



# **CITY OF COSTA MESA**

## **ARTS COMMISSION**

### **Agenda**

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**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers  
77 Fair Drive**

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4. Additionally, members of the public who wish to make a written comment on a specific agenda item, may submit a written comment via email to the [paccomments@costamesaca.gov](mailto:paccomments@costamesaca.gov). Comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be provided to the Commission, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record.

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**ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

**CHARLENE ASHENDORF**  
Chair

**FISHER DERDERIAN**  
Commissioner

**DEBORA WONDERCHECK**  
Vice Chair

**ERICA LUCIA**  
Commissioner

**ALLISON MANN**  
Commissioner

**ALISA OCHOA**  
Commissioner

**HEIDI ZUCKERMAN**  
Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**  
Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**  
Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. [MINUTES](#) [24-039](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Arts Commission meeting.

**Attachments:** [12/07/23 Arts Draft Minutes](#)

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2. [PERMANENT PUBLIC ART ON PUBLIC PROPERTY](#) [24-040](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission review and approve the updated commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property (Attachment 1).

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Permanent Art on Public Property](#)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. [ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR](#) [24-041](#)

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

2. [APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM APPLICATIONS](#) [24-042](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission approve 11 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Utility Box Art Program Designs](#)

3. [POET LAUREATE PROGRAM](#) [24-043](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation to review, discuss, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program and Application Process.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Poet Laureate Handbook/Application - Draft](#)

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

1. [ARTS AND CULTURE STAFF REPORT](#) [24-044](#)

**Attachments:** [Arts and Culture Staff Report](#)

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024**



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-039

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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**TITLE:**

**MINUTES**

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Arts Commission meeting.

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THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

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DECEMBER 7, 2023  
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Ashendorf at 6:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Chair Ashendorf.

**ROLL CALL**

= Present    = Absent

**Commissioners**

- Charlene Ashendorf, Chair
- Fisher Derderian
- Erica Lucia
- Alisa Ochoa
- Allison Mann
- Debora Wondercheck, Vice Chair
- Heidi Zuckerman

**City Staff**

- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Ashley Thomas, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant

**PRESENTATION:**

1. **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: ELIZABETH MAY FELTMAN**  
Recreation Manager, Monique Villasenor presented award.
2. **ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDEE: COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS**  
Parent Booster member, Cynthia Lawrence, presented.
3. **ARTS GRANT PROGRAM AWARDEE: WILD AND ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
Barbara Morihiro presented on behalf of the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival Committee
4. **NEWPORT MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (NMUSD) REPORT**  
Tamara Fairbanks from NMUSD presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eileen Cirilo (Costa Mesa resident): Spoke as a volunteer about the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Education Department and wanted to let the Arts Commission know that they give tours of Segerstrom Hall, and the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, and within those tours, there is several public works of art that is talked about. Reservations can be made at [online@scfta.org](mailto:online@scfta.org).

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Commissioner Mann:** Thanked the presenters and public commenters for the information they provided.

**Vice Chair Wondercheck:** Praised the collaborations within the surrounding schools, presenters and public commenter.

**Commissioner Ochoa:** Spoke about a conference she attended in Long Beach.

**Commissioner Derderian:** Happy to see the arts programs thriving in Newport Mesa School District and thanked Ms. Garner on the ARTventure Community day event.

**Chair Ashendorf:** Highlighted the first full year for the Arts Commission, and thanked staff and CMTV crew for the work they do. Gave an update of City Council recognizing South Coast Repertory 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the partnership we have to bring the arts to our low income senior citizens and Soy students.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. MINUTES**

10/07/2023 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Wondercheck made a motion to approve the October 7, 2023 minutes /Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Wondercheck, and Chair Ashendorf

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Lucia, Vice Chair Wondercheck

### **2. MURALS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY REVIEW**

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

**Public Comment:** None.

Discussion ensued with the Commission regarding the artist description in the draft proposal.

Commissioners recommended to include multiple descriptions regarding artist level depending on the level/category of the artist to differentiate the artist needs for the project or specify that information in the project.

*Commission gave input to the draft document and item was moved to the February Arts Commission meeting.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. PERMANENT PUBLIC ART ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Chair Ashendorf inquired if Capital Improvement Projects would be reviewed at the Arts commission and stressed public participation is critical as it moves forward.

**Public Commented:** None.

*Item moved to the February Arts Commission meeting.*

### **2. ARTS GRANT PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 FINAL REPORT**



Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

**Public Comment:** None.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **1. ARTS & CULTURE STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioners thanked City Staff for all the Fall art events.

Chair Ashendorf highlighted the new event date approach for ARTventure should alleviate the confusion for the gala and create an increase in attendance.

Vice Chair Wondercheck spoke about a Martin Luther King musical happening on January 13, *Music of the March*. Looking to bring a Black History Month type of day celebration event here to Costa Mesa with artists and vendors if it does not happen in February, the month of June is actually African American Music Month.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** Chair Ashendorf adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

**NEXT REGULAR ARTS COMMISSION MEETING: Thursday, February 1, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.**



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-040

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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**TITLE:**

**PERMANENT PUBLIC ART ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**DEPARTMENT:                      PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission review and approve the updated commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property (Attachment 1).



# Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-040

Meeting Date: 02/01/2024

**TITLE:** PERMANENT PUBLIC ART ON PUBLIC PROPERTY REVIEW

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**PRESENTED BY:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission review and approve the updated commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property (Attachment 1).

### BACKGROUND:

The Art in Public Places Report created by consultant, Arts Orange County was approved by the Arts Commission on April 6, 2023, to address aspects of the Arts and Culture Master Plan’s Goal #2: Expand Public Art throughout the City. The following initiatives were recommended as follows:

**Action 2.1:** Continue the City-operated program of temporary utility box art, which affords opportunities to local artists, established and emerging, to create images that offer the community beautification. Review additional sites that are suitable for such installations, including wayfinding signage.

**Action 2.2:** Develop a plan for more ambitious temporary and permanent public art, including the identification of potential locations around the City, creation of policies with respect to selection and acquisition of artworks, and determination of the funding sources to be used.

**Action 2.3:** Temporary art programs are very popular with the public because they are constantly refreshed with new works, offering a variety of themes, styles, shapes, colors, and scale to the cityscape. Create a new program of temporary installations of large-scale sculptures. We recommend two-year loans, placed at sites inclusive of all the City’s districts. This can be ramped up gradually by installing three works in Year 1 (one in each of three districts), adding three (3) in Year 2 (in the remaining districts), and then continuing to rotate the works on expiring loans annually.

