



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

**FINE ART COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 19, 2017  
4:00pm

**OPEN MEETING**

Date/Time: October 19, 2017 / 4:00pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Commissioner Vahn led the Pledge of Allegiance

**CIVILITY STATEMENT** Chair Smooke read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Kaye, Commissioner Hiller, Commissioner Vahn,  
Vice Chair Rubins, Chair Smooke

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Pam Shinault, Gisele Grable, Patty Acuña,  
Linda Kyriazi

**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 amend the order of the items on the agenda.

By order of the Chair, the agenda was approved with the following change: Item #8 moved up to #1.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Special meeting of September 18, 2017.

MOTION by Kaye, SECONDED by Rubins to approve the Meeting Minutes. (5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

CARRIED:

**REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

None.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 2. Kusama Update

Chair Smooke and Vice Chair Rubins met with representatives from Ota Studios (who in were in town from Japan for the Broad Museum's exhibit of Kusama's *Infinity Mirrors*) to view the City's *Hymn of Life* piece.

Chair Smooke updated the Commission:

- The consensus of the experts was that there are two materials that are expanding and contracting at different rates due to the change in temperature and that in turn is cracking the outer coating. In addition, they have the challenge of trying to determine a remedy to address the impacts of the shrinking and expanding forces.

Vice Chair Rubins asked:

- How long ago were the repairs done that made the cracks disappear?
- What are the materials that the drains are made from; wondering if water is running into the piece causing rust?
- Is material known for having a reaction to heat and light and will the material eventually break down and become a maintenance issue?
- Is gravity an issue with the extended stems putting weight on it and causing that joint to flex?
- Jack Brogan, with his past restoration experience, was suggested as a potential advisor.
- It was also suggested that just one stem and flower be constructed before attempting the entire piece.

Director of Community Services, Nancy Hunt-Coffey added:

- The representatives agreed that adding clear coats to the piece over the matte finish might provide some heat insulation in addition to protecting the paint.
- All exterior installations are handled by a local fabricator so having the piece remade in Japan is not an option.
- Representatives advised that the entire piece could not be replicated in stainless steel because of the way the leaves are formed; thin, thick and arched, the piece would lose its fluidity.
- The drain holes for the flowers are not facing straight down resulting in water gathering in the flower. Readjusting the drain holes was advised.

Chair Smooke suggested contacting a metallurgist and Vice Chair Rubins suggested including someone with expertise in fiberglass and resins.

The Commission decided to move forward with obtaining technical advice, such as a metallurgist and inform Ironwood the drainage issue also needs to be addressed. The warranty with Ironwood was previously extended through September 2018.

Commissioner Kaye commented that since there is so much press about the Kusama display at The Broad, this would be an opportune time for the City's publicist to provide a press release about Beverly Hills' own Kusama display in Beverly Gardens Park.

### 3. Bove Update

Director of Community Services, Nancy Hunt-Coffey updated the Commission: Per City Council direction, the final payment has been made to the David Zwirner Gallery and the City will retain the piece. Chair Smooke, Commissioner Kaye and former Commissioners Terri Smooke and Susan Gersh will communicate with the Gallery on the restoration and maintenance of the piece. It was suggested raising the piece to a platform.

Although it was previously suggested to raise the piece to a platform, Commissioner Kaye pointed out that Public Art is going to be touched and the Commission may need to accept that Public Art is going to be interacted with at times and the art will need to be regularly maintained.

Commissioner Hiller commented that raising the piece might not necessarily keep the public from climbing and sitting on it. Signage may help remind the public that art pieces are not meant to be climbed upon.

An update regarding the Bove piece will be added to the Fine Art Commission's City Council Liaison agenda.

4. Developers Brochure Update

Senior Recreation Supervisor Patty Acuña submitted the final draft to the Commission, which included suggested changes. After a few final modifications, the document will now go to print.

5. Recommendation of FAC Ad Hoc regarding Art Donation by Prince Lorenzo de' Medici

This donation request was reviewed by the ad hoc committee comprised of Commissioners Hiller and Vahn. After review, it was suggested to decline on accepting this piece of art and thank the donor for his generous offer.

MOTION by Hiller, SECONDED by Vahn to move that the City of Beverly Hills not accept the offer of Prince Lorenzo de' Medici to donate the "Gorilla" artwork.  
(5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PASSED:

6. Proposal of Art Donation of Fletcher Benton Artwork

Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt-Coffey informed the Commission on the donation proposal from resident Mark Louchheim by artist Fletcher Benton.

Resident Mark Louchheim updated the Commission on the history of the art piece, current status and upkeep.

- The donor would generously contribute the art piece.
- The relocation, installation and the creation of a base will be handled by the donor.

- An engineering review will be required and the base will be designed based on the weight of the piece.
- The Commission agreed on the cleaning/treatment process on the art piece in addition to the proposed location on the Burton Way median.

