



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

In-person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 8, 2023  
10:00am

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 / 10:01 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Nicole Palmquist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CIVILITY STATEMENT**

Chair Beck read the Civility Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Beck, Filipovic, Frank, Vice Chair Gordy Bristol, Chair Beck  
Commissioners absent: None  
Staff Present: Stephanie Harris, Patty Acuña, Paul Paolone, Brandy Scott & 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.  
Chair Beck approved the agenda as presented.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of minutes from the Arts and Culture Commission Regular Meeting of July 11, 2023.  
Vice Chair Gordy Bristol noted it was Interim Recreation Services Manager, Paul Paolone, who requested the change in the order of the Agenda tabs.

MOTION by Commissioner Frank, SECONDED by Commissioner Beck to approve the minutes with this correction.

AYES: Commissioners Beck, Filipovic, Frank, Vice Chair Gordy Bristol, Chair Beck (5/0)

NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED:

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **2. Arts and Culture Commission 2023-2024 Work Plan proposals from Commissioners for consideration.**

Stephanie Harris, Director of Community Services, reviewed the 2023 – 2024 Work Plan process in addition to reviewing the existing Arts & Culture work plan items which will remain part of the priority list, allowing the Commission to add two new items. The existing work plan items are: Fine Art Acquisition, ArtWalks and Festival Beverly Hills.

Interim Recreation Services Manager, Paul Paolone, reviewed the guidelines with the Commission.

Chair Beck informed the Commission that every idea is valued and respected. There are ways that we can work in the ideas into other projects; we should integrate and partner as much as possible.

Vice Chair Gordy Bristol added that every presentation is a proposal; not a complete package as we submitted ideas.

The Arts and Culture Commissioners presented their proposed items for consideration for the 2023 – 2024 Arts and Culture Work Plan. The Commission was asked to discuss, evaluate, and rank the proposed submissions. The goal is to prioritize five items for the 2024 fiscal year.

- Commissioner Beck proposed:
  1. Little Amal - Wallis Collaboration. Little Amal is a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child at the heart of "The Walk." She has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. On November 3, 2023, The Wallis will host the grand finale of Little Amal's time in Los Angeles, directed by Debbie Allen. I propose that we join the Wallis supporting this incredible interactive event that will surely captivate everyone.
  2. We begin doing our research well in advance for the purchase of new, first-class art fine art for our City. Five artists were presented, Doug Aitken, Hank Willis Thomas, Carol A. Feuerman, Julian Voss Andreae, Jeppe Hein, each having diverse backgrounds that fueled their work. All of them have produced outdoor public art sculptures and are well respected with the arts community.
- Commissioner Filipovic didn't submit a specific proposal but instead would like to support some of the current projects to be enhanced, more creative, and elevated by better funding such as Festival Beverly Hills and Greystone Mansion's Musical Series.
- Commissioner Frank proposed:

1. Embrace & Celebrate Initiative between the Arts & Culture Commission and the Human Relations Commission. To conceive programs aimed at emphasizing cultural diversity, inclusion and a sense of belonging within the Community. During the pandemic, the Commission launched several Covid-friendly installations such as “Visions of Light: Windows on the Wallis,” a video installation featuring the works of artist William Wegman and partnerships with hotels and auction houses.
- Vice Chair Gordy Bristol proposed:
    1. Annual Beverly Hills Arts and Culture Awards: An annual ACC awards event that honors and celebrates exemplary and impactful members of our arts community. Celebrating and showcasing the arts and various cultures. Each annual awards could feature a different theme, all celebrating the importance and impact of arts and culture in our community.
    2. A Destination Arts and Culture “Space/Area” highlighting Love & Kindness through Artistic Images: Create a sustainable City of Beverly Hills Arts and Culture public space, a dedicated artistic location of symbolic landscape that embraces and celebrates the power of being Kind towards others in our community, encouraging feelings of joy, through the many beautiful visual images, structures and displays.
  - Chair Beck proposed:
    1. Visitor’s Center: The World Cup is coming in 2024, the Olympics is 2028 – time for us to get ready to welcome the world to Beverly Hills. One of the most famous cities in the world, Beverly Hills needs a museum or visit-friendly kiosks or centers – sub-stations, perhaps near the two subway stations, as well as in the Golden triangle, to tell the story of the City.
    2. Arts & Culture Portal: A one-stop clearing house for galleries, performers, and groups interested in utilizing our city’s properties to promote and display arts & culture. Who/where do we go to find information on how to participate in the wealth of opportunities to be part of the artistic and cultural life in this magic city? Why not through the Arts & Culture Commission?
  - Prior to voting Commissioners discussed how some proposals fit into existing Work Plan Items
  - After discussion about Little Amal being hosted by the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Director Harris proposed updating the title of Little Amal to Wallis Collaboration.
  - Vice Chair Gordy Bristol read the Mission Statement of the Arts & Culture Commission as the submitted proposals should represent all aspects of the Arts & Culture Mission.
  - Chair Beck informed the Commission that Ad Hoc assignments will be reviewed and assigned at the next Commission meeting.

- Vice Chair Gordy Bristol requested clarification for the existing work plan items and the proposals that fall within existing work plan items. She also commented on the Commissions Ad Hoc, Embrace & Celebrate Culture, which was ongoing but was paused. Stephanie Harris, Director of Community Services, noted that the Embrace and Celebrate Culture Ad Hoc will remain and as projects emerge, they will return as a work plan item. The Embrace and Celebrate Culture Initiative is shared between the Arts and Culture Commission and the Human Relations Commission.
- Vice Chair Gordy Bristol opened the discussion and requested staff to clarify the two other proposals that would not fall under new work plan items. Fine Art proposal was already an existing Work Plan item and Ad Hoc as well as Little Amal which was a project that was already in motion by another city entity.
- The seven proposals were voted on and the top two were approved today will be added to the 2023-24 Work Plan. Four proposals were new Work Plan proposal items and will remain on the list for future consideration once a current work plan is completed.
- It was noted by Chair Beck that some proposals have overlapping concepts and can possibly lend themselves to merging; at this time they will be voted on separately as individual Work Plan item(s).

