



City Hall Room 280-A
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

MINUTES

FINE ART COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2014
4:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Hiller, Kaye, Chalom, Chair Pressman

Absent: Vice Chair Potter

Staff: N. Hunt-Coffey, B. Meyerowitz, P. Acuna, L. Foraker

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. COMMISSION MINUTES

The Minutes of April 10, 2014 Special Meeting were approved.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Requesting to communicate from the audience, Zale Richard Rubin invited all the Fine Art Commissioners to participate in The Beverly Hills Days Volunteer Committee efforts, in honor of the citywide Centennial celebration, by contributing images of what they love about living in Beverly Hills. These images will all be joined together to create a mosaic art piece. Images will be accepted on a first come, first served basis between May 15 and July 15; the final work will be presented in October of 2014.

2. REPORT BY FINE ART COMMISSION STAFF (Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Brad Meyerowitz, Patty Acuna and Lois Foraker)

• Information only

A. Fine Art Fund is reported at \$ 1,365,391.40

The Finance department has been working diligently reconciling the Fine Art fund from the numbers provided by the permit center, which is where each obligation is initially assessed. Using the published spreadsheet, "Potential Revenue," Commissioner Kaye pointed out that if his assumption is correct, all of the deposits listed there should soon be deposited into the fund increasing the total by over \$600,000. Some of those deposits go back to 2004. Chair Pressman asked if there isn't a deadline by which funds should automatically roll over into the Fine Art Fund, if the developer hasn't chosen

a work of art to install on their property. Given how long the deposits have been sitting in this fund, Staff cannot begin to determine why they were not rolled into the general Fine Art Fund. Given the amount of money that seems to actually be in the Fund, and the money that will soon be deposited in the fund due to the powerhouse projects that are in the pipeline, Commissioner Kaye pointed out that the Commission might consider very different works of art than those that have been considered in the past due to the expanded size of the Fund.

- B. Staff reported on the latest developments of the Fine Art Ordinance. The City Attorney's office is working on it, and it will be on the June 17 City Council Agenda to begin discussions.
- C. A lovely Arts of Palm event involving all of the artists presenting on their artwork took place at the end of April. Mike Stilkie, whose work was installed at the Library, came and spoke to the children about art and his piece, a painting on the spines of books. Alissa Roston provided an update on 2 new pieces that have been installed in the Hilton Hotel. One by Peter Alexander, and one by Ann Shutan.
- D. The contract has been sent to the Gallery; they want to examine some language in the contract. Staff is working diligently to move forward in presenting the document to City Council, but must wait until the Gallery submits the points of discussion, leaving enough time for our City Attorney to examine and discuss. The aim is to have this on the May 20th agenda, but if not, the June 17th Agenda.
- E. Other Items

None

CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

3. COMMISSIONERS PRESSMAN AND HILLER REPORT ON DEVELOPER CHOSEN ART

Commissioner Hiller presented an overview of the work that has been done by herself and Commissioner Pressman in checking on the condition of the developer chosen artwork. Their project revealed that several of the pieces that had satisfied the Ordinance at one point in time are no longer at their locations of record. Of the pieces that remain in situ, photos were taken to present to the Conservation team to determine if they're in good shape or need restoration. Commissioner Chalom requested information on what approach is being taken by the City to rectify the instances where the artwork is missing. Commissioner Kaye asked what procedure is to be followed so that the City response in these situations is uniform with everybody? Staff clarified for the Commissioners that, at the end of the day, when art is removed from a location in which it was installed to satisfy the obligation of the Fine Art Ordinance, unless it is done with the blessing of the Fine Art Commission and City Council, that removal is a Code Violation and must be processed by a member of the Code Enforcement team. Commissioner Kaye suggested that the policy be changed from a verbal inquiry

to a written notification of an infraction so there is a paper record. Staff reminded everyone that all communication between the owner and the City is handled through Code Enforcement; the owner has 1 of 3 options: to re-install the original artwork; to pay the original in lieu payment to the Fine Art Fund; or to install a work of art to replace the one that is missing in accordance with all the requirements of the Fine Art Obligation. There are a series of steps in the procedure, several of which result in a paper trail, whereby the Code Enforcement team deals with these situations, and if those steps don't result in rectifying the situation, then the City Attorney's office is brought into the discussion.

Commissioner Hiller pointed out that when she went to Maltz Park to photograph the Fletcher Benton piece, she noticed a fountain that had been turned off years ago due to water issues. This might be a perfect spot to install a piece of art in the future since water issues in Southern California continue.

