



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2020
12:30pm

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: November 16, 2020 / 12:31 pm

CIVILITY STATEMENT

The Civility Statement was read to initiate the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Filipovic, Vahn, and Rubins, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, Pam Shinault, Kristin Buhagiar, Patty Acuña, Paul Paolone, Adrine Ovasapyan, Aida Thau, Mandana Motahari, David Garrard

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By order of Chair Smooke, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2020.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Vahn, SECONDED by Commissioner Filipovic to approve the minutes (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Filipovic, Vahn, and Rubins, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2. 2020 Election Emergency Preparation Debrief

Assistant Director of Community Services Pam Shinault presented an overview of the City and the Community Services Department's emergency preparation in response to the Halloween holiday, the election, and the protests. The Emergency Operations Center was activated on October 31st and Park Rangers, Ambassadors, Police, Fire, and Public Works personnel assist on patrolling business and residential communities during this time. Several fine art pieces were protected from vandalism and graffiti. Staff worked with art conservator Rosa Lowinger and Associates to cover artworks with Tyvek and shrink wrap or with wax. Additionally, the Beverly Hills sign was also wrapped to protect it from potential damage. City Council has requested to keep artwork protected until the inauguration on January 20, 2021.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. Financial Update

Senior Recreation Supervisor Paul Paolone reported on the Fine Art fund and informed on pending permits and fees.

4. Artwalk Map Brochure

Commissioner Rubins informed the Commission that the artwalk map brochure is currently at the printer waiting to be printed. Commissioner Rubins will deliver to staff and staff will disperse to local hotels and galleries with the help of City Ambassadors.

5. Art in the Landscape

City Architect Mandana Motahari gave a brief summary of the landscape discussion at the Fine Art/Public Art Ad Hoc and the outcome of that meeting. The report includes applied recommendations for landscaping for the Tom Friedman's *Takeaway* sculpture and Ai Weiwei's *Iron Root* sculpture. The Ad Hoc decided that they want interaction with the Friedman artwork and would like to see an organic transition from the lawn where the sculpture sits therefore selected Kurapia as the ground cover. The Ad Hoc decided that red fescue is the preferred landscape option for the Weiwei artwork. Park Superintendent David Garrard advised that the red fescue can be replaced when necessary to retain a green hue for aesthetic purposes.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Nechita Artwork Update

The City added language to the contract. The next step is for both parties to sign the contract and it will then be brought to City Council for approval. The placement of the

artwork in relation to the other artworks on the Burton Way Median is in question. Additionally, the installation timeline requires further review considering the Burton Way Median Bio-swale Project begins soon. This item will be agendaized at the following meeting for further discussion.

- **Ai Weiwei Artwork Update**
Since landscaping was selected for the artwork, the installation target date is the second week of December. The current plan is to delay a celebration for a further date, and possibly have a photo opportunity with the Commission and City Council to comply with COVID-19 safety regulations.
- **Drive-In Movies at Greystone**
- The first movie showing of Halloween-themed *Hocus Pocus* was held on October 23rd, which was well received by the community. Future showings are on November 20th (*Footloose*) and December 4th (*A Christmas Story*).
- **Fall Virtual Art Show Review**
The Fall Art Show took place on October 17th & 18th. In addition to the live Zoom sessions, the show included some onsite art workshops at Greystone Mansion to complement the virtual workshops. They were limited to 10 people, socially distanced, and all the safety protocols were followed. All creative workshops were sold out and the show was a great success!

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- Chair's report
 - a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights
Chair Smooke informed the Commission of concern by some community members regarding artwork maintenance. Director Rogers advised the Commission of an upcoming artwork maintenance schedule. Staff is also working with art conservator Rosa Lowinger and Associates to further analyze best maintenance practices. Chair Smooke also informed of the difference between the charge of the Arts and Culture Commission and the Architectural Commission.
 - b) Ad Hoc Committees
 - Fine Art and Public Art (Smooke, Vahn)
Chair Smooke updated the Commission regarding the Deborah Butterfield artwork. Deborah will present a maquette to the Commission at a later date.
 - Cultural and Events (Frank, Vahn)
The first project by *Embrace and Celebrate Culture*, the inter-commission venture between the Human Relations Commission and Arts & Culture Commission, entitled *Visions in Light: Windows on the Wallis* begins on November 19, 2020 and will run nightly until November 29, 2020 from 8:00PM to 11:00PM. This site-specific art installation by the City of Beverly Hills, TZ Projects (Torie Zalben & Liana Weston) and the Wallis Center for the Performing Arts will take place on the exterior windows of the Wallis and will feature a selection of artworks by prominent local artists to celebrate diversity and culture. Another upcoming project called *Beyond 2020*, art installations in empty storefronts in the business district, will be discussed at a future meeting. A docent program is currently in development to begin in 2021 once outdoor gatherings are once again allowed.
 - Education and Outreach (Rubins, Filipovic)

- c) Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

- Director's Report
- Information only items
 - a) Arts and Culture Commission Upcoming Meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: November 16, 2020 / 1:55 pm

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 8th day of December 2020.



Michael Smooke, Chairperson