**Action 2.4:** City may consider adopting a policy mandating fees for public art from new development projects.

**Action 2.5:** Create a new program of permanent public art and implement the process of selecting and installing a first work.

**Action 2.6:** Incorporate imaginative design in all the City's functional elements and fixtures. There are artists and existing companies that specialize in the custom fabrication of creatively designed elements such as street lights, playground equipment, fitness stations, bus shelters, benches. After a period of research, the City should conduct a call for artists to submit designs, which would be selected by the City through a process involving the Arts Commission, Planning Commission, City staff and Council. Based on budget, the City can choose to transform the chosen elements over a short period of time or phase them in as replacement of older elements.

The new commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property is part of Action 2.2: to develop a plan for more ambitious temporary and permanent public art and 2.5: to create a new program of permanent public art and implement the process of selecting and installing a first work. Permanent public art and the commissioning process can also be found within the Art in Public Places Report beginning on page 14 (Attachment 2).

The first step of Action 2.2 was to establish Public Art Criteria and Guidelines to assist with new temporary and permanent public art projects in the future, which was brought to the Arts Commission on May 4, 2023. The commission subsequently reviewed the Murals on Private Property permit application and process and Murals on Public Property in previous meetings. On December 7, 2023, the Arts Commission reviewed the Permanent Public Art on Public Property process and made recommendations for suggested edits.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Art in Public Places Report is a comprehensive report of recommendations for programs and policies and provides detailed specifics as to how the six (6) initiatives from the Arts and Culture Master Plan may be executed in the next three (3) years. Each of the components below detailed in the Art in Public Places Report, will be crucial to assisting staff in creating new policies and processes:

1. Public Art Commissioning Process
2. Public Art Collection Management
3. Murals and the Commissioning Process
4. Public Art Donations and the Criteria
5. Public Art inclusion in City Public Works Development Projects
6. Public Art inclusion in Private Development Projects

The newly drafted commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property will address numbers one (1) and five (5) from the Arts & Culture Master Plan initiatives, and will also be part of a larger Public Art Policy document created by staff in the coming months.

Staff reviewed public art program examples from various cities and provided an example of a Capital Improvement Public Art Program from the City of Pasadena (Attachment 3) and a Public Art Request for Qualifications from Salt Lake City (Attachment 4).

Staff will be working on the individual public art initiatives from the Arts & Culture Master Plan, and implementing them one by one. Once reviewed, staff will begin work to create sustainable processes and procedures for the City moving forward.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There were no alternatives considered at this time.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

There are currently no costs associated with this process.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

There is no legal review required for this report.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission review and approve the updated commissioning process for Permanent Public Art on Public Property.



## **PERMANENT PUBLIC ART ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

### **INCLUSION OF PUBLIC ART IN PUBLIC WORKS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

The inclusion of Arts and Culture into public spaces is known to enhance the livability or civic life and is a contributor to the quality of the environment while engendering community pride. Incorporation of Public Art into Public Works projects are a natural way to uplift the quality of these spaces for the enjoyment of the community.

Many Public Works projects are funded by grants or other sources requiring that the use of monies is restricted to capital improvements. Permanent Public Art incorporated into the project is generally acknowledged as a capital improvement for this purpose.

With other internal sources incorporated, facility funding can be less restrictive, allowing for a wide array of arts programming on the site of the development. Municipalities have allocated between 1-2% of the cost of construction for these projects as part of the regular budgeting process.

A mandate by City Council for Public Art inclusion into Public Works construction projects declares the importance and value the City places on arts and culture in civic life. Should the City decide to mandate a Public Art requirement for private development, it would be a reasonable expectation that the City has a policy in place for Public Art within its own public works projects.

*If the City of Costa Mesa were to include public art into Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), there would be an added layer to the application process that may include PlanetBids, a software that would automatically include the Public Works Department as part of the planning processes for all new public art projects tied to CIP funding.*

### **CRITERIA FOR THE SITING OF PERMANENT PUBLIC ART**

Permanent Public Art should be placed:

- Where there are high levels of pedestrian traffic
- For a specific purpose and in a specific location; celebrating Costa Mesa history, services, culture, and heroes
- To enhance the aesthetics of specific areas of Costa Mesa; areas that are lacking public art (westside of the City)
- In an environment that accommodate the proposed scale of the artwork

Permanent Public Art can be:

- Free-standing sculpture
- Artist designed functional objects or artwork integrated into architecture
- Placed on walls, floors, ceilings, windows, exterior facades, stairways, rooftops and patios
- Placed at parks, plazas, civic centers, roadway medians, traffic islands, and bridges

Permanent Public Art should not:

- Be placed in areas that are inaccessible to the general public
- Block windows and or entryways
- Be inaccessible for required and routine maintenance
- Obstruct pedestrian pathways

**Exclusions to Public Art element requirement:**

The following items are not to be considered as artwork meeting the art requirement:

- Art objects, which are mass-produced from a standard design such as playground equipment, flags, banner or fountains;
- Reproductions, by mechanical or other means, of original fine artworks;
- Directional elements such as supergraphics, signage or color-coding. Unique (not of mass-produced design or imagery) artist-designed directional signage or unique supergraphics, which function as artworks may be appropriate;
- Decorative, ornamental or functional elements, which are designed by the building, architect as opposed to artist commissioned for the purpose of creating fine artworks;

Definitions:

**Permanent Public Art:** Art in public spaces, created by an Artist and fabricated with materials and methods with an expected lifespan of twenty-five years or more.

**Artist:** A person who has established a reputation of artistic excellence in the fine arts, including but not limited to visual, or performing arts, as judged by peers and experts in the field, through a record of public exhibitions, performances, commissions, sale of works, recognition and/or educational attainment. The qualified artist shall work primarily in the production of unique fine art.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (pulled directly from City of Pasadena document)**

Art is both the permanent and changing record of what we hold important. Costa Mesa’s CIP Public Art Program will reflect and communicate our values and enhance life in our community. It is the stated intent of the CIP Public Art Program to include art and provide space for the creation and presentation of art in CIP projects to create a more livable city, engage a wide spectrum of our citizens, stimulate the vitality and economy of the City of Costa Mesa and enhance the urban environment. These goals shall be realized through:

1. The commissioning of artists at a variety of points in their careers, but whose work is of the highest artistic merit, and who bring innovative artwork of all media and disciplines into the public realm.
2. The commissioning of artist and artwork which are reflective of the cultural diversity and the City’s international populations, recognize the values and contributions of various cultures to the community, and contribute to the characteristics, aspirations and unique expressions of Costa Mesa’s values;
3. The encouragement of local artistic endeavors and support local artists;
4. The encouragement of public dialogue and interaction with art in public places, through appropriate education forums, public meetings, citizen task forces and programs;
5. The commissioning of works of art varying in style, scale, medium, form and intent representative of the arts on a local, regional and international level;
6. The broad distribution of commissions among artists. To ensure this objective, no more than one City of Costa Mesa public art commission per artist/team shall be awarded in a three-year period. An artist may not apply for a subsequent commission until the aforementioned has been completed and has received final approval.
7. The geographic distribution of artwork throughout the City of Costa Mesa;
8. The inclusion of the artist and design team at the inception of the project.

