

**Public Arts Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**APPROVED**

**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, December 8, 2016  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Chair Sheffer

**ROLL CALL:**

	<u>Present This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Unexcused Absences</u>
Melanie Brenner		3	1	
Joshua Edmundson	x	3	1	
Mara Gladstone	x	4		
Alfonso Murray	x	4		
Bonnie Ruttan	x	4		
Ann Sheffer, Chair	x	4		
Thomas Yanni, Vice Chair	x	3	1	

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Vice Chair Yanni, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for December 8, 2016; unanimously carried, 6/0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Commissioner Ruttan, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2016; carried unanimously 6/0

**A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. None

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. None

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. None

**D. LEGISLATIVE**

4. MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE "DESERT X" PROPOSAL FOR A TEMPORARY SCULPTURE INSTALLATION BY HANK WILLIS THOMAS AT JAMES O. JESSIE DESERT HIGHLAND UNITY CENTER AS PART OF THE 2017 DESERT BIENNIAL ART EXHIBITION; AND APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR THE SCULPTURE INSTALLATION AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH IN PALM SPRINGS.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review "Desert X" Sculpture Presentation and adopt a resolution of the Public Arts Commission making a recommendation to City Council for consideration.

Elizabeta Betinski, Desert X Executive Director – Presented for Desert X, also present was Ms. Marianne Falk, Managing Director. Ms. Betinski gave an overview of the temporary sculpture installation for the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.



**PROPOSAL FOR DESERT X**

Hank Willis Thomas' piece appropriates the photovoltaic panel as sculptural form and supportive framework for a text piece rendered in neon. Incorporating an object whose shape is dictated by its functional role in harnessing and converting the sun's power, the piece juxtaposes this with text SOL - Spanish for Sun - to conceptually foreground the relationship between language and object, and highlight the connection between the Anthropocene - an epoch that defines a time when human activity began having the dominant influence on the environment, and Ecology, a study of interactions among organisms and their environment.

"SOL" (two possible renderings pictured below) would be installed on the grounds of the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center, in accordance to the community's use of the grounds. With "SOL," the artist questions our consumption of energy but also proposes a solution that would be of benefit to humanity and the environment - in that regard, the word SOL does not only refer to the main energy source for our planet, the sun, but also, in a play of words where "sol" can be read to sound as "soul," the viewers are encouraged to connect with their own source of power.



Commissioner Gladstone – asked if there are any provisions in case of potential vandalism; there may be something placed around the piece to protect it, however, also do not want it to be alienating; it should be approachable. Any costs incurred for repair(s) will be the responsibility of Desert X.

Commissioner Gladstone would also like to have on-going photographs taken of the piece (beginning with installation) for posterity; especially if the City considers purchasing the piece.

Commissioner Murray – is not aware of any vandalism of artwork that has happened at the site; also, is this what the community wants? Ms. Betinski has been meeting with Jarvis Crawford, the community center's manager; the community wants to be involved with the project.

Commissioner Edmundson – likes that the solar panels will collect the energy and the piece will be lit at night; Hot Purple Energy will be working on the solar panels.

Vice Chair Yanni – if the piece is going to stay lit all night it would probably be best to not have it face a residential area.

Chair Sheffer – need to make sure it will not be dangerous if the kids are climbing on it.

There has been no discussion regarding keeping the piece after the exhibit is closed. Ms. Betinski advised that any sale would be handled through their production company; Desert X would recoup their costs; the cost of the sculpture would be negotiated with the artist.

It was also requested that the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission be represented in marketing/advertising material; permission was granted to use the Public Arts Commission logo.

The exhibit will end on April 30; the piece should be uninstalled within a week and will be shipped to New York.

A “WHEREAS” will be added to the Resolution stating that Desert X has presented this project at multiple meetings of the public arts commission and it was approved at today’s meeting.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Gladstone, seconded by Commissioner Edmundson, to approve a recommendation to the city council approving the “Desert X” proposal for a temporary sculpture installation by Hank Willis Thomas at James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center as part of the 2017 desert biennial art exhibition; and approve funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the sculpture installation and educational outreach in Palm Springs; unanimously carried, 6/0

#### E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 5. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2016-17 Programming

- 1) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show Update - The prospectus has been released; has also gone out to numerous art organizations and published in their newsletters; it is available on-line. Show schedule:

P.S. Annual Juried Art Show 2017	
Show Runs	Friday, February 3-25
Entries Due	Monday, January 30
Judging	Tuesday, January 31
Declined Artwork Pick-up	Wednesday, February 1
Hang Show	Wednesday-Thursday, February 1-2
Show Begins / Reception	Friday, February 3
Show ends	Saturday, February 25
Artwork Pick-up	Sunday, February 26 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Chair Sheffer – would like the commission to invite student groups to view the exhibition; last year artists were available to speak to the students; there was also a field trip to the upper desert to see the works of Noah Purifoy.