4. PROTECTON MEASURES FOR KUSAMA'S *HYMN OF LIFE*

Commissioner Kaye recounted the work the Sub-Committee, consisting of member of both Fine Art Commissioners and Recreation and Parks Commissioners, had presented to the full Recreation and Parks Commission. Staff recommended that a fencing designer be employed to avoid the situation of over using the design departments of potential vendors on the front end of a project, having the project not come to fruition, thereby costing the potential vendor money. Commissioner Kaye put forth the preference that the Fine Art Commission provide the mandate to the Sub-Committee to work with the designer to arrive at the final solution to protecting the Kusama. Commissioner Chalom spoke to the necessity of the full Fine Art Commission being the final judge of how best to protect the piece. R&P Commissioner Susan Gersh added that one of the ideas offered was to add a decorative "x" between the posts at different random horizontal levels, offering another obstruction to gaining access to the piece. She fully approves of the idea of working with a designer on this solution. Chair Pressman thanked the Sub-Committee for the excellent work done on this project. The designer under consideration is a design consultant with Bronze Age, a fencing contractor that has done a lot of high end work for the City. Chair Pressman suggested that the Commission provide to the designer all the ideas put forth by the Sub-Committee and see what solution she arrives at.

MOTION: Commissioner Chalom moved to proceed with not-to-exceed bid of \$2200 to Mariana Boctor, to produce preliminary sketches of a fencing system for the purpose of protecting Kusama's Hymn of Life. Commissioner Hiller seconded the Motion.

YEAS: Chair Pressman

NOES: none

ABSENT: Vice Chair Potter

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Kaye

CARRIED: 3/0

5. RELOCATION OF *CONVERSATION* BY ALEX MCCRAE

Conversation by Alex McCrae is currently installed in Roxbury Park and the Fine Art Commission in tandem with the Recreation and Park Commission had previously approved of a site for relocating that piece closer to the newly built

Community Center. That site has been deemed problematic in that it is right in the center of brand a new irrigation installation, serving the surrounding landscape. The location being presented to the Commission for consideration brings the sculpture closer to the lobby of the Community Center, in the planter immediately outside the floor-to-ceiling glass windows of the multi-purpose room. Commissioner Pressman expressed concern that the sculpture might prove to be too large for this location in relation to the proximity to the building. There is not enough room to examine it from all sides. After discussing the various locations presented in the photos in the packet, Chair Pressman and Commissioner Kaye agreed to meet at the Roxbury Community Center at 3:15 pm to see firsthand the appropriateness of these proposed locations for installing *Conversation*. Staff presented the approximate costs associated with relocating the sculpture to the Commission. The costs come in at just under \$10,000. If this figure is generally acceptable to the Commission, Staff will continue to pursue favorable locations. Staff stressed that the Commission is not obligated to move the piece; it was felt in its present location, the piece is not as visible to the general population as is deserving of such a beautiful sculpture.

6. CONSIDERATION OF NEXT STEPS FOR DEBORAH BUTTERFIELD'S STORM CASTLE

Discussion centered around the potential acquisition of Deborah Butterfield's *Storm Castle*. It was felt that, while Deborah Butterfield is a significant artist, and one whose work many on the Commission would love to see represented in the City's collection at some point, this was not the piece enough people felt strongly about to successfully guide through the, at times arduous, approval process.

7. PRESENTATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE FINE ART FUND

City Staff, who will present the data regarding the financials of the Fine Art Commission, could not attend this Commission meeting due to Budget presentation to City Council. They will present to the Fine Art Commission at a later date.

8. FAC MERIT AWARD FOR THE BEVERLY HILLS ART SHOW IN THE FALL

This item was removed from the Agenda.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

1. Chair Pressman spoke to the Curator of the Ovitz Collection. She has extended an invitation to privately tour the collection on a Wednesday; it was decided to aim for September for that tour. Up to 20 people can attend and up to 6 cars; Chair Pressman suggested that the Commission, Staff, City Council and Commission members spouses be invited. Staff will look into a shuttle bus to accommodate all in one vehicle.

2. The Millard Sheets video is complete and has been broadcast. It's wonderful. Leslie Lassiter, of JP Morgan Chase, has been inspired to create a brochure of all the Millard Sheets installations at their branches as a public outreach tool with the Beverly Hills installations being put on the front page of the brochure.
3. Edward Goldman, who does an art talk on KCRW, will be contacted to see if he would like to do an extensive tour of the Beverly Hills Fine Art Collection, once the Carol Bove piece has been installed. An art talk to be televised would be an ideal outcome for his visit. Staff recommended the Council Chambers as the location for that, to facilitate the filming of the talk.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, with the consent of the Commission, Chair Pressman adjourned the meeting at 5:55 P.M.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted

June 19, 2014

Sandra Pressman, Chair