

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



**MINUTES
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, January 14, 2016
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair Sheffer

ROLL CALL:

	<u>Present This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joshua Edmundson	x	4	1	
Mara Gladstone	x	4	1	
Bonnie Ruttan	x	4	1	
Amy Sand	x	5		
Ann Sheffer, Chair	x	5		
Thomas Yanni, Vice Chair	x	5		

ALSO PRESENT: Lauri Aylaian, Director, Community & Economic Development
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 Thursday, January 14, 2016; unanimously carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rob Piepho – 16 year resident; had been asked to help start a new magazine dedicated not only to public art, but also events happening in the City; the first issue of Palm Springs Art magazine is complete; will be issued quarterly. Commissioner Sand would like additional copies of the magazine to have on display at the Annual Juried Art Show. Also, the commission is always happy to receive materials such as art publications to have available to hand out during the art show.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Vice Chair Yanni, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2015 with the correction: Edwin Ramoran (for correct spelling of last name); unanimously carried

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: None

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. None

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. Public Arts Event Proposal: *Desert X: Desert Exhibition of Art*

Susan Davis, Founder & President, Desert Biennial/Editorial Director, the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Endorsement and Project Partnership Approval from the Commission

Also presenting with Ms. Davis was Elizabeta Betinski, Desert X Executive Director

This event will be a 2-3 month art exhibit that will take place throughout the Coachella Valley. The event will garner national and international recognition for Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley as a contemporary art venue. The concept is to have artists come to Coachella Valley during the course of the next year to choose sites with the help of their curator, and develop projects that will amplify and focus attention on the environment, socioeconomic issues, environmental issues, and political issues.

The themes and locations of the inaugural exhibition to be held from February through April of 2017 (during Coachella Fest) will be chosen to engage surrounding communities, other Valley organizations, visitors and students, through works that respond to environmental, social and cultural conditions specific to the Valley, while also focusing attention on the creative energy of the participating artists and their works.

Some of the locations include, but not limited to, the Palm Springs Art Museum, wild desert locations, date farms, the Ariel Tramway, empty storefronts or mid-century modern homes.

Budget (attached) is \$2.85 Million – 53% Artist Fees, 17.5% Curatorial Staff, 17% Marketing and 12.5% educational Programs.

Commissioner Sand – would like to do everything we can to be a participating partner.

Commissioner Edmundson – this is the type of project that we advocate for; looking forward to participating.

Commissioner Gladstone – glad to hear this will be shining a light on everything happening here.

Vice Chair Yanni – looking forward to participate; suggested Ms. Davis attend the next Valley-wide art meeting; would like to participate in an artist panel.

Commissioner Ruttan – fabulous concept and looking forward to participating in any way possible; would be nice to tie this in with our Annual Juried Art Show.

MOTION: by Chair Sheffer, second by Commissioner Gladstone to create a *Desert X: Desert Exhibition of Art* Subcommittee; Commissioners Edmundson, Yanni and Gladstone volunteered (Vice Chair Yanni will Chair the subcommittee); unanimously carried

Handouts/materials are attached hereto and made a part of the record of these Minutes.

3. Discuss Project Partnership with the Sun-up Rotary Club for the Sixth Annual Chalk Art Festival to be held March 12, 2016
RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and make recommendation regarding funding contribution and project partnership approval from the Commission

Ms. Henning -- The commission has partnered with Rotary on this event from 2012-2014 at which time the commission went through a bit of restructuring. There are different participation levels ranging from \$175 up to \$5,000. The commission has also been invited to help jury this event. This year the event will be held in the Palm Springs High School parking lot.

The Cathedral City Arts Commission will also be participating at a platinum sponsorship level (\$3,000); they will also have commissioners present to help with jurying event.

Discussion:

Commissioner Sand – recommend that the commission provide an award for the professional artists as well as the students. This would be a good opportunity to be a co-presenter with the Tribe.