	ITEM	PROJECT	AD HOC	STATUS
1	Fine Art Acquisition	<i>Trinity</i> by Judy Chicago, <i>IO</i> by Carol Bove, <i>Hymn of Life</i> by Yayoi Kusama	Fine Art/Public Art	Existing / Ongoing
2	Artwalk	Free monthly docent led Artwalks	Fine Art/Public Art	Existing / Ongoing
3	Festival Beverly Hills	Annual festival celebrating cultural diversity.	Major and Annual Events	Existing / Ongoing
4	Visitor Kiosk	A centrally located kiosk to celebrate the City's history and current programs	Capital Projects	New
5	Art Portal	Website to promote a relationship between local artist and potential venues and opportunities within the City.	Performing Arts, Heritage Initiative, Community Engagement	New
*6	Wallis Collaboration -	Travelling, performative symbol of the		Outreach & Support Only

	Little Amal	importance of human rights.		
--	-------------	-----------------------------	--	--

\*The Commission approved supporting the Wallis's Little Amal program through outreach and promotion, but it is not a recognized Work Plan Item.

Interim Recreation Services Manager, Paul Paolone, informed the Commission of the voting process via Survey Monkey and the Commissioners voted by ranking the seven proposals.

The Commission took a recess from 12:30pm to 12:38pm.

The proposals, noted in a graph, were:

- Visitor Kiosk
- Fine Art Presentation
- Art Portal
- Award Ceremony
- Little Amal – Wallis
- Art Activation
- Love and Kindness Space

Stephanie Harris, Director of Community Services, reviewed the ranking with the Commission and noted that Visitor Kiosk and Art Portal, which tied with Fine Art Presentation, can be listed in slots #4 and #5 in the Art & Culture Work Plan as the Fine Art Presentation will return in the Priority Setting discussion as Fine Art Acquisition.

The Proposed 2023 – 2024 Work Plan is as follows:

- Fine Art Acquisition
- ArtWalk
- Festival Beverly Hills
- Visitor Kiosk
- Art Portal

MOTION by Commissioner Filipovic, SECONDED by Commissioner Beck to adopt the Priorities.

AYES: Commissioners Beck, Filipovic, Frank, Vice Chair  
Gordy Bristol, Chair Beck (5/0)

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

PASSED:

The assignment of Ad Hocs with the Work Plan items and Commissioners will be on the October 2023 agenda.

### 3. Financial Update

**a. Fine Art Fund Update Report**

- Paul Paolone, Interim Recreation Services Manager, provided an update on ongoing expenditures and pending in-lieu revenue of the first month of fiscal year July 31, 2023.
- In the month of July 2023, no in-lieu fees were collected and no new construction deposit.

**4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

**PROJECT UPDATES**

- Arts and Culture Commission Updates
  - Artwalk Guided Tour recap
    - The August 6, 2023 Art Walk was cancelled due to the heat.
    - There are still openings in the September 10, 2023 Art Walk which covers the art surrounding City Hall.
    - The Fall Session is being organized with the docents touring the art in Beverly Gardens park.
  - Judy Chicago will be presented to City Council on August 15, 2023, 7pm Formal Session.
- Manager's Report
  - Art Show 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - October 21 & 22, 2023 update
    - The Artist Application for this Fall Show has closed with staff receiving 420 applications.
  - Concerts on Canon recap
    - The August 3<sup>rd</sup> concert, Rumba Acoustic Band (acoustic Persian hits) drew a large crowd.
    - Three more concerts are scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Inside the Mansion recap
    - August 6, 2023 was the largest-to-date Inside the Mansion tour which drew 416 attendees.
    - September 2, 2023 will be the next availability to tour the first floor of the Greystone Mansion.
- Information only items
  - Human Relations Commission Day of Wellness at Roxbury
    - The free event, open to all ages, is being held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 10am to 3pm.
  - Farmers' Market Picklefest recap
    - Over 20 different picklers submitted their pickled food for 2 different contests at this popular events.
- Event Calendar

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- Chair's Report
  - a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights
    - Chair Beck reported that the City's tap water, such as the pureness, has been rated high.
  - b) Ad Hoc Committees
    - Fine Arts/Public Art (Frank, P. Beck - Scott)
    - Capital Projects (M. Beck, P. Beck – Paolone)
    - Major and Annual Events (M. Beck, Filipovic – Paolone)
    - Performing Arts, Heritage Initiatives, Community Engagement (Gordy Bristol, Filipovic – Paolone)
    - Embrace and Celebrate Culture Initiative (Frank, Gordy Bristol – Paolone)
  - c) Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities.  
None.
  - d) Arts and Culture Commission Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, October 10, 2023.
    - Chair Beck reminded all that the September Commission meeting has been cancelled and all will reconvene at the October 10, 2023 meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

- Date / Time: August 8, 2023 / 12:56 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 12th day of December 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maralee Beck, Chairperson

Decisions of the Arts and Culture Commission may be appealed to the City Council within 14 days of the Arts and Culture Commission's Action by filing a written appeal with the City Clerk. Appeal forms are available in the City Clerk's office. Note: Appeal Fee Required.

*If there are any questions about this agenda, please contact Paul Paolone, Interim Recreation Services Manager, 310-285-6826, [ppaolone@beverlyhills.org](mailto:ppaolone@beverlyhills.org)*