- 2) All Valley Public Arts Meeting; Next Event Date – the commission discussed rescheduling this meeting to sometime in the spring.

6. Education Outreach – 2016-17 Programming

- 1) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Art Competition and Exhibition, January 2017; discuss Jurying dates and Show Logistics.

Commissioner Murray – the committee will be meeting on Saturday, December 10 – the exhibit is currently scheduled as follows: Opening reception and awards presentation will be held at St. Paul of the Desert Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 15, 2017, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Artwork will be on display at the Palm Springs Public Library from January 17 through February 11, 2017

**MOTION:** by Chair Sheffer, seconded by Commissioner Gladstone, to allocate \$400 for awards, unless a sponsor(s) is secured; unanimously carried 6/0

- 2) Report on Art Demonstration at Palm Springs Art Museum

Commissioner Murray – reported on the Inglewood Guys and Dolls Square Dance; this was a free pop-up performance, which was held at the Palm Springs Art Museum on November 10. It was well received, well attended and a lot of fun. Have about three more opportunities to have pop-up events at the museum; would like to schedule a labyrinth walk.

Commissioner Gladstone – recommended meeting at the subcommittee level regarding the museum pop-up events. Commissioner Gladstone advised that the museum will need event dates approximately three months ahead for marketing/advertising; would like to have one or two event dates set at subcommittee for discussion at the January meeting.

Ms. Henning – if there are items the commission would like on the January agenda, please have them in for agenda publication by December 30.

7. Special Projects

Discuss Study Session Dates and Review Agenda Topics

Commissioner Murray – has submitted a parade application to the Black History Committee; would like to know what the commission thinks about participating; Chair Sheffer does not think the commission will have enough people for a parade but would like to be represented, i.e., an art presence.

Possible topics for January Study Session: educational programs, including museum pop-up events and art tours (field trips) with school(s), including a discussion on transportation; outreach, social media; Commission of new public artwork; maintenance and installation of City art; budget adjustments.

There was a brief discussion as to when the Study Session should be held; Study Session will be held January 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m., immediately following the regular meeting. If commissioners have a Study Session agenda item, please have them in for agenda publication by December 30.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Gladstone – would like to review the current available installation sites list at the Study Session; would like the list in advance of the meeting.

Vice Chair Yanni – Thanked Commissioner Edmundson for his many years of service to the commission. He will be missed.

Commissioner Edmundson – Wish you all a fond farewell.

Chair Sheffer – would like a re-cap list of upcoming events prior to the January meeting. Commissioner Gladstone would like to see a re-cap or continuing calendar that can be continually updated.

**REPORTS OF DIRECTOR/STAFF:**

1. Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Project – Rededication and Educational Day Project Update. Educational event will take place tomorrow (Dec 9) at Victoria Park; celebration will begin at 1:00 p.m.
2. Day of Remembrance Sculpture – Ms. Henning gave a brief update; the commission had discussed contributing up to \$5,000 for the design of the base of the sculpture. The TDOR group still needs to offer the piece to the City for the public art collection and the donation will need City Council Approval. This donation is still in process at the TDOR committee level. The piece has been completed; however, there has been no contact from the committee with City staff.
3. South Palm Canyon Bridge – this project is still on-going; there will be a public meeting held early in 2017; (widening project).
4. Vista Chino Bridge – this project is still on-going; (new bridge).
5. Ramon Road Bridge aesthetics – the aesthetics have been created by Philip K. Smith, III; the bridge project may be completed in the next 3-5 years; (widening project).

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:57 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., a Study Session will immediately follow the Regular Meeting at 3:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California. Adjournment unanimously approved by a Motion of the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2016; unanimously carried.



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Paula Jean Sweet  
Economic Development Program Assistant