

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY – COUNCIL CHAMBERS



A. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Gary Armstrong on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Gary Armstrong, Vice Chair Tina Gonsalves, Commissioners Carlos Silveira, Lauri Kibby, Jim Lande, Jenan Cameranesi, Natasia Gascon, and Michelle Loya

ABSENT: Lilly Hanner

CITY STAFF: Director, Jay Virata

C. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LOYA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, AND CARRIED 8-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None.

E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR.

Chair Armstrong reported on a temporary installation by an artist from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, located on Museum Way next to the downtown park. The installation will be up through November 15th.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LANDE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAMERANESI, CARRIED 8-0 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

1. **Discuss and consider request from Old Las Palmas Neighborhood Organization for \$25,000 in Public Art funds to match their \$25,000, for a total of \$50,000, for fabrication and installation of two additional creature sculptures by artist Delos Van Earl.**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOYA, CARRIED 7-0-1 WITH COMMISSIONER GASCON ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM OLD LAS PALMAS NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION FOR \$25,000 IN PUBLIC ART FUNDS TO MATCH THEIR \$25,000, FOR A TOTAL OF \$50,000, FOR FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF TWO ADDITIONAL CREATURE SCULPTURES BY ARTIST DELOS VAN EARL.

2. **Approve amendment to Art Maintenance Agreement with Same Day Express dba Signature Sculpture to add new public art pieces to their scope of work and increase total compensation by \$107,500 (\$53,750 per year for two years) for annual cleaning and maintenance.**

TABLED.

3. **Updates and next steps from Ad Hoc Committee 2 for Ordinance Revisions on Approval Process of New and Existing Pieces to be Considered for Potential Cultural Collection.**

- Vice Chair Gonsalves reported that the committee reviewed ordinances from other cities and found them similar to Palm Springs' current ordinance.
- Pasadena's ordinance, which refers to "commemorative assets" was noted as a potential model for separating collection items.
- The committee will follow up with the City of Ontario for further input and convene to draft recommendations for the next meeting.

4. **Updates and next steps from Ad Hoc Committee for Public Art Ordinance review.**

- Chair Armstrong reported on the committee meeting with the City Attorney to discuss a full ordinance revision to align with State law, particularly regarding impact dollars.
- Establishing a definitive time period for developers to reclaim their art fees to allow the unspent funds to enter the city's budget.
- Increasing the threshold for city manager approval for minor cost changes.
- Revising the process to require the Commission to review the formal "gift to the city" application before it goes to the City Council.
- Review of the mural ordinance to address the separation of murals under the Planning Department's jurisdiction.

5. **Approve use of Measure J funds in the amount of \$15,000 for Public Art Commission installation signage.**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LANDE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SILVEIRA, CARRIED 7-0-1 WITH COMMISSIONER GASCON ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE USE OF MEASURE J FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FROM THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED \$250,000 MEASURE J LOAN, TO COVER THE COST OF SIGNAGE FOR NEW INSTALLATIONS LIKE ARTSCAPE IN THE PARKS AND BEAUTIFUL SHADE.

H. PROJECT UPDATES

1. **Wyatt Mural Update:** The City is seeking a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, possibly a preservation group, to serve as the grant recipient and project manager for the mural's restoration.
2. **Beautiful Shade:** The commissioned artist, Roger Reutimann, has resigned the commission due to increased fabrication and installation costs caused by metal tariffs and increased cement contractor prices.
3. **Artscape in the Parks:** The City has been able to contract with a procurement-approved vendor from another department to pour the concrete bases, and the project is moving forward.
4. **Art Maintenance/Inventory:** Commissioner Gascón, who is developing the art inventory, requested assistance in transferring the data to a city-approved platform (such as GIS) to ensure the work is retained and publicly accessible after her term.
5. **The Art of Taming Horses:** See report from staff below.
6. **Pride Monument:** Installation is scheduled for the next day, with the dedication ceremony on the following Friday at 10:00 AM.
7. **Airport Art Curator Selection:** The airport hired a curation agency, and a selection team of two Arts Commissioners, two Airport Commissioners, and one airport administrator is being formed to review temporary art recommendations.

I. COMMISSIONER AGENDA REQUESTS AND COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Gascón requested a future discussion on ways to encourage developers or other entities to utilize the public art that is currently in storage.
- The Chair noted the lawn chair piece is going into the downtown park where the Marilyn Monroe sculpture was previously located.

J. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:

- The Art of Taming Horses: Staff reported meeting with Riverside County Flood Control to walk the project area, with a new agreement being established that will define the ownership of the bridge structure.
- AIDS Memorial: The AIDS memorial will be discussed at the November meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LANDE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOYA, AND CARRIED 8-0 TO ADJOURN AT 7:02 PM TO A MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6, 2025, AT 5:30 PM IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Virata, Director
Housing & Community Development Department