

Public Arts Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

APPROVED



MINUTES  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2017  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Sheffer

**ROLL CALL:**

	Present This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2016/2017 Excused Absences	FY 2016/2017 Unexcused Absences
Melanie Brenner	x	4	1	
Mara Gladstone	x	5		
Alfonso Murray	x	5		
Bonnie Ruttan	x	5		
Ann Sheffer, Chair	x	5		
Thomas Yanni, Vice Chair	x	4	1	

**ALSO PRESENT:** David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager  
Jennifer Henning, Arts and Special Projects Coordinator

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Brenner, second by Vice Chair Yanni, to approve Public Arts Commission Agenda for January 12, 2017; unanimously carried, 6/0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Darcy Carozza, P.S. Dance Festival – March 2-4, 2017

Currently working on dance festival for Palm Springs; provided update on upcoming event: beginning on Thursday, March 2, and running through Saturday, March 4, P.S. Dance Festival will offer multiple days of professional and pre-professional dance programming, with the Annenberg Theater at the Palm Springs Art Museum and the Helene Galen Performing Arts Center at Rancho Mirage High School as performance venues; acclaimed dance companies and artistically gifted instructors; students will enjoy outstanding educational opportunities and join with dance enthusiasts to delight in captivating and wide-ranging dance programming. Over 200 students are enrolled; there will be a free performance on Thursday, March 2, at Palm Springs VillageFest. A fund-raising packet was distributed to all commissioners.

David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D., City Manager – David Ready conveyed from City Council (regarding Desert X), that the City has already sponsored PS RESORTS in the amount of \$25,000 that was designated for, and given to, Desert X

for their event; at this time if the commission would still like to donate an additional \$25,000 it would need to go back to City Council for approval; also would like the commission to help guide PS RESORTS in securing an art piece(s) in Palm Springs.

David Ready advised the commission that the meeting on the downtown park has been delayed to January 25; the final design will be addressed; Council may ask for modifications to the design so there will be additional choices; this may result in a joint meeting of the City Council, Arts Commission, Architectural Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation; the joint meeting will take place at the Convention Center. There was a brief discussion regarding the Aluminaire House and the future layout of the park and sculpture garden areas.

David Ready – City Council will be discussing a memorial to fallen officers Jose “Gil” Vega and Lesley Zerebny; City Council will be asking the commission for their involvement; additional funds will be available for this project from the general fund; the commission would be the lead on the project.

Interviews will be scheduled for the vacant commission seat.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** by Vice Chair Yanni, second by Commissioner Gladstone, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2016; carried unanimously 6/0

#### **A. PRESENTATIONS**

1. None

#### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

2. None

#### **C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Community Outreach and Publicity – 2016-17 Programming
  - 1) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Show – February 3-25, 2017. Review gallery volunteer schedule and jurying dates; and 2) Review upcoming outreach events schedule.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive verbal subcommittee report and Staff update

Commissioner Ruttan – reported briefly on the meeting with Ms. Henning and Desert Art Center. The art panels have had some restoration and are beautiful and ready for this year’s show. The Palm Springs High School string quartet will be performing at the reception.

Staff will provide all commissioners with an email version of the invitation. Commissioner Choice selections will take place on Wednesday, February 1, from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM.

Commissioners were requested to review the volunteer schedule and advise Staff of the date/time they will be available to staff the exhibit.

4. Education Outreach – 2017 Programming
  - 1) Review Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Art Competition and Exhibition: Jurying dates, show location and reception; 2) update on next Art Demonstration at Palm Springs Art Museum, possible dates and programming.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive verbal subcommittee report and Staff update



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
*"Excellence In Art" Student Contest*  
Student Art Competition and Exhibition

City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission  
High School Arts Competition  
January 17 - February 11, 2017

**"Excellence In Art" Student Art Competition**

The Palm Springs Public Arts Commission in partnership with the Palm Springs Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee is asking Palm Springs Unified School District High School Students to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Excellence In Art" Juned Student Exhibition.

"Excellence In Art" is a juried exhibition providing an opportunity for area High School students to reflect upon Dr. King's life, philosophy and impact on the Civil Rights movement. The contest is designed to challenge students to think about civil rights, diversity and how they can continue the work of Dr. King in their own way.

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to create and submit one (1) original artwork per student, in a medium of their choosing, accompanied by an essay of 200 words or less.