## METHODS FOR SELECTING PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

As permanent public art pieces are long term projects, it is important that each artwork be thought through carefully. Early public participation is a key part of the process. Another key aspect is involving the artist in the overall project design phase early on so that the work of art is well integrated with the site and/or buildings.

1. **Developing Artwork Parameters.** Before hiring an artist, some general parameters should be set to help guide artist selection. Based on knowledge of the site and the project's design possibilities, a number of possible locations and general types of art that would work for the project should be identified. Feedback should be sought on these ideas from other staff, or the City of Costa Mesa Arts Commission.

2. **Selection Strategies.** Typically, an artist is selected in one of the following manners:

a) **Request for Qualifications.** A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP) is the most common method used for selecting an artist. The Arts Specialist will notify a current list of potential artists and art organizations regarding the Call for Artists.

b) **Sole Source.** This approach reflects the fact that public art is fundamentally different from most other types of public work projects. With art, the main goal is to look for an individual expression or unique idea -- not price comparisons for one plan or idea. In some cases, the City Council or Arts Specialist may have a specific artist or type of art in mind, and may choose to request a proposal from an individual artist without going through competitive selection. This approach depends on the total cost of the project. See Finance Department and Public Works Department.

c) **Acquisition.** Acquisition of an art piece that has already been completed by an artist may be appropriate in some very rare circumstances. The purchase price and the cost of installation comes from the percent-for-art budget. Arts Commission approval is recommended.

## EVALUATING AND SELECTING PUBLIC ART

In cities throughout the U.S. there has been growing support for public art. However, some projects have been widely criticized for placement in areas without consulting the communities the artwork resides in. Understanding what to look for and integrating artists in the early stages of a project can help to avoid any controversy.

**1. Selecting a Public Art Panel.** The majority of City public art projects will use the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) selection method. Public art panels help staff evaluate the qualifications received and make a final selection to proceed through the remainder of the approval process. The preferred approach is for City staff to create a five-to-seven member panel for each public art project. In some cases, a slightly larger panel may be necessary to accommodate all the parties impacted by the artwork. Each public art panel will exist for the duration of one public art project. A new panel will be selected for a new project. The panel composition will vary depending on the type of art project but should include a selection of the following, as appropriate:

- An Arts Commissioner (on a rotating basis)
- As least one (1) professional artist
- A neighbor or representative of a neighborhood association when a neighborhood will be impacted by the project
- A for-profit or non-profit business representative, preferably one whose business will be impacted by the project
- An educator/historian, or someone aware of the historical implications of the artwork in the community
- City staff, as appropriate



## 2. The Selection Process

*Stage 1.* Applications submitted in response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be reviewed by the Arts Specialist and the Parks & Community Services staff. Upon evaluating the qualifications provided in the applications, staff will shortlist three to five semi-finalists to be invited to participate in an RFP (Request for Proposals) process as well as an interview and discussion of project concepts. NO PROPOSAL FOR ARTWORK IS REQUIRED DURING THE STAGE 1 SELECTION PROCESS.

*Stage 2.* Only semi-finalists will be able to participate in Stage 2. Those artists selected will each receive an honorarium (depending on the total cost of the project) for the development of specific concepts (up to three concepts per artist/team). As part of the process, prior to creating a concept design(s), each semi-finalist/team will travel to the City of Costa Mesa for a site visit and meeting with the public art panel and City staff to understand the opportunities and limitations within the site and to witness the local environment. As a part of the Stage 2 Proposal, each semi-finalist/team shall provide a detailed, all-inclusive estimated budget including costs associated with the fabrication and installation of the work including engineering, lighting and landscaping. Semi-finalists/teams will be given four (4) weeks to adequately undertake the Concept Proposal(s) and estimated costs. The proposals will be publicly displayed for community viewing and response and or public comment.

Project concepts will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Understanding of the work required by the City
- Evaluation of artistic excellence
- Appropriateness of scale, form material, content and design relative to the site
- Relationship to the social, cultural and/or historical identity of the site
- Appropriateness of proposed materials in regards to structural and surface integrity, public safety, weathering and its protection against theft and vandalism
- Appropriateness of proposed method of installation of artwork, and the safety and structural factor involved in installation
- Ease of maintenance
- Evaluation of proposed budget and the artist's ability to successfully complete the project within the proposed budget
- Experience in working on comparable projects

*Stage 3: Final Selection.* The public art panel will conduct artist interviews, review the designs of the top proposals and select a final design that then proceeds forward for review by the Arts Commission and any other Commissions and or City Council as needed.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-041

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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**TITLE:**

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**DEPARTMENT:**

**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**



# City of Costa Mesa

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

## Agenda Report

Arts Commission

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Item #: 24-041

Meeting Date: 02/01/2024

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**TITLE:** ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR  
**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**PRESENTED BY:** ALMA REYES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
**CONTACT INFORMATION:** ALMA REYES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, (714) 754-5135

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend the Arts Commission:

1. Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for a term of approximately one year.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Arts Commission annually appoints a Chair and Vice Chair to direct the Arts Commission meetings.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Chair role is critical to the Commission as the Chair is responsible for running the meetings on a monthly basis. The Chair typically has more interaction with staff liaisons and is often consulted on the agenda prior to posting. The Chair is often a senior member of the Commission, and typically has experience leading meetings. The Chair not only leads the meeting but is also responsible for providing direction and instructions to both the Commissioners and members of the public in attendance, to ensuring the orderly conduct of all meetings.