Commissioner Edmundson – will the festival still be able to happen without our backing since the last time we helped with funding it was \$15,000; the Palm Springs Arts Commission should be presenters, odd that we would support our community less than Cathedral City; \$5,000 is a third of what was spent two years ago.

Vice Chair Yanni – in agreement with Commissioner Edmundson

MOTION: by Chair Sheffer, second by Commissioner Edmundson to sponsor the Best in Show award in the amount of \$5,000 (½ for professionals and ½ for students) and that the award be presented as the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission award and it be presented by the Mayor who participates in this event and is a big supporter of arts education; all commissioners volunteered to jury this event depending on availability; unanimously carried

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Public Arts Event Proposal: City Seats™ Palm Springs, 2016-17
Provide Project Update on City Seats™ Palm Springs and Review Request for Project Endorsement and Partnership.
RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Endorsement and Project Partnership Approval from the Commission.

MOTION: by Commissioner Edmundson, second by Commissioner Gladstone, to accept the request for endorsement by the Mid-Century Modern City Seats™ Public Arts Event; with clarification that the endorsement does not waive any required fees. The motion reflects the bullet point recommendations as described in Jeff Weyant's letter to the Commission of November 29, 2015, excluding bullet point #6. (Letter attached hereto and made a part of the record of this Motion); unanimously carried

5. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2015-16 Programming
17TH Annual Juried Art Show, February 1-27, 2016. Review Prospectus, Important Dates and Gallery Volunteer Schedule
RECOMMENDATION: Receive Verbal Subcommittee Report and Give Direction to Staff Regarding Composition of Jury.

Ms. Henning reported: The prospectus has been sent out

Art Show Schedule:

Show Preparation	February 1-4, 2016
Show Runs	February 5-27, 2016
Entries Due	Monday, February 1
Judging	Tuesday, February 2
Declined Artwork Pick-up	Wednesday, February 3
Hang Show	Wednesday-Thursday, February 3 & 4
Show Begins/Reception	Friday, February 5
Show Ends	Saturday, February 27
Artwork Pick-up	Sunday, February 28 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Ms. Henning reminded the commission that during the duration of the show it has always been asked that commissioners volunteer to sit the gallery at least one day; promote the public arts commission and the work that is being done; it is also a good way to interact with the public; a schedule was distributed for sign-up.

Chair Sheffer would like to know how many are available to jury the art show on February 2. If we designate three commissioners we will not have to post an agenda according to the Brown Act.

Commissioner Sand – has scheduled the day off work to jury the show – in the past all commissioners have been present as it was always agendized as a February meeting.

Commissioner Ruttan – has always understood that the commission as a whole, in conjunction with the meeting, juried the show and conducted the meeting; all commissioners participate; there are commissioner awards and you would not be able to do that if you are not there. The prospectus has been widely distributed throughout the Coachella Valley.

MOTION: by Commissioner Sand, second by Commissioner Edmundson, a Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. for the sole purpose of jurying the art show; one vote will be given to each commissioner in attendance for Commissioner Choice Awards, those commissioners will also vote for any commissioner not in attendance. There will also be a Regular Meeting at the regularly scheduled time, Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 2:00 pm.; unanimously carried

6. Selection of Study Session Date and Agenda Topics Including Potential Meeting Time Change
Review Possible Study Session Dates, Location and Agenda Items to Include Discussion of Possible Permanent Time Change for Regularly Scheduled Commission Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct Staff as Appropriate

Chair Sheffer recommended that the Study Session be held following the Regular Meeting on March 10, 2016; Agenda topics will be decided at the regular February meeting.

MOTION: By Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Edmundson that the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission schedule a Study Session to be held after the regular March meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m.

D. LEGISLATIVE:

7. **MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ART MURAL APPLICATION BY DIANE STEWART FOR AN EXISTING MURAL ON THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT 2481-2483 NORTH PALM CANYON DRIVE (CASE 15-003 MUR) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY SECTION 5.81 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND SECTIONS 93.20.00 & 93.20.03 OF THE PALM SPRINGS ZONING CODE.**

RECOMMENDATION: Review Art Mural Application #15-003 and Adopt a Resolution of the Public Arts Commission Making a Recommendation to City Council for Consideration.