MOTION by Kaye, SECONDED by Rubins to recommend that the City accept the gift from the Lochheim family of the Fletcher Benton artwork. (5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
PASSED:

### **NEW BUSINESS /PUBLIC HEARINGS**

7. Proposal to use pour in place material around art pieces  
Tabled.

8. Proposed loan by artist Jose Dávila

Dávila's *Sense of Place* is a multi-site, large-scale public sculpture exhibition that "migrates" to various locations within the Los Angeles County region, and is included in the Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA exhibitions, which is a collaboration of art institutions across Southern California.

Shamim Momin Director and Curator of LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division), presented additional details and answered questions.

MOTION by Smooke, SECONDED by Vahn move that the City of Beverly Hills participate in the LAND Project and Pacific Standard Time for the benefit of our residents and create an ad hoc to work on the location. (5/0)

AYES: Kaye, Hiller, Vahn, Rubins, Smooke  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
PASSED:

Commissioners Vahn and Hiller volunteered for the Ad Hoc Committee. The proposal will move forward and be reviewed with the Fine Art Commission City Council Liaisons at the next meeting in November.

### **PROJECT UPDATES, STATUS REPORTS, STAFF REPORTS**

9. Director's Report

- Information only items:

- A. Fine Art Fund Report

Community Services Administrator Gisele Grable updated the Commission on the Fine Art Fund updates

- B. Tom Friedman Commission

- Staff met with the City Attorney's office and they are close to a final agreement.
- C. Lighting Update (Sisphus & WOHL)  
Trenching will start next week on Burton Way between Sisphus & WOHL (World on its Hind Legs) artworks. Staff will ask about including wiring for a possible additional piece.
  - D. Cultural Arts  
Assistant Director of Community Services Pan Shinault updated the Commission on City Council's direction of the Cultural and Arts programming proposal. Staff will return to City Council with a proposed change in the Fine Art Commission's scope, which will include other activities besides Fine Art. A sub-committee of Vice Chair Rubins and Commissioner Kaye was agreed to. A copy of the 2009 Cultural Plan will be distributed to the Commission for review.
  - E. Art Signage  
Senior Recreation Supervisor Patty Acuña updated the Commission on the two proposed sizes: 5"x7" or 8 1/2" x 11". The discussion will be tabled until the next Commission meeting.
  - F. Proposed Draft Process for Handling Donation/Loans  
Community Services Administrator Gisele Grable thanked Commissioner Hiller for providing the starting template for the draft provided. The Commission provided suggestions and changes, and staff will provide an updated version at the next meeting.
  - G. Upcoming Staffing Changes for the Commission – No discussion.
  - H. Director of Public Works, Shana Epstein regarding Water Rate Structure  
Director of Public Works Shana Epstein updated the Commission on the proposed 5-year water rate increases. If approved, the plan will be effective January 1, 2018.
  - I. Great Shake Out  
On October 19, 2017 at 10:19 a.m., the City of Beverly Hills joined the State of California, the County and City of Los Angeles, and many other stakeholders in participating in the Great California ShakeOut drill. At that time, all participants stopped what they were doing and reacted as if an earthquake has occurred; responding by dropping to the ground, taking cover under something sturdy, and holding on: DROP, COVER and HOLD.
  - J. Update on Covenants – No discussion.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

### 10. Chair's Report

- A. Mayor's Cabinet Meeting  
The Mayor's Cabinet meetings are now recorded and can be viewed in the City's website.
- B. Ad Hoc Committees
  - Education Liaison (Rubins, Vahn)  
Commissioner Vahn reported that she and Commissioner Rubins are working with the newspapers to educate the public about the City's art collection and will coordinate this effort with the City's Art Show being held October 21 and 22, 2017.
  - Recreation and Parks Commission Liaisons (Hiller, Kaye)
  - Fine Art Program Development (Hiller, Smooke)
  - Donations and Loaned Art (Hiller, Vahn)

- Big Picture Project (Kaye, Smooke)
- Web Submission for Priority Exercise (Hiller, Rubins)
- Burton Way Median (Rubins, Hiller) - *Currently on hold*

Three new ad hocs were created:

- Commissioners Hiller and Vahn for location of Dávila artwork.
- Chair Smooke and Commissioner Vahn for Fletcher Benton installation on Burton Way
- Vice Chair Rubins and Commissioner Kaye for Cultural Arts Commission options and review.

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

- Due to the City's holiday lighting event being held the evening of November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Commission agreed to an earlier start time of 2pm for its next meeting so all could attend.
- Commissioner Hiller informed the Commission that she would not be able to attend the November 16, 2017 meeting.

**11. Priority Setting**

Information available in the packet.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**12. FAC Upcoming Meetings**

Commission dates available in the packet and on the City's website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: October 19, 2017 / 6:08pm

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
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Michael Smooke, Chairperson