The Vice Chair role has the primary responsibility of serving as the backup to the Chair. The Vice Chair will preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair, whether due to an excused absence or if the Chair needs to recuse themselves for any reason. The Vice Chair is also typically a senior member of the Commission, with experience leading meetings. As with the Chair, the Vice Chair will be filled on an annual basis.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The Commission may choose to reappoint the incumbent for the Chair position if the Chair is willing to serve an additional one-year term. This applies to the Vice Chair position as well.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

No fiscal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommend the Arts Commission:

1. Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for a term of approximately one year.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-042

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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**TITLE:**

**APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT:                      PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission approve 11 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).



# Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-042

Meeting Date: 02/01/2024

**TITLE:** APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**PRESENTED BY:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission approve 11 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
1	Bill Anderson	19	Bristol St. & Anton Blvd.
2	Arsyn Eckman	9	Newport Blvd. & Victoria St.
3	Blake Garner	7	Placentia Ave. & City Yard
4	Gabrielle Jimenez	2	Wilson St. & Placentia Ave.
5	Kamila Kowalke	14	W. 19 <sup>th</sup> St. & Pomona Ave.
6	Danica Mendiola	72	Harbor Blvd. & Scenic Ave.
7	Xiadani Montoya	66	Harbor Center & Harbor Blvd.
8	Ingri "Rachel" Quon	13	Mesa Dr. & Santa Ana Ave.
9	Kathie Warren	22	Placentia Ave. & Goat Hill Junction
10	Chris Alvarez*	8	Bristol St. & Town Center
11	Chris Alvarez*	23	Bristol St. & Sunflower Ave.

\*Sponsorship Boxes: Segerstrom Center of the Arts

All location assignments are tentative, pending Arts Commission review.

### BACKGROUND:

The City of Costa Mesa owns over 120 utility boxes at signalized intersections throughout the city and is dedicated to incorporating art into public spaces. A Utility Box Art Program was launched in early 2015 to spotlight a handful of utility boxes as beautiful art pieces. The city currently has over 50 utility art boxes that display artwork created by local artists; and 10 boxes designed by graphic designers from local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

**ANALYSIS:**

The Arts Division receives an annual budget for the Arts & Culture Master Plan implementation, which includes the utility art box program. The 2023-2024 budget allows for the installation of 11 new box designs. Staff is presenting the following designs for approval this fiscal year. If an artist's design is not chosen during this cycle, they can reapply in July of 2024 for the fiscal year 24-25. Two sponsorship boxes being recommended for approval are part of the arts initiative that contributes to maintaining or replacing boxes that are older and/or are damaged.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Arts Commission can choose to deny one or more of the recommended designs and select alternative designs.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

No fiscal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommend the Arts Commission approve nine (9) designs by artists and two (2) sponsorship designs, for a total of 11 new designs to begin installation on utility boxes in late February of 2024.

## UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS FOR FISCAL YEAR 23-24

**1. Artist:** Bill Anderson

**Short Bio:**

Bill Anderson is a southern California based artist, born in 1941 in Mankato, Minnesota. He was an art teacher for 38 years in Minnesota, Wisconsin and southern California. Since 1994 he has owned and operated the Anderson Art Gallery in Sunset Beach, California, which focuses on the work of Bill Anderson, Raul Anguiano, Howard Hitchcock and Milford Zornes. He has participated in solo and group exhibits in California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Italy, Holland, France, Japan, Greece and Mexico City.

His works are included in the permanent collections of the Bowers Museum, Vincent Price Museum, Carnegie Museum, Sasse Museum, CCAA Museum, National Museum of Watercolor in Mexico, National Museum of Printmaking in Mexico. He was selected as Huntington Beach's first "Outstanding Artist of the Year" in 1986. He is also included in *Who's Who in American Art*, and *Who's Who in American Education*.

In 2002 Anderson was included in *The History of California Watercolor 1850-1970*, an important book by California art historian Gordon McClelland. A series of 12 books have been published of Anderson's artwork. In 2018, *Who's Who in American Art* recognized him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Website:** N/A

**Additional Information:** Box #19

**Artwork:** At The Fair

**Original Medium:** Watercolor





**2. Artist:** Arsyn Eckman

**Short Bio:**

Arsyn, who also goes by Rain, is a transgender digital artist based in Orange County. He grew up in Garden Grove, and went to school in Costa Mesa. He uses his experiences growing up multiracial and queer, as well as the people around him as an inspiration for the stories he tries to create in his art. He tends focus on found family, blood or not, and the people you choose to surround yourself with.

**Website:** N/A

**Additional Information:** Box #9

**Artwork:** Lost in Sound

**Original Medium:** Digital Art



**3. Artist:** Blake Garner

**Short Bio:**

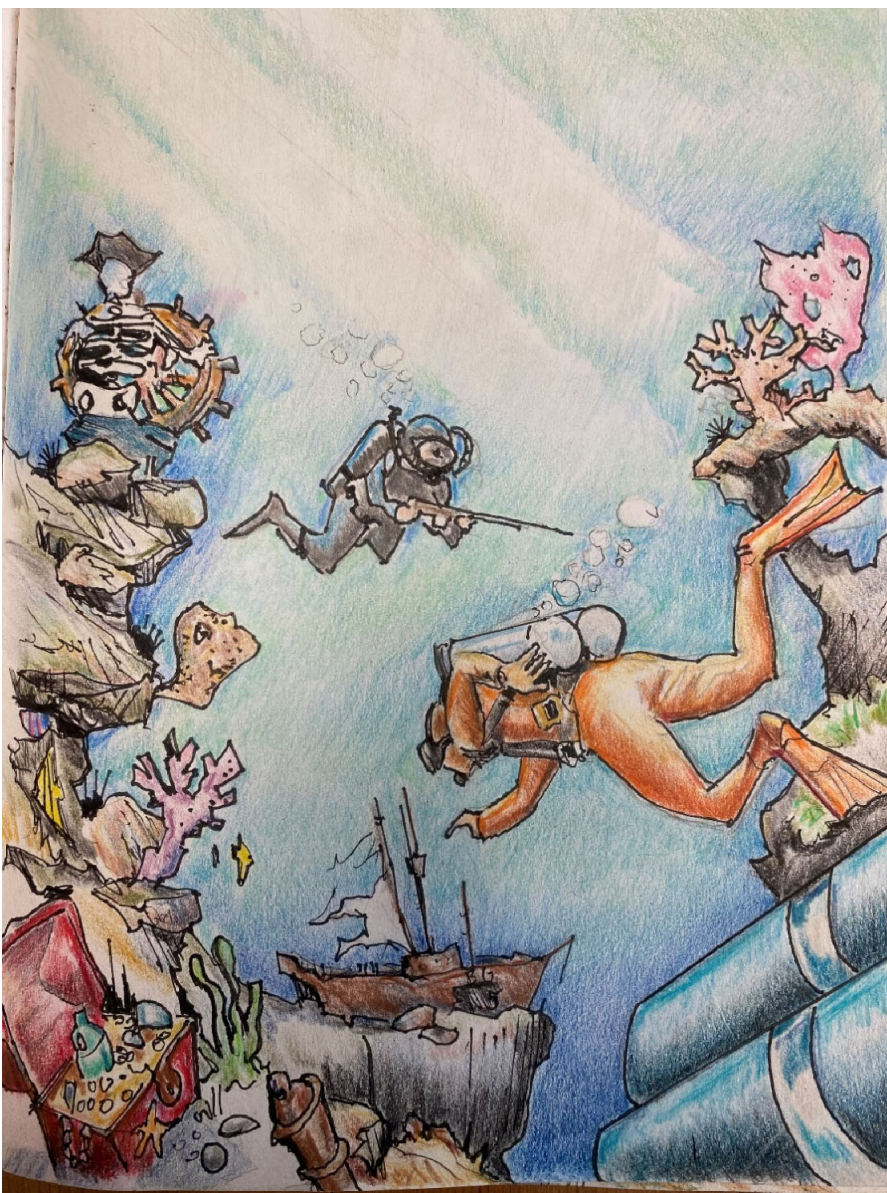
Blake Garner has been a Costa Mesa resident for 57 years and has gone to all the local schools in Costa Mesa studying art since the sixth-grade painting murals on those campuses from K-12. As he continues to illustrate acknowledged by college and community.

