
THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

AUGUST 1, 2024
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Wondercheck at 6:03 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Lucia.

ROLL CALL

= Present = Absent

Commissioners

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

City Staff

- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
- Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II

*Commissioner Ochoa arrived at 6:06pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS No comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS No comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES

06/06/2024 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

Commissioner Lucia inquired about the adjournment time being 7:57 P.M. and not 8:57 P.M.

Chair Wondercheck clarified public commenter “Scott Fitzgerald” from minutes was actually “Scott Fitzpatrick”.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Mann motioned to approve the June 6, 2024 minutes with the recommended edits/Seconded by Commissioner Derderian.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf, Vice Chair Zuckerman

Motion Carried: 5-0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. ARTS & CULTURE STAFF REPORT

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Ochoa inquired how ArtVenture numbers compared from last year.

Commissioner Derderian highlighted the Pacific Symphony performance at July Concerts in the Park.

OLD BUSINESS

1. REVIEW UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Item went directly to Arts Commission review.

Commissioner Derderian pointed out an inconsistency on page five of the document regarding how often artists can submit designs. suggested accepting multiple submissions but limiting it to one accepted design per year and asked for feedback from other commissioners or Ms. Garner.

Commissioner Mann agreed with the idea of allowing two (2) submissions, but only accepting one (1) per year.

Commissioner Ochoa agreed with Commissioner Derderian and Commissioner Mann's suggested amendments and appreciates the revisions on page six (6) for clarifying sponsorship boxes. Asked if institutions could be provided with a list of local artists and suggested including dimensions for utility boxes on page 14, as information could be useful for artists or designers, despite potential variations.

Commissioner Derderian asked for clarification of what "local artist" refers to. Suggested rewording a sentence about nonprofit fees to something simpler, such as, "Inquire for reduced nonprofit fees for small organizations." Also inquired about fees being used to cover honorariums for other artists, while also requiring the solicitation of a local artist who would receive an honorarium from the city. Sought clarification on this without expressing criticism.

Public Comments: None.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Lucia made a motion to move this item to the next Arts Commission meeting/Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf, Vice Chair Zuckerman

Motion Carried: 5-0

2. REVIEW POET LAUREATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Item went directly to Arts Commission review.

Commissioner Ochoa questioned if the five (5) poets who met qualifications, but not selected received constructive feedback or encouragement to reapply, emphasizing the importance of fostering a positive culture. She also asked if the same panelists

review applicants and if an evaluation rubric is used.

Public Comments: None.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Derderian moved to approve the Poet Laureate Handbook/ Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Chair Wondercheck

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf, Vice Chair Zuckerman

Motion Carried: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FREE AT SEGRESTROM CENTER CAMPUS

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Mann suggested asking large for-profit companies to donate tickets, allowing the council to redirect the funds typically spent on tickets towards supporting artists. She noted that these companies are often required to make charitable contributions.

Chair Wondercheck appreciated the list of organizations receiving tickets and asked if additional local nonprofits could be added to it.

Commissioner Ochoa asked if staff could reach out to the point person to better understand the needs of the communities served, as the free tickets might not always be suitable for them.

Commissioner Lucia asked if they could contact the organization leads to understand the specific needs of the communities they serve, as the free tickets might not always be appropriate.

Commissioner Derderian expressed support for the shift in fund usage to provide transportation for senior center members.

Chair Wondercheck agreed with Commissioner Mann, emphasizing the importance of ticket donations for supporting city programs and institutions, and expressed appreciation to the City of Costa Mesa for facilitating program.

Public Comments: None.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS.

Commissioner Ochoa expressed excitement for this year's Art Venture, thanked City staff for their work, and highlighted the success of last year's 3D category winner, Antonio Kim, who now has an exhibition at a gallery in mid-city LA. She emphasized the significance of the awards in supporting artists' growth and also expressed enthusiasm for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Commissioner Mann discussed graffiti-style artwork seen at Hermosa Beach, noting its extensive coverage on long block walls. She suggested that Costa Mesa has similar blank walls that could benefit from murals, particularly in areas like the west side.

Chair Wondercheck announced an open house for the Arts and Learning Conservatory in Costa Mesa on August 24 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm to showcase a new performing arts space for children and the community. She invited others to attend and mentioned an upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony in October too.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Wondercheck adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

DRAFT