



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

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021  
10:00am

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: April 13, 2021 / 10:02 am

**CIVILITY STATEMENT**

The Civility Statement was read to initiate the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Filipovic, Rubins and Vahn, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jenny Rogers, Patty Acuña, Kristin Buhagiar, Paul Paolone, Adriné Ovasapyan, Aida Thau, Jessie Holzer, Shawnée Pickney, Evelin Garcia, Jessica Barragan

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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 amended changes. Item 5. Sing for Hope and The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts Collaboration Project, was moved ahead to Item 2.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 16, 2021.

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

AYES: Commissioners Filipovic, Rubins and Vahn, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None  
CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

### 2. Connect Beverly Hills

Jessie Holzer, Transportation Planner, reported an update on the Connect Beverly Hills: Meet Me on Wilshire and La Cienega project. The report included information on how to review and provide comments on the draft streetscape plan and design standards.

### 3. Auditor Update

Shawnée Pickney, Principal Performance Auditor, reported on the mission, values, and authority of the Office of the City Auditor (OCA) and the launch of the department's Trust and Innovation Portal (TIP). The presentation included a summation of TIP.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 4. Review of Art Requirements at 9242 Beverly Blvd.

Jonathan Nichols and Lindsay Tabaian, representatives from the 9242 Beverly Blvd. development project, presented their request to replace one of the property's previously approved public artworks installed as a Fine Art Obligation. The building is undergoing an improvement project that triggers the removal of Terry Schoonhoven's *Projector* mural artwork. The proposed fine artwork to be installed and meet the Fine Art Obligation for this property is a visually prominent mobile called *Whistleblower*, 2019 by fine artist Pae White.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Vahn, SECONDED by Vice Chair Frank to support the proposal and recommending the code exemption as proposed to allow the structural piece and the application of the value of the existing piece towards the Fine Art Obligation (5-0).

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

### 5. Sing for Hope and The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts Collaboration Project

Rachel Fine, Executive Director of the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, and Monica Yunus, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of non-profit Sing For Hope, presented the "Sing for Hope Pianos" art in public spaces project. The project entails placing artist-designed pianos in various City locations for the public to enjoy. Staff requested Commission input for additional piano placement locations and received valuable feedback.

## NEW BUSINESS

## 6. Virtual Art Exhibition & Photography Competition

Commissioner Rubins and Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services, presented a virtual art exhibition and photography competition as a proposed low-cost community event. Commissioner Rubins stressed the contest would be inclusive of all art mediums. The Commission supports moving forward with the project.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 7. Financial Update

Paul Paolone, Senior Recreation Supervisor, reported on the Fine Art fund and informed on pending permits and fees. Commissioners requested that Staff review the documents in more detail. Staff will inform further via written communication.

*Commissioner Rubins departed at 11:50 AM.*

### 8. Fabrication of New Kusama's *Hymn of Life* Artwork

Staff introduced Patrick Rees, Founder and CEO of The Big New, who presented an overview of art fabrication, bronze, and stainless-steel casting production processes. Rees was formerly employed by Art Bronze, the original fabricator of *Hymn of Life*. The Big New is authorized by Ota Fine Arts, Kusama's studio, to reproduce the artwork. Staff requests Commission recommendation to move item forward to the upcoming City Council meeting for review.

Motion:            MOVED by Commissioner Vahn, SECONDED by Vice Chair Frank to recommend Patrick Rees of The Big New for approval as the fabricator of the new Kusama artwork fabrication (4-0).

AYES:             Commissioners Filipovic and Vahn, Vice Chair Frank, Chair Smooke

NOES:             None

ABSENT:          Commissioner Rubins

ABSTAIN:        None

CARRIED

## PROJECT UPDATES

- Ai Weiwei Artwork Update  
The landscape is growing nicely. The plaque will be installed on Thursday, April 15, 2021.
- Friedman Artwork Update  
The construction drawings are completed. The bidding process is active. Construction will begin when the bidding process is complete, approximately the third week of June, 2021.
- Nechita Artwork Update  
Construction is going well. The concrete base has been installed. The artwork is currently with the fabricator. The installation date is April 29, 2021.
- Bove Artwork Update  
Chair Smooke communicated with the Zwirner Gallery Director and shared Carol Bove is currently occupied with another artwork installation. Staff will continue to develop a reinstallation and conservation plans for the Bove artwork.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

- Chair's report
  - a) Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights
  - b) Ad Hoc Committees
    - Fine Art and Public Art (Smooke, Vahn)
    - Cultural and Events (Frank, Vahn)
    - Education and Outreach (Rubins, Filipovic)
  - c) Other items brief announcements, request for information, and brief reports on activities

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

- Director's Report
  - The Assistant Director recruitment is moving forward with candidate interviews.
- Information only items
  - a) Arts and Culture Commission Upcoming Meetings

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: April 13, 2021 / 12:25 pm

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

  
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Michael Smooke, Chairperson