**Website:** N/A

**Additional Information:** Box #7

**Artwork:** Diving for Success

**Original Medium:** Colored pencils with black ink on drawing paper



**4. Artist:** Gabrielle Jimenez

**Short Bio:**

Gabrielle Jimenez is an artist who finds herself caught between reality and a world of put-together imagery. Her favorite medium to work with is acrylic paint and charcoal. She is a Studio Arts major at Cal-State Fullerton. Her inspirations include music, film, food, culture, and animals. Although she can use earthy and natural tones in her paintings, she loves nothing more than using an expanded color palette. When she's taking a break from her day-to-day tasks, and art, she spends it with her favorite breathing thing, her bull-terrier.

**Website:** <https://gabypaints.myportfolio.com/>

**Additional Information:** Box #2

**Artwork:** California Grown

**Original Medium:** Soft body acrylic paint



**5. Artist:** Kamila Kowalke

**Short Bio:**

As a young child of Communist Poland in the early 80's, Kamila had to find beauty and peace where it often did not exist. The challenges of being raised in that part of the world in a difficult and different generation began her search for the beauty in all things art. Now having lived in the United States for nearly 30 years, most of those in California where she achieved success as a business woman in a high-pressure career, she often found herself drifting back to a simpler life where the beauty, creativity and imagination were hidden in a society that shunned freedom and individualism. Today she is able to lose herself in her paintings and create a world as she sees it. One of joy and laughter and humility and appreciation that we are all a part of this amazing universe and all it has to offer.

**Website:** [www.kamilakowalke.com](http://www.kamilakowalke.com)

**Additional Information:** Box #14

**Artwork:** Pink Bird of Paradise

**Original Medium:** Acrylic paint



**6. Artist:** Danica Mendiola

**Short Bio:**

Danica Mendiola is an artist based in Santa Ana, CA. She is currently attending California State University of Long Beach pursuing a Bachelors of Fine Art in Illustration. Danica is a growing artist and has experience in mural painting. She draws inspiration from daily life, old animated cartoons, and the childlike wonders of herself, thus incorporating it into her works. She uses art as an outlet to communicate the wonders of daily life and expressing her colorful state of mind.

**Website:** N/A

**Additional Information:** Box #72

**Artwork:** Everyone Loves Music!

**Original Medium:** Digital Art



## 7. Artist: Xiadani Montoya

### Short Bio:

Nani never imagined how easy drawing can be for her at the age of 10. She was able to see a picture and draw it as if she has done it for years. In middle school her notebooks would be filled with drawings as she tried to pay attention in class. As time went on Nani struggled as a young adult and found solace in her artwork. Then one day, she picked up a paint brush and taught herself how to paint in acrylic. Nani adored the way the colors came to life. Drawing in black and white was her comfort zone but she knew it was time to explore a new medium. Her father supported her talent and built her first easel to keep painting. Soon after Nani went back to her roots that made her proud to be a part of her Mexican heritage and brought her bright colors and references into her paintings. Now Nani has built her confidence over the years by practicing every day. She was born and raised in Orange County, CA raised by two loving parents who supported her through every step of her career.

**Website:** N/A

**Additional Information:** Box #66

**Artwork:** Sweet Like Pan Dulce

**Original Medium:** Procreate to design the artwork before finishing in acrylic



**8. Artist:** Ingri "Rachel" Quon

**Short Bio:**

Ingri "Rachel" Quon began watercolor painting with colleagues after her work as a biologist. She quickly got into the flow of using water with layers of colorful pigments. Rachel's subjects are the grand views and small details found along life's path that catch the eye, excite the mind, and move the heart. She considers watercolor painting and dance her forms of moving meditation and she is happy to share the results with you.

