Civic Arts Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room
April 10, 2006

Commissioners Present: Joanna Stone (Chair), Roy Engoron, Casey Hutchins, Suzanna Duffy-Tajeldin, Stacey Vetter, James Allen (Vice Chair) Edelgard Brunelle, Pat Burkhardt (alternate)

Staff Present: Esther Polito, Cultural Services Manager; Torreya Cummings, Program Assistant

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

Approval of agenda.

Action: Commissioner Brunelle moved, and Commissioner Engoron seconded, approval of the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Action: Commissioner Engoron moved to approve the February and March minutes as amended. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Communications Margaret Roberts, the new City Clerk was introduced and announced that she was present to observe the meeting.

Staff, City Council, Commission Communications:
A. Juried Art Show Prospectus Commissioners discussed distribution strategies for the prospectus.
B. Alluvium Maintenance and repairs Staff briefly described the maintenance issues and repair options, noting that the least costly stabilization method will likely be within the normal maintenance budget.
C. Mace Ranch Park Staff reported that work should begin in May, and should be finished over the summer.
D. Tree Davis Proposal Staff reported that the item will be on the May agenda, and that Tree Davis has negotiated placement with the owner of Coldwell Banker at 2nd and D Streets. Staff noted that the remaining funding questions will be discussed in May.
E. Other: Commissioner Vetter announced that she has an exhibit in Carmel. Staff Polito mentioned that the Community Development Department will have a booth at the next Farmer’s Market.
Downtown-Campus Connections Concepts and Implementation Plan

Staff Polito stated that a copy of the letter from Commissioner Brunelle on behalf of the commission will be forwarded to the City Council for their May 2nd meeting, and noted that the commission may wish to have a representative at the meeting.

Commissioners discussed the project, specifically regarding the amount of involvement the commission would have in the pedestrian walkway, and the need for a comprehensive art plan.

Action: Chair Stone moved to make a statement of support urging that the City and the University appoint an advisory committee comprised of art and design professionals from our two communities as soon as possible. Commissioner Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: By consensus, the Commission appointed Commissioner Brunelle to attend the meeting on their behalf.

Central Park Memorial Art Donation

Staff introduced the item, briefly describing the project in process to donate to the Farmers’ Market a ceramic mural that will be installed on the new market shed in Central Park. Commissioners discussed the project, noting that the artist identified is an excellent choice. Commissioners agreed that the subject of the piece should be appropriate to the broad public audience that uses the park.

Cedric Wentworth/John Natsoulas Donation

Staff Polito introduced the item by briefly describing the proposed donation, noting that the parties involved understand that the siting process is both important and time consuming. Commissioners Allen and Brunelle will meet with staff and artist Wentworth to discuss the donation further.

Commissioners agreed that:

- The piece relates specifically to the built environment, and as such it will be a challenge to find a suitable publicly owned site for the work. To show the piece to its best advantage, a site in an open park would not be appropriate.
- Maintenance could be a problem in the case of vandalism, given that the piece may need to be dismantled to be cleaned effectively.
- The piece is free of the safety problems associated with other proposals.
- The University Connections art walk could be an excellent solution for placement, as the piece would be in a context with other artwork that would support it.
Art Planning Committee Planning and Reports Program Assistant Torreya Cummings and Commissioner Hutchins reported that they are scheduled to meet with the director of the Pence Gallery later in the month to discuss siting temporary work behind the gallery.

Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Polito
Cultural Services Manager