*Excellence In Art* invites artists to further the conversation, through art and the written word, which responds to the issues and philosophies raised by Dr. King's work. Through creative expression, the insights and relationships that emerge from this constructive dialogue will affirm the role of art in imagining and realizing a more equitable society and the positive impact that Dr. King's life has had in present day America.

All contest entries are required to be accompanied by an essay and official completed entry form.

**AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Opening reception and awards presentation

Sunday, January 15, 2017

1:30-3:30 p.m.

St. Paul of the Desert Episcopal Church

125 W. Alameda

Palm Springs, CA 92262

All students, families, friends, teachers and school administrators are invited.

The awards presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Art Competition and Exhibition will be on display at the Palm Springs Public Library beginning Tuesday, January 17, and closing Saturday, February 11.

If commissioners would like to jury the exhibit, artwork will be available for viewing on Friday, January 13, 4:00 PM, at City Hall. Contact Ms. Henning to be let in the building as City Hall will be closed.

Update on next Art Demonstration at Palm Springs Art Museum: A Labyrinth Walk will be the next event at the Palm Springs Art Museum and will be held Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murray will work on details which will be forthcoming.

The commission will work on event planning at the museum; materials need to be prepared well in advance to promote upcoming art demonstrations.

Commissioner Gladstone – would like to consider bringing Artist Paul Pescador to the museum for a pop-up event; not necessarily for a performance, but to demonstrate how he creates the objects for his performances.

*Artist Paul Pescador – is a contemporary artist who works in film, photography and performance; he was born in Indio and now lives and works in Los Angeles. He is best known for his playful photographic use of color and composition, and for his short film narratives that follow both personal experience and fiction.*

Chair Sheffer – if we are going to consider this option, would like Commissioner Gladstone to see if Mr. Pescador is available on March 16<sup>th</sup> or April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Gladstone – The education subcommittee will work on programming for these two dates and get them on calendar at the museum; need to finalize programs with participating artists.

Commissioner Ruttan – facilitated the Artists in Action program at the museum for many years; at the time it was a “daytime” program, however, our Thursday evening pop-up events would be a great time to do something like the Artists in Action program; possibly have various artists around the museum creating life drawings; visitors could watch artists (possibly artists with models) as they work.

Commissioner Yanni – has more interest in focusing on interactive community programs rather than curatorial.

Chair Sheffer – would like the subcommittee to meet with Leonardo Bravo, (Palm Springs Art Museum, Director of Education and Public Programs).

#### **COMMISSIONER GLADSTONE – LEFT AT 2:45**

Ms. Henning – reported on “Art for Kids Day” being held at the Desert Art Center in conjunction with the Palm Springs Unified School District. Information/Press Release:

**Media Contact:**

James Kampas  
Desert Art Center  
(310) 701-3797  
[press@desertartcenter.org](mailto:press@desertartcenter.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Desert Art Center’s Middle School Art Project Providing Free Art Classes to PSUSD Students for the 5th Year**

**Our First “Art for Kids Day” will Take Place on Feb. 12, 2017 to Raise Funds for Education Outreach Programs**

Palm Springs, CA (1-12-17) – 40 Palm Springs Unified School District middle school students are expected to arrive at the Desert Art Center on Saturday, Jan. 21, eager to begin the first of four consecutive Saturday art classes in clay, drawing, watercolor, or printmaking, as part of the Desert Art Center’s Middle School Art Project. This age group was targeted as many of the school art classes have been cut due to funding. The art instructors are all juried members of the Desert Art Center and have been teaching these classes for the past five years.

The classes will take place from 9 AM-4 PM on Saturdays Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & Feb. 11, 2017.

From 1-4 pm, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, the Desert Art Center will be sponsoring “Arts for Kids Day” to raise awareness and money for the Desert Art Center’s educational outreach programs. The event will be at the Desert Art Center, 550 N. Palm Canyon Drive in the Frances Stevens Park.

Louisa Castrodale, PSUSD Visual and Performing Arts Specialist, is the honorary chairperson of the event. Activities will include: refreshments, live entertainment, silent art auction, raffle and arts & craft activities for the whole family. More than 30 DAC artists have donated their artwork for the silent art auction, and there will be a raffle comprised of certificates and gifts from local merchants.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, children and under 16 free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is co-sponsored by the Palm Springs Art Museum and the Palm Springs Unified School District.

For more information about the MSAP classes or to purchase tickets for “Arts for Kids Day” visit the DAC website at [www.desertartcenter.org](http://www.desertartcenter.org).