**Website:** <https://catalystwatercolors.wixsite.com/home>

**Additional Information:** Box #13

**Artwork:** Corona Shells

**Original Medium:** Watercolor



## **9. Artist:** Kathie Warren

### **Short Bio:**

Kathie Warren is a local artist inspired by Eastside's natural terrain and the ocean. You've probably seen her zipping by in her power wheel-chair, or maybe chatted with her over the years and heard her stories and satiric wit. She's led a bold, adventurous and creative life and has called Eastside home for over two decades. Kathie originally hails from Minnesota and was diagnosed with polio as a young child. In the 1970s, she left the "Land of lakes" behind at the age of 21 and drove cross country in her convertible, and stopped along the highways to collect weeds. (An early source of inspiration.) Kathie literally crossed state lines with a trunk full of weeds, which state authorities promptly inspected, making sure they were not that other kind of weed. She chuckled as she reminisced and said, "I was so naïve back then." After settling in Costa Mesa, Kathie studied art at Orange Coast College, then married and raised her son, Nathan. Throughout her career, she's owned several small businesses and ran her own art gallery, The Green Door in the 1990s in Downtown Santa Ana. Kathie participated for decades in OC Fair's ceramic section and exhibited four years in a row at Costa Mesa's Art Venture show. One of her "Glamor Girls" known as Carmen inspired by actress, Carmen Miranda, sold right away at Art Venture 2019! The "Glamor Girls" are a grouping of ceramic heads that reflect her love of music and nature, coupled with a fun mixture of drama and whimsy. In art is the freedom to explore, invent, modify, create, and to answer the challenge of "what if". This even includes answering a call to create an Irish folkloric book cover, and recently depicting a dragon and cat in a painting, both of which are not her usual themes. Kathie said, "My calling card is texture." In her "Back Bay collection", she paints on cradle board with oil paints and cold wax. While her subjects may shift from the Back Bay to ocean-abstracts to flowers, or even more figurative work on both canvas and ceramics, it is her color palette that feels the most like summer. Throughout it all, Kathie Warren's color palette imbues the warmth of the sun. She said, "On the way back from Newport Beach I saw the moon rising between two trees and quickly took a photo. I knew it was a composition that had to be painted. I see art in various flowers, gnarly trees, even the mailboxes all on the Eastside." Kathie recently sold the painting, "Passing-by" inspired by white flowers in front of a unique home in Eastside. "It is in doing that gives long lasting rewards. Such as painting, planting, helping someone, building something, singing, dancing. I feel I do all this in my art. "

**Website:** [artistkathiewarren.com](http://artistkathiewarren.com)

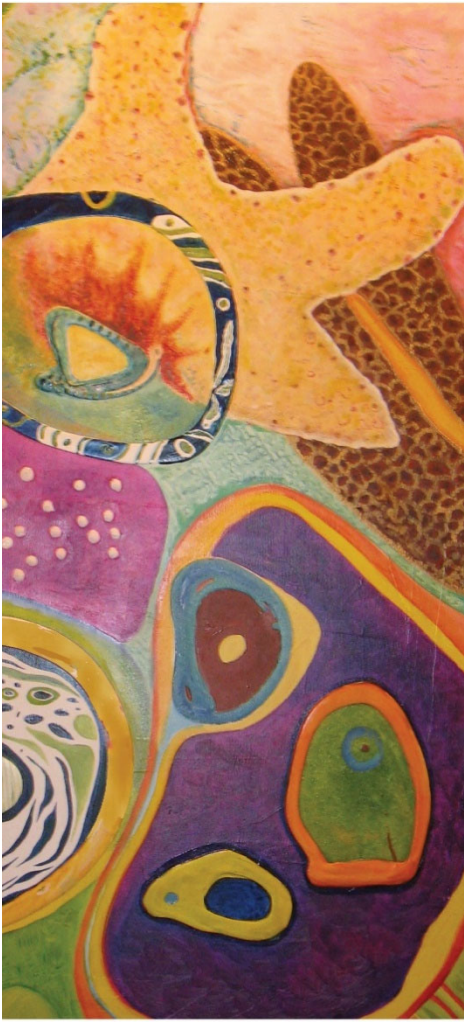
**Additional Information:** Box #22

**Artwork:** Tropical Confection Reef

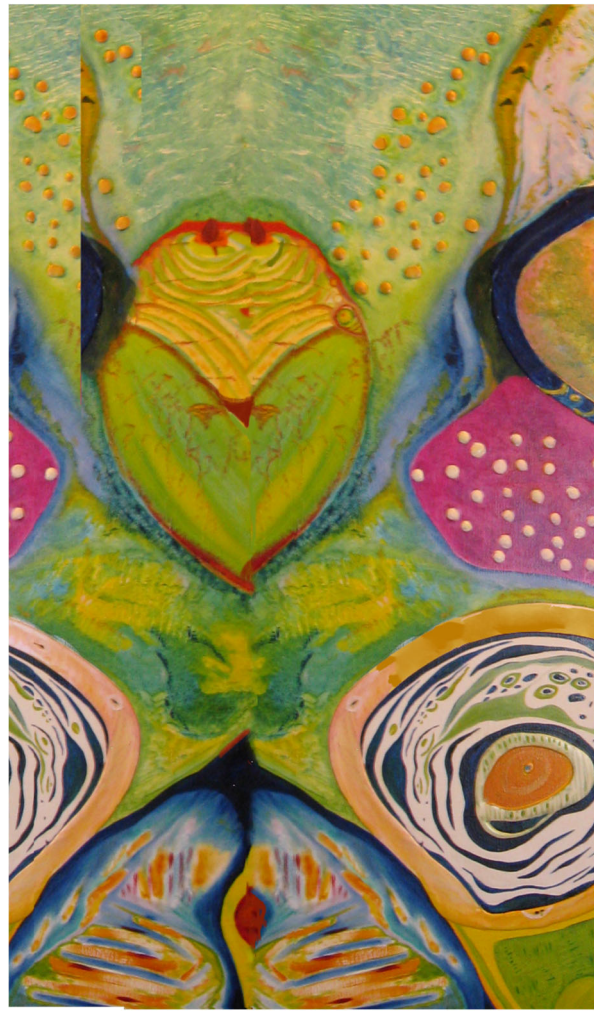
**Original Medium:** Gesso and acrylic on canvas

(Artwork photos below)





FRONT



SIDE



# UBAP SPONSORSHIP DESIGNS FOR FISCAL YEAR 23-24

## 10. Arts Organization: Segerstrom Center for the Arts

### Description:

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is one of the nation's most respected multi-disciplinary cultural institutions. It is Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization. The Center remains committed to supporting artistic excellence and offering unsurpassed experiences to engage the community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring arts-based education and community engagement programs.

