



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

DRAFT

Newport Beach Public Library
1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Thursday, April 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

City Arts Commission Members:

Melissa Kandel, Chair
John Blom, Vice Chair
Heather Ignatin, Secretary
Maureen Flanagan, Commissioner
Barbara George, Commissioner
Wayan Kaufman, Commissioner
Vanessa Moore, Commissioner

Staff Members:

Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
Camille Escareal-Garcia, Cultural Arts Assistant

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Melissa Kandel called the City Arts Commission Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Melissa Kandel
Vice Chair John Blom
Secretary Heather Ignatin
Commissioner Barbara George
Commissioner Vanessa Moore

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Maureen Flanagan (excused)
Commissioner Wayan Kaufman (excused)

Staff Present: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager
Camille Escareal-Garcia, Cultural Arts Assistant

Staff Absent: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Kandel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC - Waived

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 202, City Arts Commission Meeting

1. Draft of 03/13/2025 Minutes

Chair Kandel requested edits, changes, or deletions of the minutes. There were none.

B. Consent Calendar Items

2. Financial Report

Review of financial information.

3. Cultural Arts Activities

Monthly review of cultural arts activities from the Library Administrative Office for upcoming Library and City arts events and services.

In response to Commissioner Moore's inquiry on Item No. VI.B.2, Chair Kandel reported there are no remaining funds staff recommended be spent. She advised that the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget calls for less expenditures than FY 2025-26 because of the Sculpture Art Exhibition. She explained that, assuming the increased budget is approved, it would be their first increased budget since at least 2015.

In response to Vice Chair Blom's inquiries, Library Services Manager Lightfoot clarified the FY 2025-26 draft to be presented to the City Council credits the Commission back its unspent FY 2024-25 funds along with additional funds for the Sculpture Art Exhibition. She noted that approval is anticipated. She reported that all sculptors have signed a contract extension for another year.

Cultural Arts Assistant Escareal-Garcia confirmed all sculptors will receive their stipends and staff is working with the Finance Department on the matter. Vice Chair Blom added that was good news.

Chair Kandel opened the item for public comment and there were none.

Motion made by Commissioner Vanessa Moore, seconded by Vice Chair Blom, to accept the Consent Calendar and carried 5-0-0-2 (with Commissioners Flanagan and Kaufman absent)

VII. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Items for Review and Possible Action

4. City Art Maintenance

Staff will provide an update to the City Arts Commission regarding upcoming art maintenance.

Manager Lightfoot reported staff will not have to move money from the professional services portion of their FY 2024-25 budget like previous years, so they will use funds to cover needed overdue maintenance of some sculptures the City is responsible for. She advised that staff have formulated a strategic cleaning plan.

Manager Lightfoot reported the *Marine 1/1 Memorial* sculpture at Castaways Park will be cleaned just before the annual Memorial Day flag ceremony. She noted that the *Ronald Reagan Statue* at Civic Center Park will be cleaned in June just before the Newport Beach Art Exhibition. She advised that the *Sunset Years* statue on Balboa Island will also be cleaned in June just before the height of the busy summer season.

Manager Lightfoot reported it has been years since these three statues were cleaned and the City has performed only bare minimum maintenance to the sculptures for the past several years. She expressed appreciation for the ability to clean the sculptures and extend their lives.

In response to Vice Chair Blom's inquiry, Manager Lightfoot confirmed the City is also responsible for the bench incorporated into the *Sunset Years* statue and it will be refinished as part of this maintenance along with repairs to a damaged rib.

Commissioner Ignatin commended staff for moving forward on this important, restorative cleaning project and said it was very smart to time the cleaning with important community events. Secretary Ignatin added it will be appreciated by Newport Beach residents.

In response to Commissioner Moore's inquiries, Manager Lightfoot clarified the restoration work will be done unobtrusively by a veteran crew who has performed this work in the past.

Cultural Arts Assistant Escareal-Garcia clarified the *Sunset Years* cleaning will happen in a studio while the bench is being repaired for better efficiency. She noted that it will have minimal public impact. She explained that the restoration architects recommended every two years for a deep cleaning with *Sunset Years* needing more regular attention due to its proximity to the water.

