



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
10:00am

**OPEN MEETING**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CIVILITY STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Frank, Smooke, Hiller, Vice Chair Vahn, Chair Rubins  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Staff Present: Ray Taylor, Pam Shinault, Kristin Buhagiar, Patty Acuna, Aida Thau, Victoria Cusumano, Adrine Ovasapyan

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With the concurrence of the Commission, the Chair may choose to remove Item 5 from this meeting's discussion.

Staff introduced Ray Taylor, Interim Director of Community Services. Mr. Taylor will lead the department for the next few months until the recruitment for the Director of Community Services is completed. Staff also introduced to the Commission Victoria Cusumano, Senior Director Supervisor, and Adrine Ovasapyan, Recreation Supervisor. They have both joined the Greystone team and they will help with arts and culture initiatives.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2019.  
The Chair asked for all in favor to approve the minutes as presented. (5/0)

AYES: Frank, Smooke, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins  
NOES: None

ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED:

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

None

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 2. Special Events presentation

Huma Ahmed, Community Outreach Manager from Policy and Management Department presented and discussed upcoming events with art and culture component that will take place in the City as part of the Special Events initiatives.

### 3. Arts and Culture City Programs and Events

Staff gave a presentation on the current arts and culture programs and events that are being offered through the Community Services Department.

*There was a communication from the audience in regards to this item.*

Peri Ellen Berne expressed that all the special events and installations on Rodeo have always been fantastic, but maintenance and cleaning services has to be increased at these sites due to the high traffic of people.

### 4. Kusama Removal and Loan

The Commission discussed and considered the request by Ota Studio to loan the fiberglass *Hymn of Life* sculpture to the New York Botanical Gardens for a solo exhibition of work by artist Yayoi Kusama from May 1 to November 1, 2020. The gallery would cover shipping and installation costs for this loan. The gallery is assuming they would be providing a one way shipping if the City requests the gallery to dispose/destroy the "exhibition copy" at the conclusion of the exhibit. Staff sought recommendation from the Commission.

MOTION by Vahn, SECONDED by Rubins to approve this potential loan on the condition that the various items that were discussed are met. The conditions are: 1. Full and complete approval of the re-creation of the sculpture in metal by the studio prior to the release of the fiberglass sculpture for loan. 2. Verification of destruction at the end of the loan. 3. Removal of cost of de-installation portion from Art Bronze estimate since the studio should cover this cost as part of loan expenses. 4. Secure insurance for the current value of the sculpture during de-installation and loan process. (5/0)

AYES: Frank, Smooke, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED:

### 5. Carl Milles

This item was tabled and will be discussed at a later date.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## PROJECT UPDATES, STATUS REPORTS, STAFF REPORTS

### 6. Director's Report

- Staff reported the light consultants tested the original request for 3 lights around the Friedman sculpture, and it turned out to be too bright. The recommendation is to install just 2 lights. Public Works is working on securing the vendor for light installation and the landscaping.
- The Serra sculpture will be removed on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff has worked with the appropriate parties to coordinate this de-installation. The landscaping will be restored to its original form.
- The Ai Weiwei will take about a year to be installed. We are going to try to coordinate with the artist to be present as close to the date of installation as possible.
- Staff informed that City Council has adopted the Arts and Culture Work Plan. In July the Commission will review the projects in progress. The Commission expressed interest on having roundtable discussions with artists at the Municipal Gallery.
- The Art Bronze agreement for Kusama's re-fabrication is currently being reviewed by City Attorney's Office.
- The Metro Soundwall Mural is being scheduled to go to Council Liaison meeting before the end of June, and to be presented to City Council on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This Ad Hoc Committee will be contacted to attend all those meetings. The Metro Station 2 is going to schedule a meeting for art selection and this Ad Hoc will also participate in the selection of the art for this metro station.
- Staff thanked Chair Rubins for his leadership and for working hard in all projects during his year as Chair of the Commission. The Commission also expressed their gratitude and appreciation. Chair Rubins was honored and thanked his fellow commissioners, City Council and Staff.
- Staff will follow up on fine art fund questions with Community Development Department and will report back to the Commission in July.
- The mayor's purchase award selected this year is by artist Giuseppe Palumbo. It is a bronze sculpture called *All Together now*. It will be installed at the entrance of City Hall on the north planter by Rexford Drive. The Commission asked to include all the mayor purchase awards art pieces into the City's art collection inventory.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

### 7. Chair's Report

#### A. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

#### B. Ad Hoc Committees

- Education Liaison (Rubins, Frank)  
Rubins and Frank met with the CBV and discussed the art walks brochure. They are expecting to have the brochure finalized and ready in July.
- Recreation and Parks Commission Liaisons (Vahn, Rubins)
- Fine Art Program Development (Hiller, Smooke)
- Donations and Loaned Art (Hiller, Vahn)
- Web Submission for Priority Exercise (Hiller, Frank)
- Cultural Arts Planning (Frank, Vahn)

Vahn and Frank met with some art galleries in the City to discuss future cultural endeavors together. They are all very excited about the prospect of having an art museum in the City. The Commission wants to continue the discussion for the art museum construction and wants to help on next steps. They also informed that LACMA has expressed interest on loan exhibits and the prospect of creating an art center in Beverly Hills. Staff informed that the first step is to get City Council approval before we can move forward with this initiative.

- C. Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.

The Commission requested that the planting surrounding the Abakanowicz sculpture is trimmed low so the art piece can be viewed from a distance. The vegetation is too high and it is obstructing the art piece.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Commission Priority List

Fine Art Commission reviewed the priority list. The Commission discussed pending and on-going tasks and priorities.

9. ACC Upcoming Meetings

The Commission reviewed the new proposed schedule for the Arts and Culture Commission.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: June 11, 2019 / 11:36am

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Vahn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Vahn, Chairperson