

City of West Hollywood
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 1, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:06 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Michael J. Haibach, Chair
Ken Sherman
Lyn DeShields
Andrew Campbell

Excused: Ari Wiseman
Beverly Denenberg
Jon Bailey, Vice Chair

Staff Liaison: Nicole Kading
Recording Secretary: Prentis Bonds

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

There were no staff comments on the agenda.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 27, 2005 minutes

Commissioner Sherman moved that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the minutes of October 27, 2005. Commissioner DeShields seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was heard from West Hollywood resident, Weston Harris, concerning the proposed organ pavilion.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Halloween

Commissioner DeShields reported that the Cultural Affairs Subcommittee attended a Halloween "wrap" meeting with Recreation and Economic Development staff on November 15, 2005. At the meeting Bonnie Smith, Festivals and Events Coordinator, provided information on the Halloween Carnival held Monday, October 31, 2005, including but not limited to

attendance, staffing, and public safety. Commissioners and staff discussed the future of Halloween Carnival, and it was recommended that city regain control of the event and consider not partnering with media sponsor Clear Channel in order to reduce crowd size.

Upon review of the Human Services Department staff report to City Council, the Commission expressed dissatisfaction with the content of the report and disappointment that that they were not afforded the opportunity to neither review the staff report nor provide input before it was placed on the City Council agenda. The Commission requested that Staff convey their disappointment to the Economic Development Director and the Human Services Director.

B. Art on the Outside

Commissioner Haibach reported that the Subcommittee met with Beatrix Barker to continue their discussion on possible artists and themes for the next Art on the Outside exhibition that included totems by Herb Albert, large-scale sculptures by Bernar Venet, and a sculpture by Jim Hodges, as well as opportunities to involve the community. As a result of their discussion, the Subcommittee directed Ms. Barker and staff to proceed swiftly with securing an artist for the 2006 shows and requested that Ms. Barker provide an update at their December 14th meeting.

C. Arts Grants 05-06

Commissioner Campbell reported that the Performing Arts Subcommittee met November 17 to review sixteen arts grant proposals submitted by various arts organizations. He provided the Commission with a brief overview of the review process. Due to the fact that funding requests were higher than budgeted funds, the Committee determined that organizations scoring less than 70 points would not receive a grant. Additionally, all awards were reduced by 10% to comply with budgeted funds. He then moved that the ACAC ratify recommendations of the Grants and Performing Arts Subcommittee to award 2005-2006 Arts Grants and Arts Participation Grants to the following organizations: Celebration Theatre (\$5100), Gay Men's Chorus (\$7000), Highway Performance Space (\$6000), Hollywood Master Chorale (\$4700), LACMA-Sunday's Live (\$3400), LA Doctor's Symphony (\$1400), MAK Center (\$6500), SASSAS (\$4500), Spirit Series (\$6000), Tom of Finland Foundation (\$6750), and United Arts Academy (\$5650), PEN Center USA (\$1000), Center for Early Education (\$1,000) and Rosewood Avenue Elementary School (\$1,000). Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair directed the Subcommittee to meet as needed to develop and make recommendations concerning the WEHO Arts Festival.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arts Organizations Funding

As a result of Commissioner Sherman's comments on the New York Department of Cultural Affairs collaboration with the Kennedy Center and his request that the ACAC discuss and consider a similar collaborative approach to arts program expansion in West Hollywood, staff provided commissioners with a copy of the New York Times October 20, 2005 article "Arts, Briefly; Help for New York Arts". It was indicated in the article that the John F. Kennedy Center along with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs will be offering online sessions, consulting and annual symposiums to improve how arts groups are managed. Arts organizations with budgets between \$250,000 and 2.5 million can apply for the free program at kennedy-center.org/education.

Commissioner Campbell commented that arts organizations can apply to receive similar services offered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. He suggested that the Commission consider expanding its arts grant related workshops and tap into other funding resources as it did with the Russian Immigrant Youth Project.

It was the consensus of the Commission to continue discussion on this topic after the cultural center feasibility study has been completed.

V. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional comments from staff.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report from the Chair; however Commissioner Haibach requested that staff provide him with information on new construction in the city.

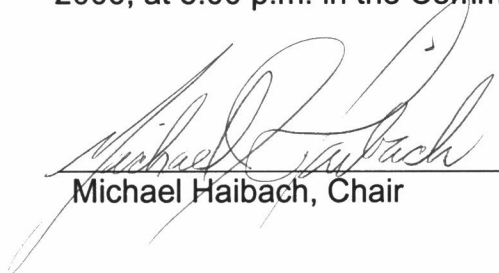
VII. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Sherman commented that the ACAC need better PR.

Commissioner Campbell announced that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (LACAC) will be offering paid internships summer 2006. The 2006 Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program application has been uploaded to LACAC's website. The deadline to apply electronically is January 11, 2006. The purpose of the program is to provide undergraduate students with on-the-job training and experience in working in nonprofit arts organizations while assisting arts organizations to develop future arts leaders and advocates.

VIII. Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m. to its next meeting scheduled January 26, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at City Hall.



Michael Haibach, Chair



Prentis Bonds, Secretary