Manager Lightfoot confirmed it has been four years since the last cleaning for the sculptures.

Chair Kandel opened the item for public comment and there were none.

Chair Kandel received and filed the report.

5. Art Week Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Chair Kandel will assign City Arts Commissioners to the Art Week Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Chair Kandel reported that Commissioner Moore proposed a full Art Week in 2026 at a recent meeting and planning would need to start now to properly launch this new event. She expressed interest in starting an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to explore the development of such an event. She noted that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be comprised of herself, Secretary Ignatin, and Commissioner Moore.

Chair Kandel opened the item for public comment and there were none.

Chair Kandel received and filed the report.

B. Monthly Reports

6. Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Vice Chair Blom, Commissioner Flanagan, Commissioner Moore

Commissioner Moore remarked that there is nothing to report.

In response to Commissioner Moore's inquiry, Cultural Arts Assistant Escareal-Garcia reported she and Library Services Director Melissa Hartson went to view the unnamed painting in question, observed slight damage, and are exploring options. She advised that they are also investigating if the frame is repairable or if it needs to be replaced.

7. Music and Live Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Chair Kandel, Secretary Ignatin, Commissioner Flanagan

Chair Kandel reported there is a new version of the proposal for a poet the Subcommittee met with.

8. Cultural Arts Grants Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Vice Chair Blom, Commissioner Kaufman, Commissioner Moore

Chair Kandel advised that this Subcommittee will be sunset now that the grants have been awarded.

9. Newport Beach Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Vice Chair Blom, Commissioner George, Commissioner Moore

Commissioner Moore reported they have started to review art for the exhibition. She announced that they will have a balloon arch like in 2024 and will increase the amount of signage from past years leading patrons to the Sculpture Garden. She reported they are looking into moving the musician from the 2024 event into the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park with a livelier four-piece band to play in front of the exhibition at a cost of \$1,000.

10. Public Relations and Marketing Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Chair Kandel, Vice Chair Blom, Secretary Ignatin

Secretary Ignatin reported there was a meeting, and public relations strategies were discussed.

11. Sculpture Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Chair Kandel, Vice Chair Blom, Secretary Ignatin

Chair Kandel remarked there was nothing current to report.

In response to Jim Mosher's inquiry, Chair Kandel advised that the Subcommittee should be kept active and not sunset because next year is the Sculpture Exhibition's 10th anniversary.

In response to a series of inquiries, Chair Kandel agreed that they can discuss a photography contest. She clarified she does not intend to sunset the Subcommittee, noting that there can always be potential contract issues to discuss and be resolved.

12. Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Commissioner Kaufman

Commissioner Kaufman was absent so there was no report.

13. Newport Beach Arts Foundation Liaison

Commissioner Moore

Chair Kandel reported the meeting was rescheduled to April 23rd so there is no report.

14. Historical Resources Liaison

Vice Chair Blom

Vice Chair Blom reported an extensive recognition of the old-style cottages in Corona del Mar is planned, and work is underway to identify one to focus upon, with options having been cut from 100 to six. He reported details of the six houses will be presented at an upcoming Homeowners Association meeting and the attendees will be able to vote for the best house. He announced that Rothchild's Restaurant has donated a \$250 gift certificate, but it will not be announced in advance.

In response to an inquiry, Vice Chair Blom confirmed, due to privacy concerns, permission has been given by the six homeowners to have pictures of their homes displayed and histories publicly detailed.

Vice Chair Blom reported that several members attended a speaker series at the Rivian South Coast Theater in the City of Laguna Beach and reported the series has been very well done discussing the history of Laguna Beach.

In response to Chair Kandel's inquiry, Vice Chair Blom confirmed the Commission has not received any requests from the group.

VIII. CITY ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

Commissioner Moore reported Arts Orange County President Rick Stein will be the guest juror for the Newport Beach Art Exhibition.

Chair Kandel recommended encouraging the *Los Angeles Times* and *Daily Pilot* to attend the exhibition.

Cultural Arts Assistant Escareal-Garcia confirmed she will reach out to those newspapers.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

X. **ADJOURNMENT** - 5:18 P.M.

Chair Kandel adjourned the meeting.

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