

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
September 22, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:04 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present:

Michael J. Haibach, Chair
Jon Bailey, Vice Chair
Ken Sherman
Lyn DeShields
Andrew Campbell
Ari Wiseman

Excused: Beverly Denenberg
Staff Liaison: Nicole Kading
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds

Also present: Councilmember Sal Guarriello
Council Deputy Donna Saur
Steve Johnson, Johnson Favaro
Jim Favaro, Johnson Favaro
Jeffrey Huffer, Economic Development Department

B. Posting of the Agenda

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

C. Staff Comments on the Agenda

Staff requested that Item VII – Items from the Public precede approval of the minutes.

The Commission concurred.

D. Introduction and oath of office of Ari Wiseman, Commission appointee

Councilmember Sal Guarriello administered the oath of office to Ari Wiseman, newly appointed member to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. Mr. Wiseman holds the position of Assistant Director/Board Affairs at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 25, 2005

Jon Bailey moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the minutes of August 25, 2005. Ken Sherman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Library Public Meeting Room

The Commission received a presentation on the design of the West Hollywood Library public meeting room from the firm MDA Johnson Favaro. Steve Johnson spoke that the redesign of the public meeting room would accommodate small theatrical and musical performances as well as dramatic readings, speaker series and conference breakout sessions. The room would support from 139 to 165 seats and would be enhanced by theatrical lighting and a curtain that could be open or closed depending upon the nature of the event/performance. He also spoke of limitations based on the Park Master Plan and that a portable dais as suggested by the Commission would not be possible based on technology and cost restraints. He concluded stating the he feels that the design addresses many of the concerns and suggestions brought forward by the Commission regarding the public meeting.

The Commission was very receptive to the redesign of the public meeting room and thanked the firm for considering their requests; however, it was suggested that the floor area be extended by shifting back or removing a row of seats to provide for better site lines and that the consultant consider a higher sound reverberation from 1.4 to 1.8.

B. Art on the Outside

Nicole Kading informed the Commission that the planned Robert Indiana exhibition had been cancelled due to the various demands by the Morgan Foundation that the City would not support. She announced that the newly formed Art on the Outside Subcommittee would meet the first week in October to explore art opportunities for a spring exhibition.

C. Urban Art Subcommittee

Nicole Kading reported on the Urban Arts Subcommittee meeting held September 15, 2005. At the meeting, the Subcommittee approved Uta Barth as the public artist for the Hyatt West Hollywood project. She informed the Commission that Ms. Barth was born in Berlin, Germany and is now an arts professor at the University of California at Riverside. She also reported on recruitment of the Economic Development Department intern and the art inventory work plan. She anticipates that the intern would start late September and that art inventory project would commence shortly thereafter.

D. Work Plan 05-06

Staff informed the Commission that the 2005-2006 Work Plan was approved by City Council at their September 19th meeting.

E. Arts Grants 2005-2006

The Commission received an update from staff on the 05-06 Arts Grant process. Grant guidelines have been mailed to approximately 200 arts organization throughout Los Angeles County, and a display ad has been placed in the West Hollywood Independent announcing arts grant opportunities including an e-mail blast to various arts organizations. Staff also provided an update on 04-05 grant recipient Pont des Arts. Pont Des Arts were to have held their "Femme Film Festival" last June but were unable to obtain large sponsorships to produce the event as planned. Staff has informed Pont des Arts and the Arts Grant Subcommittee that under the terms of the Art Grant Agreement a one time six month extension is allowable; however, should Pont des Arts not present the "Femme Film Festival" they would be required to return the grant award of \$3,600.00 to the City. Staff will follow-up with Pont des Arts by requesting that they submit an extension request in writing.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACAC Winter Retreat

The Commission discussed the feasibility of holding a retreat late in 2006 or in early 2007, and concurred that the retreat would be a great opportunity to start developing a work plan for 2007-2008 as well as an opportunity for subcommittees.

B. Urban Art Modification Study

Staff presented a study methodology to revise the "Urban Art Program" section of the municipal code to induce developers to pay the "in-lieu" fee rather than construct on-site art. The methodology consist of four principle components including 1) research using external and internal data, 2) stakeholder feedback, 3) interviews with key stakeholders and, 4) input from the Urban Arts Subcommittee as well as the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, which would then make a recommendation to City Council in February or March of 2006.

IV. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff commented that the City Council directed the Economic Development Department and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to conduct a cultural center feasibility study. She recommended that the Commission establish an ad hoc subcommittee to oversee the process of this council directive.

Commissioners De Shields, Campbell and Sherman expressed interest and were appointed to serve on the ad hoc committee.

The Chair asked that staff agendize a process report on the cultural center feasibility study once the scope of services have been developed.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chair.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commission Bailey commented that the Library presentation by Johnson Favaro was very important. He expressed that the Commission had been heard.

Commissioner Sherman reminded the Commission that the 4th annual West Hollywood Book Fair will be held Sunday October 2, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at West Hollywood Park. He commented that the Book Fair Committee is considering expanding the event from one to two days.

Commissioner Campbell announced that Los Angeles County Arts Commission will hold a commission congress Saturday, October 29th. The congress is aimed at all arts commissions throughout Los Angeles County and would focus on arts advocacy, role of arts commissions, cultural arts and cultural planning.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

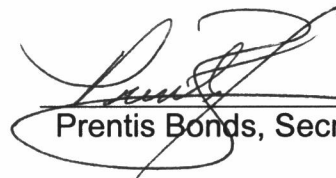
Public comment was heard from Jacob Michelson who spoke on the need for West Hollywood's Russian, Armenian and Jewish communities to interact with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and arts related events in West Hollywood.

VIII. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 6:16 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled October 27, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.



Michael Haibach, Chair



Prentis Bonds, Secretary