



## **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

### **FINE ART COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING SYNOPSIS**

Thursday, February 21, 2019  
4:00pm

#### **OPEN MEETING**

Date/Time: February 21, 2019 / 4:02pm

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **CIVILITY STATEMENT**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Frank, Hiller, Vice Chair Vahn, Chair Rubins  
Commissioners Absent: Smooke  
Staff Present: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Pam Shinault, Patty Acuna, Kristin Buhagiar, Aida Thau

#### **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.

Resident Kory Klem and member of the Next Beverly Hills gave an overview on how Next Beverly Hills got involved in the project for the Metro soundwall. He expressed that they were looking forward to working with the Fine Art Commission to bring this project forward and they would be glad to answer any questions.

*Commissioner Smooke joined the meeting at 4:07pm*

Resident Phil Savenick addressed the Commission and expressed that as a resident of Rodeo Dr. by the station he would like this soundwall to be as innocuous as possible. The proposed design does not promote the City or its history and it has a significant price tag.

Staff suggested for the public comments related to the items of this agenda to take place after the item is presented and discussed by the Commission.

#### **REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

None

#### **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### 1. Muralist Recommendation

Robert Welch, Project Manager and Beau Basse from LeBasse Projects, the consultant firm hired for the art selection, presented the muralist recommendation for the temporary soundwall to be installed on N. Canon Dr. at Wilshire Blvd. during the construction of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station of the Metro Purple Line Extension project. Mr. Basse gave an overview of how the artist selection process took place. Staff asked the Commission for a recommendation on the preferred of the 3 artists selected by the stakeholders that were recommended for consideration.

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Barbara Lazaroff, founder and co-owner of Spago and Cut restaurants, addressed the Commission as a stakeholder for the soundwall project. She informed that the selection of the top 3 artists took into consideration feasibility, availability to produce the art work on the desire time frame, experience on large format art murals, and agreement on nominal artistic fee. The preferred artist to pursue as recommended by the stakeholders, is Tomokazu Matsuyama. Ms Lazaroff expressed that Matsuyama was the preferred artist because he creates art that would give the perception of depth. His art would speak from a distance but it would also provide a human scale when up close. Ms. Lazaroff expressed that this wall will impact the surrounding businesses significantly and she stressed the importance of selecting an artist that can create the art for this wall when the soundwall barrier is constructed, to avoid having a white construction wall for a long period of time.

Resident Peri Ellen Berne informed that Ramadan is May 5<sup>th</sup> this year and the City will have a lot of visitors during that period of time starting mid-April and she reminded of the importance that the wall and the art is done timely and to be ready by Ramadan.

Resident Jamie Ross, member of the Beverly Hills Next Gen Committee, expressed that originally the proposed art did not qualify as Fine Art needing Commission review, but everyone appreciates the Fine Art Commission input and involvement going forward with this unique opportunity.

Resident Phil Savenick corrected his testimony since the art mural location refers to the north wall on the cul-de-sac. He completely trusts Barbara Lazaroff, the stakeholders, and their taste, to select something that their customers want. His concern and comments were for the opposite side of the soundwall.

The Commission discussed the proposed art mural and expressed that in the interest of time they should make a recommendation from the 3 selected artists by the stakeholders. The Commission suggested for the piece that is created by the artist to not be overly vibrant.

MOTION by Rubins, SECONDED by Hiller to accept the presentation as stated with their recommendations. (5/0)

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

MOTION by Rubins, SECONDED by Frank to add 2 commissioners (Vice Chair Vahn and Commissioner Frank) to the stakeholders committee to be invited to future meetings with the same purview and standing as the other members. (5/0)

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: February 21, 2019 / 5:21pm

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2019.



Zale Richard Rubins, Chairperson