**Website:** <https://www.scfta.org/>

**Additional Information:** Boxes #8 & #23

**Artwork:** Segerstrom Center Campus Artwork

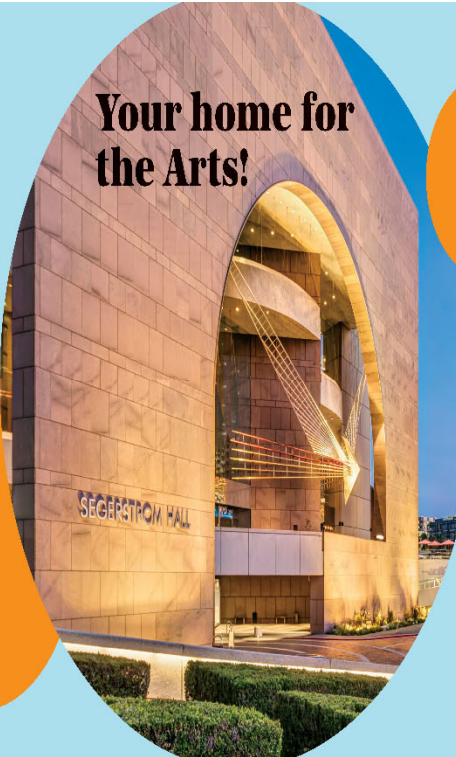
**Graphic Designer:** Chris Alvarez

**Original Medium:** Digital





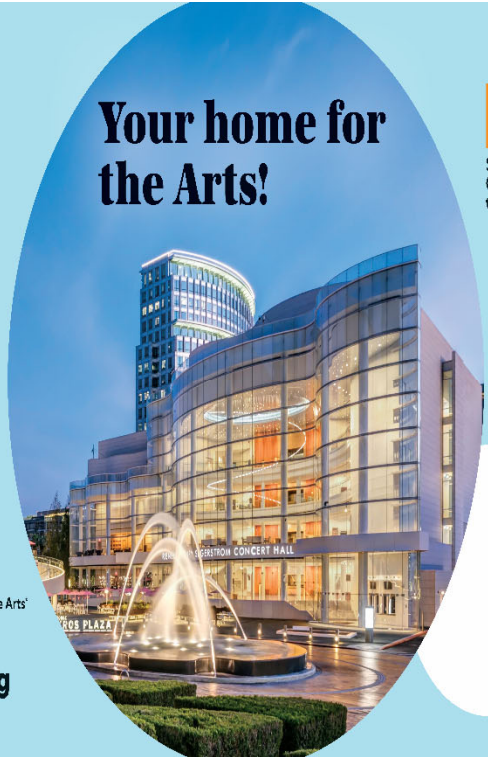
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the Arts!**



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# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-043

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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**TITLE:**

**POET LAUREATE PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT:                      PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff recommendation to review, discuss, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program and Application Process.



## Agenda Report

Arts Commission

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Item #: 24-043

Meeting Date: 02/01/2024

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**TITLE:** POET LAUREATE PROGRAM  
**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**PRESENTED BY:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST  
**CONTACT INFORMATION:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff recommendation to review, discuss, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program and Application Process (Attachment 1).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Artist Laureate Program is part of the Arts & Culture Master Plan **Goal 3.1, Boldly Assert Costa Mesa's "City of the Arts" Stature and Brand, Placing Arts & Culture Front and Center in All That The City Does.**, approved by the City Council in March of 2021.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Artist Laureate Program description in the Arts and Culture Master Plan suggests opening the program to artists from all disciplines. To launch the program, staff recommends beginning with a Poet Laureate Program, as there are already many successful programs and examples to learn from, and the city does not currently have any programming that addresses the literary arts. If successful, staff recommends making the Poet Laureate Program a permanent program. Once an application process is implemented, applicants will be reviewed by a peer panel and then the Arts Commission and chosen to be the City of Costa Mesa's Poet Laureate for a two-year term.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Implement the poet laureate program on a temporary basis and review after the initial 2-year period or; Choose to recommend an alternative and/or rotating art discipline for the program.

### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

### **FISCAL REVIEW:**

No fiscal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends the Arts Commission make edits and recommendations to the new program handbook and application, for implementation in the 23-24 fiscal year, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program.



**POET LAUREATE PROGRAM  
HANDBOOK**  
CITY OF COSTA MESA  
2024



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**OVERVIEW & MISSION.....2**

**CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSIONS.....2**

**HONORARIUM & TERM .....3**

**SCOPE OF WORK .....3**

**EVALUATION & SELECTION PROCESS.....3**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & TIMELINE .....4**

**PANEL REVIEW AND SCORING.....4**

**POET LAUREATE PROGRAM APPLICATION.....5**

**CONTACT INFORMATION .....7**



## POET LAUREATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

### OVERVIEW & MISSION

#### OVERVIEW

The City of Costa Mesa City Council approved an Arts & Culture Master Plan in March of 2021. Goal three (3) of this plan outlines a plan to *“Professionalize and elevate the status of Arts and Culture in City government and to boldly assert Costa Mesa’s ‘City of the Arts’ stature and brand, placing Arts & Culture front and center in all that the City does.”* Part of this larger plan includes the appointment of an Artist Laureate, to be selected on an annual basis with an honorarium and public engagement responsibilities. In the first year of this program, the Poet Laureate Program will be implemented as a pilot program for the Artist Laureate Program.

#### MISSION

To support local artists and to create an opportunity for them to showcase their talents, while contributing to a creative ecosystem in Costa Mesa. The Poet Laureate promotes the literary arts, while also increasing appreciation for the reading and writing of poetry and self-expression.

### CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSIONS

#### ELIGIBILITY & BASIC INFORMATION

The Poet Laureate Program is open to individual practicing poets and is an honorary position with the City of Costa Mesa for two years. Qualifying Applicants must:

1. Have submitted an online application
2. Be at least 18 years of age or older
3. Have lived or worked in Costa Mesa for at least one year
4. Be able to serve a two-year term
5. Be a practicing poet, dedicated to producing poetry (in any form, genre or style) on a regular basis
6. Must have literary works published in journals, online, a full-length or chapbook collection of poetry, or self-published chap/books; or have a resume of spoken word performances or facilitation of writing related events
7. Must have proven track record of community engagement and collaboration, including previous experience hosting events and or teaching and or leading workshops
8. Understand that the audiences will be broad-based and of all ages, and in representing the City’s inclusive, non-partisan stance, must use discretion when acting in the capacity of the City’s Poet Laureate.

## HONORARIUM & TERM

Selected poets shall be compensated for their time and community engagements. The amount shall cover costs for the poet's time spent in creating poems, public speaking engagements and occasionally being available for interviews or photo opportunities to be used for promotional purposes.

- The Poet Laureate's two-year term appointment commences on June 30 and concludes on July 1 (e.g. from June 30, 2024 through July 1, 2026).
- The Poet Laureate will be paid a **\$2,500 stipend per year (\$5,000 total)**.

