

---

THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

---

APRIL 4, 2024  
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Commissioner Mann.

**ROLL CALL**

= Present    = Absent

**Commissioners**

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

**City Staff**

- Alma Reyes, Deputy City Manager
- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Ashley Thomas, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Lorette Garner, Arts Specialist
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** No comments.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Ochoa:** Honored and privileged to be a juror for the Newport Mesa Unified School District for their Senior Art Show.

**Commissioner Ashendorf:** Highlighted April being Poetry month and the City’s Poet Laureate Program and the Costa Mesa Playhouse play, Art.

**Vice Chair Zuckerman:** recognized Arts Commission work and Poet Laureate program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. MINUTES**

02/01/2024 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Ashendorf made a motion to approve the March 7, 2024 minutes /Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian

**Motion Carried:** 5-0

## 2. APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.  
Discussion ensued regarding utility box art redesign.

Commissioner Ochoa mentioned there is no aesthetic guideline in the handbook.

Chair Wondercheck asked that we implement an aesthetic guideline to the handbook to help future reviews.

Vice Chair Zuckerman agrees to move forward and highlighted that the Commission is in a development phase regarding processes.

Public Comments: None.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Ashendorf moved to approve utility box art design/  
Seconded by Vice Chair Zuckerman.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian

**Motion Carried:** 5-0

## 3. PUBLIC ART DONATION POLICY

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Vice Chair Zuckerman would motion to approve the document as is with the goal and intention that the Commission start to use it and make revisions as needed.

Public Comments: No comments.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Vice Chair Zuckerman moved to approve Public Art Donation Policy/  
Seconded by Commissioner Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian

**Motion Carried:** 5-0

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 1. APPROVAL OF ARTS GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Vice Chair Zuckerman inquired how many applications were received.

Public Comments:

Sean Wehan: Costa Mesa resident; introduced the Givsum Foundation and Songs in the Canyon event. The event includes music from local artists, small art installations, a vendor called Soul Market, food trucks, games, and prizes for kids during the breaks in the music.

Nancy Warzer: Director of Education and Community Engagement for Backhaus Dance highlighted the new opportunity for students to engage with contemporary dance across Costa Mesa middle and high schools.

Jennifer Backhaus: Spoke about the Backhaus Dance background. Shared experience with education and community outreach. Expressed excitement to enhance Costa Mesa's arts community and make dance more accessible.

Levi Prairie: Costa Mesa resident; will be hosting Mother's Day dance at the Women's Club in Costa Mesa with his band, The Tonemen and Aaron Acapella. Event will be open to the community, feature: music, a red carpet, murals by local artists, a stage, and photographers.

Nadine Said: Spoke about *The Art Spread*, a local nonprofit in Orange County that supports artists facing adversity and promotes empathy through art. Invited public to attend a free, family-friendly art fair on September 7 at the Norma Hertzog Community Center.

Vice Chair Zuckerman inquired about the relationship with the request amount and the proposed grant amounts and the Commission were granting the budgeted amount for this program.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Vice Chair Zuckerman moved to approve the Arts Grants for Fiscal Year 2023-24/ Seconded by Commissioner Mann.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Ochoa, Vice Chair Zuckerman, Chair Wondercheck

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Derderian

**Motion Carried:** 5-0

**2. ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

Ms. Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager, and Ms. Alma Reyes, Deputy City Manager, presented.

Commissioner Ochoa inquired about the Show Mobile timeline and opportunity to increase Arts Grants.

Vice Chair Zuckerman inquired about budget comparisons from last year.

Commissioner Ashendorf inquired on the budget timeline for Council review.

Public Comments: No comments.

Item received and filed.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

Ms. Reyes introduced the new Parks and Community Services Director, Brian Gruner.

Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

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

**ADJOURNMENT** Chair Wondercheck adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

**NEXT REGULAR ARTS COMMISSION MEETING: Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**

DRAFT