

Civic Arts Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
July 11, 2005

Commissioners Present: James Allen (Vice Chair) Edelgard Brunelle, Roy Engoron, Casey Hutchins (alternate), Joanna Stone (Chair), Stacey Vetter
Commissioners Absent: Suzanna Duffy-Tajeldin
Staff Present: Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager; Torreya Cummings, Program Assistant

Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Approval of agenda.

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved, and Commissioner Allen seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes June minutes will be distributed at the next meeting.

3. Written Communications Regular monthly publications and announcements were circulated.

4. Public Communications None.

5. Staff, City Council, Commission Communications:

A. North Davis Greenbelt art update Staff reported briefly on the status of Jean Van Keuren's project.

B. Harper Junior High Project Commissioners discussed the project, reiterating that the donation was not intended for logo development, and stated the need for staff to meet with the art teacher in charge of the project.

C. UC Davis Connections Project Staff circulated comments collected at the open house meeting for the project. Commissioners discussed the comments and the project. Commissioners, by consensus, asked that the following comments be sent to the project team on their behalf:

The Civic Arts Commission applauds the efforts of the UC Davis and the City of Davis to enhance and improve access between the university and the city's core. The drafters of the conceptual plan have wisely included the possibility for creating an "art walk" along the arboretum where it joins downtown. We agree that an art walk will be an excellent addition to the community, and encourage the university and the city to work together on its development.

But further, we recommend that the planning process for public art be expanded beyond the art walk, to include the use of both functional and non-functional public art throughout the project area to enhance the visual linkage and wayfinding between the pivotal UC Davis and downtown art and cultural districts. Integrated public art will create a unique experience at our city/university interface that will underscore Davis' identity as a leader in the arts.

We recommend that the city and the university appoint an advisory committee comprising art and design professionals from our two communities as soon as possible. The charge of the advisory committee would be to develop a broader art plan, based on the conceptual plans, with the goal of incorporating functional and non-functional art throughout the project.

- D. Art in Private Development** Commissioners scheduled a subcommittee meeting to discuss the draft, with attention to square footage and location triggers.
- E. Covell Village Public Art Proposal** Staff reported that the commission's recommendations were approved as submitted in the final Development Plan.
- F. Joint Meeting with City Council** Staff announced that a joint meeting is planned for the October meeting date, Monday, October 10, and the draft Art in Private Development Ordinance will be discussed.
- G. Other: Marketing the Arts In Davis** Staff reported on a meeting between a number of Davis arts organizations who are attempting to market Davis as an art destination to a larger audience. Staff inquired whether or not the commission felt that an arts contract could be an appropriate way of contributing funding to an arts marketing campaign group. Commissioners stated that, depending on the proposal, such a project could be fundable through the Arts Contracts.
- H. Other** Commissioner Lundberg announced that it was her last meeting, as she will be moving to Boston in the Fall for Graduate School. Commissioners thanked her for her efforts, especially on the Juried Art Show, and wished her luck in her future endeavors.
- 6. Art Planning** Commissioner Brunelle reported on her meeting with Nelson Gallery director Renny Pritikin regarding the September 17th brainstorming session. Staff and commissioners discussed plans, goals, expectations and structure for the meeting. Commissioners arrived at a tentative structure for the meeting:
- Coffee and informal networking period, with photographs and information about existing Davis public art available.
 - Renny Pritikin's talk about public art in other cities and larger trends.
 - Large group discussion.
 - Informal networking/close.

Goals for the meeting include:

- Increase understanding and awareness of public art.
- Get commissioners and public in touch with one another.
- Gain an increased understanding of what the public is interested in.
- Generate ideas for locations for new public art.
- Gauge level of interest in a large landmark piece of public art.
- Foster networking among arts community members.

7. Juried Art Show Commissioners discussed the reception. Commissioner Engoron thanked Commissioners Brunelle and Lundberg, and program assistant Torreya Cummings for their work in hanging the exhibition. Commissioners Lundberg and Vetter are working on a thank you letter to the Juror.

Commissioners discussed the strengths and weaknesses of this year's show and began making tentative plans for 2006.

- The Pence Gallery is willing to host the show again next year.
- May is a better month to hold the show than June or July, based on school and commissioner's schedules.
- Some commissioners were inclined to choose a different theme than the small works.
- Overall goals include avoiding the need for slides, and getting as many entries and accepted works as possible while maintaining quality.

8. 2006 Arts Contracts Commissioners discussed the application for the Arts Contracts, and asked that the submissions be due before Thanksgiving. Commissioners identified the need for more detailed descriptions of work plans, and suggested altering that section of the application to elicit more detail from applicants.

9. Adjourn

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved to adjourn; Commissioner Brunelle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito
Cultural Services Manager