## SCOPE OF WORK

1. Each selected Poet Laureate will enter into an agreement with the City, and work with City Staff to determine a final scope of work. Poets agree to sign a contract with the City regarding their scope of work. Poets also agree to responsibly handle administrative duties in association with the program.
2. The selected Poet Laureate will offer a minimum of 2 instructional workshops per year
3. Participate in ARTventure in the fall of each year
4. In first year, will be required to present at the next available Arts Commission meeting to introduce yourself and talk about your work as a poet
5. Present at one City Council meeting per year
6. The selected Poet Laureate will also offer a selection of 6-12 poems over the duration of their tenure to display in Poetry Boxes situated throughout Costa Mesa's City Parks.
7. The Poet Laureate fee is an honorarium, and the Poet Laureate may choose to perform additional duties in their work for the City, at their will.
8. If a poetry reading at an official City occasion is one item on the agreed scope of work, the City reserves the right to review the proposed poem(s) beforehand (either their own or the work of another poet(s)) and accept or decline the reading. If the reading is declined, the Poet Laureate will replace the event in their schedule.
9. Poets agree that the City of Costa Mesa may photograph them during their Poet Laureate workshops and projects.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & TIMELINE**

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

The online application opens annually in the first week of April of each year (exact date TBD) and will be open for applications until the end of May (exact date TBD) of each year.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Each applicant must fill out an online application (see paper version on the next page).
- 5 written poetry examples (self-published or published)
- 1 video recording sample of poetry reading or performance of one of the written work samples.
- 500-word proposal of how they would like to engage with the public as the City's Poet Laureate, including audience and engagement strategy, and samples of workshops and or projects that would support the focus or them of their two-year appointment.

### **PANEL REVIEW AND SCORING OF APPLICATIONS**

Submitted applications are reviewed and scored by a peer panel consisting of local and regional artists and arts professionals. The panel will select one application to serve as the Poet Laureate for the two-year term and then be approved by the Costa Mesa Arts Commission at the next scheduled meeting. Arts Commission meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month and begin at 6pm.

### **REVIEW AND SCORING INFORMATION**

- Parks & Community Services staff will begin reviewing applications once the deadline has passed and the application is closed.
- All eligible applications will be forwarded to an external panel of community arts professionals for evaluation and scoring.
- Incomplete applications or applications falsifying information will be deemed ineligible.

### **Aesthetic Criteria:**

The criteria used to select eligible poets shall be evaluated accordingly:

- Do the written or recorded work samples exhibit strong aesthetic merit? Are the works consistently strong? Does the applicant produce poetry on a regular basis?
- Community Involvement: Does the applicant demonstrate a history of involvement and activity within the literary arts?
- Potential for Engagement: Does the proposal support the poet's ability to engage Costa Mesa's citizens in meaningful ways to further the literary arts in our community?

**CITY OF COSTA MESA ♦**

**POET LAUREATE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

♦ *Also available online*

*The role of the Poet Laureate is to represent and promote poetry and literacy in the community they represent. This position is honorary and includes an honorarium for a two-year term.*

**POET INFORMATION**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site URL: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram URL: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Costa Mesa? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over the age of 18?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Please provide a statement of no more than 500 words explaining how you qualify and how you would fulfill this role.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a short biography (required). You may also attach a CV with education, work history, etc. below (optional).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**POETRY INFORMATION**

Original Poems:

*Email or upload one document (Word or PDF) with 5 original poems- please include the title of each poem, the year it was created and a brief background/statement for each one*

Videos of Performances:

*Please provide a link to a performance video posted online or to a shared drive*

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

*Please email or upload a copy of your most current resume or CV (Word or PDF)*

*Include any literary works published in journals, online, a full-length or chapbook collection of poetry, or self-published chap/books; or have a list of spoken word performances or facilitation of writing related events.*

*Also be sure to include any examples of community engagement and collaboration, including previous experience hosting events, organizing, teaching and/or leading workshops, and/or creative community outreach.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

A Poet Laureate honorarium in the amount of \$5,000 will be awarded over a two-year period. Checks will be mailed. In order for a payout, the City will need a W-9 filed. Fill out and email or upload as part of your application.

[W-9 Form](#)

Would you be interested in participating in a brief interview for City of Costa Mesa social media platforms to help promote and bring awareness to the program? Please circle one.

Y or N

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF INSURANCE**

**TBD****ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

\_\_ I have read and understand the requirements that have been provided in the handbook for City of Costa Mesa Poet Laureate Program.

\_\_ I certify that the information contained in this application and attachments are true and correct.

**WAIVER & RELEASE**

I represent that I am the author of and owner of all rights in and to the Artwork and that I have the sole and exclusive right to make within the grant of rights, including but not limited to moral rights, that neither I nor anyone else has any contractual or other arrangements which will interfere with rights herein granted and warrant that the rights herein granted will not infringe on the rights of any third party and that the consent or permission of no other party is required by City in connection with the use of the Artwork. I agree to indemnify and hold City harmless from and against any and all liability, damages, claims and demands of whatever kind and nature, either in law or in equity, which arises or may hereafter arise from the City's use or display of the Artwork or in connection with the breach or alleged breach of my representation and/or warranty made hereunder. I understand and agree that the City may remove my artwork at any time without prior notice. I further acknowledge the City will make an effort to inform me as the artist in advance of the removal of the artwork, but any such removal will not be dependent on advance notice being given.

---

 Print Name

---

 Signature

---

 Date
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Laurette Garner**

City of Costa Mesa

Arts Specialist

[laurette.garner@costamesaca.gov](mailto:laurette.garner@costamesaca.gov)

(714) 754-5322

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in the Poetry Laureate Program. If your application is selected, you will be contacted via email. Please ensure your email address is correctly displayed above.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-044

**Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

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# Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-044

Meeting Date: 02/01/2024

**TITLE:** ARTS AND CULTURE STAFF REPORT  
**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**PRESENTED BY:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST  
**CONTACT INFORMATION:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

## UPDATES:

### ❖ Arts Grants

- Arts Grant Program application is now open! This year we have \$7,500 available for awards, supporting arts projects and artists working in Costa Mesa. Currently, we have received two eligible applications.  
(ACMP: Goal 4. Action 1.1 and 1.2)

### ❖ Free at Segerstrom Center Campus

- Currently rolling out this new program:
- On January 20, 2024, the City shuttled participants from Resilience Orange County, Costa Mesa Unidos and the Senior Center, from City Hall and the Costa Mesa Senior Center, to see The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with the OC Youth Symphony. There were 37 participants and two staffers in attendance.
- Upcoming Opportunities:
  - South Coast Repertory - Two performances in April
  - Philharmonic Society - Two more performances in March and May
  - Pacific Symphony - Two performances in March and June
  - Segerstrom Center for the Arts - Five performances to various shows beginning February until May
- A schedule has been sent to targeted nonprofit organizations. The City will continue to shuttle people to each show and provide free tickets to each participant. Tickets can also be picked up at City Hall when organized in advance by the nonprofit organization.