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Brenner, second by Vice Chair Yanni, to approve sponsorship of “Art for Kids Day” at Desert Art Center in the amount of \$200.00; carried unanimously 5/0

Photography Classes – Palm Springs Arts Commission & Palm Spring Unified School District

Staff – Ms. Henning, Commissioner Murray and Chari Godakanda have met with Louisa Castrodale (Palm Springs Unified School District) regarding photography classes at PSHS; a curriculum has been developed. The class will be held at Palm Springs High School during Zero period (7:00 AM – 8:00 AM); weekend classes may also be a part of this class for field trips/photo shoots; the class start date and schedule should be finalized soon. At the conclusion of the class there will be an exhibition of the student’s photography.

**D. LEGISLATIVE**

5. None

**E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

6. Bridge Projects

Update on design aesthetics for the South Palm Canyon Bridge at Tahquitz Creek Channel.



SPC BRIDGE

View C  
CAMERA ANGLE  
DATE: 1/12/17

PistonScope  
4000 W. Williams Ave. #100  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Staff – Ms. Henning gave a brief update on the progress of the South Palm Canyon Bridge; one of the challenges with this bridge project is that it is a very short distance. Due to Caltrans restrictions (crash testing and safety), if treatment was corten steel on the pedestrian side of the bridge it would have required additional safety mechanisms, which is cost prohibitive. The corten fence of the drape and flow portion have now been added to the top of the railing and drape over the outside of the railings. Also, there will be a treatment added to the concrete (proposed view). On February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church, there will be a community meeting on this project. Additional drawings will be available as well as visual simulations.

#### 7. Special Projects

##### Update on Desert X Temporary Sculpture Exhibition

City Manager, David Ready, updated the commission on funding for Desert X at the beginning of today's meeting.

Possible installation sites discussed for the bench include: near City Hall; Frances Stevens Park/Desert Art Center; along the area of VillageFest and Palm Springs Public Library. If the public arts commission does not approve and install a piece of artwork (for Desert X) there will still be a piece(s) installed in Palm Springs.

Chair Sheffer:

- Desert Highland Community was not in favor of the piece (SOL) that had been proposed.
- Desert X is proposing a bench by Artist Hank Willis Thomas that can be brought to Palm Springs for the Desert X Biennial (photo attached).
- Thinks this piece should be downtown.
- This does not mean that in the future we will not install a piece at the Desert Highland Community Center.

Ms. Henning:

- Regarding shipping and installation of artwork (in this case the bench), all expenditures in terms of siting/installation of sculpture have gone to City Council for approval; based on the Arts Ordinance. Staff will need to speak to City Manager.
- Reminded the commission that City Hall and the Desert Art Center are Class 1 historic sites; typically, when artwork has been installed at Class 1 historic sites it also has to go before the Historic Sites Preservation Board for approval. Staff will need to speak to City Manager.
- Provided information regarding an email sent [to Ms. Henning] on the art installation at Desert Highland Unity Center.

Vice Chair Yanni:

- Spoke regarding not doing the bench and let Desert X happen on its own "organically"; likes the concept of helping out with educational programs; at this point it is very late in the game.

Commissioner Murray:

- Would like the subcommittee to speak to the Desert Highland Community again with the concept of installing the bench at the original location.
- Would like to invite representatives of the Desert Highland Community to come to an arts commission meeting. There was just one email sent to a councilmember (with concerns about the [SOL] piece) that came from a citizen that does not live in the Desert Highland community. Does not want the record to reflect that the community did not want an art installation because that is not what happened.

Commissioner Brenner:

- The idea of putting a piece at the Desert Highland Community Center and having Desert X promote it to "go see these pieces" you are then bringing the Community Center into the awareness of people who may not even know it exists.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Murray – would like a representative from Desert X to be present at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; would also like to talk about the phone App again.

Commissioner Brenner – likes the idea of this [the bench]; would like to seek out alternative installation sites.

Chair Sheffer – would like the commission to discuss the \$5,000 set aside for education.

Vice Chair Yanni – would like the Budget Subcommittee to report at the next meeting.

**REPORTS OF DIRECTOR/STAFF:**

Staff report – Ms. Henning would like to know if anyone is interested in participating in the Palm Springs Library Family Fun Fest. The event will be held in March; further details will be forthcoming.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned at 3:58 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 2:00 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 12<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2017; unanimously carried.



Paula Jean Sweat  
Economic Development Program Assistant



