

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor (At-Large)
Stavros S. Anthony, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 4)
Brian Knudsen (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Diaz (Ward 3)
Cedric Crear (Ward 5)
Michele Fiore (Ward 6)



City Manager Jorge Cervantes
City Attorney Bryan K. Scott
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

November 16, 2022
9:00 AM

32. Discussion for possible action regarding the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission Municipal Arts Plan for FY2023 for public art within the City of Las Vegas - All Wards

Minutes:

STEVE FORD, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, introduced the item.

MAGGIE PLASTER, Deputy Director, REBECCA HOLDEN, Visual Arts Specialist II, and LAURA MACHADO, Visual Arts Specialist II, of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, shared in presenting a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record. The Arts Commission was established in 1987, and it is responsible for encouraging the creation of permanent and temporary public art projects. The 12-member commission meets regularly at 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, excluding July and August. While funding for public art comes from a variety of sources, MS. PLASTER said the focus of this presentation was solely on the Percent for the Arts Fund, which is one percent of the City's annual General Fund Capital Improvement budget. Over the years, the amount has fluctuated considerably, and this year's transfer of \$976,930 is the largest transfer in history. In August of each year, a subcommittee of the Arts Commission meets to decide which projects will move forward to the Arts Commission. The Arts Commission then votes to send those recommendations to the full City Council for approval.

MS. MACHADO stated that over the course of Fiscal Year 2022, the Public Art team has completed five projects funded through Percent for the Arts: AMP Utility Cabinet Painting, Arts District Sculpture, East Las Vegas Community Center Mural, Municipal Courthouse Painting and Symphony Park Garage Public Art. There are also six projects in progress that include: 3rd Street - East Ogden Avenue to East Fremont Street Public Art, AMP Utility Cabinet Painting in Wards 5 and 6, Casino Center Pocket Park Sculpture, Civic Center Plaza Public Art, East Las Vegas Banner and Municipal Courthouse Public Art. She looked forward to coming back to the Council to share the progress.

MAYOR GOODMAN inquired about the RFP (Request for Proposal) process for these projects. MS. MACHADO said typically, an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) is open for 30 days. After that, an RFP is sent out to three of those individuals, who have 30 to 90 days to submit a proposal. These are open to any artist over the age of 18 that are not currently working for the City of Las Vegas. The proposals are then submitted to an evaluation panel and they are selected during a public meeting. Some of the artists are directly selected for certain projects, such as the East Las Vegas Community Center. Interested parties can visit www.artsregistrylas.vegas or e-mail publicart@lasvegasnevada.gov.

MS. HOLDEN said \$975,000 has been allocated for distribution across eight different projects for Fiscal Year 2023, and she provided a brief description of each project.

AMP Utility Cabinet Painting Program – Due to the overwhelming success of this program and consistent community support, the Commission wishes to continue this program with additional locations to be determined.

The Mayor interjected and inquired about NV Energy's involvement in this program, and MS. HOLDEN said staff works in partnership with them and Las Vegas Valley Water District to give artists a legal way to put their art on the cabinets.

Flourish Deux by Denise Duarte – The Arts Commission wishes to work with DENISE DUARTE to re-imagine her 2007 artistic sidewalk designs in the Cultural Corridor. These would be incorporated into the Las Vegas Boulevard street improvement project using a more resilient material called lithocrete.

James Gay III Park – The Arts Commission would like to create a space for artists to honor JAMES GAY III through public art and celebrate the Historic Westside.

Maintenance – The Arts Commission wants to continue the maintenance of the City's collection, which consists of over 1,300 objects that include painted utility cabinets, permanent sculptures in public spaces, murals and artwork within City-occupied buildings.

Maintenance for the Radial Symmetry Sculpture – The sculpture was struck by a vehicle in June, and the artists will restore the sculpture and design artistic bollards to prevent future damage.

Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial Maintenance – Originally installed in 2009, the Arts Commission wishes to continue maintenance to make sure it is the best representation to honor the tremendous sacrifice of law enforcement service members.

Medical District Public Art – The Arts Commission values the creative placemaking efforts of the Medical District and wants to commission multiple site-responsive works of art to enhance the community and create a more livable and walkable space.

Public Art Master Plan – The Arts Commission looks forward to evaluating the progress made in the last decade and using that data to help guide the future of the City's public art program. The new plan will ensure that the

City of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Arts Commission remain at the forefront of innovative, responsible public art leadership.

MAYOR GOODMAN said any quality city has to have a cultural base, and she was proud of the work being done by the Arts Commission. She asked if the public could participate through donations, and CHIEF COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER LISA MORRIS HIBBLER said several art projects have been funded through the Mayor's Fund for Las Vegas LIFE program. Those interested can visit www.mayorsfundlv.org for more information on opportunities to collaborate in arts and culture. The Mayor then asked who pays for the murals that go on privately-owned buildings, and MS. PLASTER said Life is Beautiful is typically involved in the Downtown Las Vegas murals.

As a big fan of the arts, COUNCILMAN CREAR concurred with the Mayor that any great city invests in cultural arts. He said many major cities have art on display from world-class artists, and he would like to explore these options for Las Vegas. This will in turn allow for Las Vegas to be seen as an artist city while helping the local artist community. The Mayor agreed, and spoke of incorporating this with the existing walking tour. She and the Councilman felt Symphony Park would be a great place to start. MS. PLASTER said the new Civic Plaza will have three spaces available for art, and she will work with the Mayor's Fund on bringing in more well-known artists. COUNCILMAN CREAR imagined a few pieces could be loaned or donated to the City.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN gave kudos to MS. PLASTER and her team for the work they are doing, and he said they just completed a walking tour of the Medical District to identify opportunities for public art. He would like to identify other funding sources, such as with private developers, and leverage those funds for public art opportunities.

Motion made by Michele Fiore to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Cedric Crear, Carolyn Goodman, Michele Fiore, Brian Knudsen, Olivia Diaz; Did Not Vote-Stavros Anthony;