Glenn Mlaker, Associate Planner, City of Palm Springs Planning Department, briefly reported – Previously the City had viewed this mural as a sign until the mural ordinance was adopted in 2014. The mural was reviewed by the Architectural Advisory Committee, who recommended approval.

The Commission is in favor of leaving the mural in place.

MOTION: By Commissioner Gladstone, second by Vice Chair Yanni to recommend approval of the mural to Planning Commission and City Council; unanimously approved

E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Special Projects Report by Chair Sheffer

Chair Sheffer prepared and distributed a summary of actions taken by the Commission in 2015.

Chair Sheffer also distributed copies of an article from Palm Springs Life (Summer 2015).

Copies were also distributed of the Public Art Map, which is created by the Commission/City of Palm Springs and was used in a Chamber of Commerce publication.

Chair Sheffer moved to create a subcommittee to work on a “book” on the restoration of the Hunt Totem Pole; Ms. Aylaian advised Chair Sheffer that this item was not on the Agenda for action, this would not be an appropriate time for a vote. This item will be reported on in Reports of Staff; if Commissioners would like something more discussed or action taken they may make that request during Commissioner Comments.

Chair Sheffer would like a social media presence; would like to write an RFP and hire a web developer or social media “person” to hire on a contract.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Commissioner Sand – has been asked by the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center to come to another community meeting to discuss further what the ideas are regarding the mural. Would like to find out what the community would like to do in regards to archiving, preserving and/or fund-raising, etc.

Commissioner Edmundson – has concerns on the reinstallation of the Totem Pole. It would again sit where it might get hit by sprinklers; is also concerned about the elements, i.e., sun, heat and rain damage; knows that people in that community feel very strongly about the Totem Pole. There is a lot of discussion that needs to happen before the reinstallation and need to be sensitive to what everyone wants. This item will be agendized for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Edmundson advised that the firemen are not happy with the placement of the Barone piece *Our Hero* at the Fire Station; would like to reopen the discussion as to whether this is the most appropriate place for this installation; would like to see this piece closer to where children are. This item will be agendaized for the next regular meeting.

Vice Chair Yanni – would like the website and phone app agendaized for discussion at the Study Session; would like mid and long range planning on Study Session Agenda.

Commissioner Ruttan – attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance celebration; it was a lovely evening; glad we will be helping with this sculpture. Attended the City Council Study Session, it was advised that Wessman is only required to pay half of what should be paid for public art fees on the downtown development.

REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER/STAFF:

1. Staff – Public Art Sculpture Relocation; the John F. Kennedy Bust was installed and a rededication ceremony took place at the new site at the Palm Springs International Airport.
2. Staff – Hunt Family Totem Pole Restoration Project Update – photos were shown; Chari Godakanda (The Studio) has over 1,000 photographs that were taken during the entire restoration process; Mr. Godakanda will continue to work on this project through the reinstallation process. Chair Sheffer requested Commissioner Edmundson to write the text for the “book”; Commissioner Gladstone volunteered to proof read.
3. Jungle Red Sculpture Repair Update – the damaged portion of the sculpture has been removed from the site; once the contract is fully-executed we will begin the repair process.
4. Budget Report by Director – Lauri Aylaian reported on the Budget; Ms. Aylaian would like the commission to keep the budget in mind as you think about your short and long term goals.
5. Website Update and Press Release Information from Director – Ms. Aylaian advised the commission that commissions do not issue press releases on behalf of themselves; the City issues press releases based on items they believe are of importance to all the residents. They must be of city-wide importance.

ADJOURNMENT: The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 4:18 p.m. to a Special Meeting, Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., at Desert Art Center, 550 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California.

Adjournment unanimously approved by a Motion of the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission this 14th Day of January, 2016; unanimously carried.

Paula Jean Sweat
Economic Development Program Assistant