



505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

City of Pomona

Cultural Arts Commission

Draft Action Minutes

Chairperson Jovani Esparza
Commissioner Lisa P. Soiseth
Commissioner Christian Ornelas
Commissioner Venita Rodman
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier
Commissioner Joshua Swodeck

February 24, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall, Administrative Board Room, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Joshua Swodeck called the Cultural Arts Commission meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Jovani Esparza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Lisa P. Soiseth
Commissioner Christian Ornelas
Commissioner Venita Rodman (late arrival at 5:33 p.m.)
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier
Commissioner Joshua Swodeck

Absent: Chairperson Jovani Esparza

Staff Present: Ata Khan, Deputy Director of Development Services
Jocelyn Ayala, Arts Coordinator

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

1. Selection of Chairperson

A motion by Commissioner Batts, seconded by Commissioner Swodeck, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to select Christian Ornelas as Chair of the Commission.

Chairperson Jovani Esparza – absent; Commissioner Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Christian Ornelas - yes; Commissioner Venita Rodman – absent; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

DISCUSSION TIME: 1 minute (5:33 p.m. to 5:34 p.m.)

2. Selection of Vice-Chairperson

A motion by Commissioner Tessier, seconded by Commissioner Swodeck, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (6-0-0-1) to select Lisa P. Soiseth as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Chairperson Jovani Esparza – absent; Commissioner Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Christian Ornelas - yes; Commissioner Venita Rodman* – yes; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

*Commissioner Rodman arrived before this item was discussed.

DISCUSSION TIME: 1 minute (5:35 p.m. to 5:36 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Swodeck stated that the Mural located at Martin Luther Park has been deliberately defaced.

Chairperson Ornelas mentioned that the National Endowment for the Arts has a grant that is closing in March and another that will open in July.

Commissioner Soiseth asked staff what is remaining of the Art Fund.

Deputy Director Khan stated that we shared the balance update in July. He said we have approximately three to four million in the Art account. He mentioned that we have been in a spending rate of one million a year, but staff will bring an item forward recommending spending the funds slower.

Commissioner Rodman asked if we can partnership with Pomona Valley Hospital for the Art is

Healing Program.

Commissioner Tessier asked if we could have a Mural festival.

Deputy Director Khan stated that it would have to go through the open call.

CONSENT CALENDAR

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. April is Arts Month

A motion by Chairperson Ornelas, seconded by Commissioner Rodman, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (6-0-0-1) to recommend April is Arts Month to City Council for a public proclamation.

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – absent; Commissioner Venita Rodman – yes; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 1 minute (5:41 p.m. to 5:42 p.m.)

4. Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Members

A motion by Commissioner Rodman, seconded by Chairperson Ornelas, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (6-0-0-1) to approve the release of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee application.

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – absent; Commissioner Venita Rodman – yes; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 3 minutes (5:43 p.m. to 5:46 p.m.)

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Deputy Director Khan stated that there are two active Preservation and Maintenance projects, which are Montvue Park restroom building and Kiwanis Park Community Center east wall. He said we have reached out to the artists and they have agreed to complete the projects by March 16.

He stated we have four projects about to be executed, which are Shane at Jaycee Park, Alexandra at Kellogg Park, 3B Collective and Jelani's Mural. He said that there has been an uptick on graffiti throughout the city. He mentioned that the next meeting would be on March 24, 2025. He stated we are continuing to make progress on the public parking garage located in downtown.

Commissioner Rodman requested to bring forward an item on the agenda to create a program to help the young people to fall in love with the art we have in Pomona. Deputy Director Khan stated that this could be part of the Action Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ornelas at 6:06 p.m. to the next regular meeting of March 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by,

Ata Khan
Deputy Director

Miroslava PourSanae
Administrative Assistant