines for exhibits at the Library, a recommended that such that the work somehow relates to the community or library.

Discussed a project by Jennifer Cecere for a doily sculpture and suggested Plummer Park as the better of two proposed locations.

Reviewed progress on a Popup Exhibition space as part of an 'Eastside Arts Initiative' to be held upstairs across from Plummer Park. It was discussed to issue an RFQ to find a curator.

Discussed that someone tried to steal Lita Albuquerque's sculpture on the median of Santa Monica Boulevard unsuccessfully. Some repairable damage was sustained.

Received a presentation about the Illuminated City project of projected light onto buildings in West Hollywood. The artist has preliminary support from MOCA and the Pacific Design Center. He will be approaching the Commission/City for a letter of endorsement in the future.

Commissioner Mays made a motion to approve the Subcommittees recommendation to ratify the 'Elevated Stasis' project at 8752 Sunset Boulevard be considered 'art' and not a creative sign'. Commissioner Zhelezov seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

A. ACAC Budget / West Hollywood Arts Programming

Staff Liaison Campbell reviewed a report regarding the ACAC Budget as it relates to AOTO, current encumbrances and projected expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year, and the recent history of the budget. The funding of Library exhibitions and various projects that spanned fiscal years has impacted the current Art on the Outside budget line item, including approximately \$14,000 that was not spent from a prior fiscal year due to timing issues that was rolled back into the Public Art and Beautification Fund.

Discussions have resulted in the conclusion that since projects have components that draw from various line items it is more appropriate for the Subcommittee to consider a general annual budget of \$65,000 for non-Library Art on the Outside projects and programming, and an additional \$20,000 for annual Library exhibitions and associated programming costs, which would be paid out of appropriate line items within the Public Art and Beautification Fund. Commissioner Illouljian made a motion to approve the budget as listed and authorize up to \$55,000 from various Public Art and Beautification Fund line items to be allocated to pay for various AOTO projects and expenses.

Commissioner Zhelezov seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Chair Dishman reminded Commissioners that if you can't make a meeting it is still possible to share input with Staff to share with the full Commission for review.

Commissioner Rackley reminded everyone that the Metropolitan Master Chorale's concert "Wonder" is to be performed December 2, 2012 at 5:00 pm at the Hollywood United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Williamson talked about being the Commission's representative on the Laurel House task force and would like to hear feedback from Commissioners regarding use of the building and grounds. He reported that he recently toured the facility and it is in poor repair. It was suggested to agendaize this item on the next PACA Subcommittee meeting agenda.

Commissioner Mays invited all to the opening of the new survey exhibition, 'Open Show' at Gallery 825 of curated by Rebecca Morse of MOCA on Saturday, December 1st at 6pm.

Commissioner Denenberg wished happy holidays to all and hopes everyone will attend the LA Art Show. She also shared information on the Century City exhibit on the medians of life-size bronze animal sculptures created by artist Gwynn Murrill.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

None.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA


The Commission advised staff on development of the January 31, 2013 meeting agenda and requested that staff agendize the following items:

- Tara / Laurel House – Discuss the 'Tara' house on Laurel and provide Commission representative to Laurel House Task Force input and direction on possible usage of the facility. (Also requested to agendize this for the next PACA meeting).
- One City One Pride – Receive an update on progress

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:16 p.m. its next meeting scheduled on Thursday, January 31, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.


J Dallas Dishman, Chair


Michael Che