

**CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** June 19, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3C

**APPLICANT:** Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

**REQUEST:** **For Possible Action:** to make recommendations to City staff to modify the Cultural Commission's City webpage.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Parks and Recreation Department staff has updated and changed the Cultural Commission's City webpage (Exhibit A) based on Chapter 2.41 – Carson City Cultural Commission Ordinance and the Cultural Commission's Draft Bylaws. Staff will review these updates and changes with the Commission at this meeting.

Staff would like to hear any ideas and/or recommendations for improvements to Cultural Commission's City webpage.

The path to the Cultural Commission's webpage is:  
www.carson.org home page • About Carson City •  
Boards, Committees and Commissions • Carson City  
Cultural Commission. The direct link is:  
<http://www.carson.org/index.aspx?page=2702>

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to recommend to City staff to modify the Cultural Commission's City webpage in the following manner:  
1) Possible Change  
2) Possible Change

# Exhibit A

## Carson City Cultural Commission

### **Purpose**

The Carson City Cultural Commission will act as the primary advisory body for the Carson City Board of Supervisors for matters relating to arts and culture and will serve as the coordinator and catalyst bringing government, the arts and cultural community, and the public together for the cultural benefit of all Carson City's citizens.

The Commission's role is also to widen an extensive appreciation of the community's heritage as it interrelates with culture, history, the arts, and humanities. Culture enhances the health, safety, welfare, the physical beauty, the built environment, and economic health and prosperity of a community.

Also, the Commission will make available a current, formal, written plan for financial and programmatic sustainability in terms of economic goals and impact measures.



### **Mission**

To facilitate and implement strategies and projects to support artists and arts organizations, and to leverage Carson City's creative talent and cultural assets to spur sustainable economic growth and build regional prosperity; to harness community development, cultural based initiatives and promote increased market participation between the business community and cultural organizations, heritage sites, museums, libraries, theaters and art galleries.

### **Commission Membership**

Karen Abowd (Carson City Board of Supervisors)  
 Peter Barton (Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs)  
 Delsye Mills (Convention & Visitors Bureau Board) (Vice Chair)  
 Eugene Paslov (Citizen-at-Large) (Chair)  
 Jeffrey Scott (Carson City Arts & Culture Coalition)  
 Jim Shirk (Citizen-at-Large)  
 Robert Stansbury (Citizen-at-Large)



### **Typical Duties**

The Commission's efforts shall aim to promote civic and economic benefit for Carson City and the State of Nevada through coordination of arts and culture at all levels of government, the local and statewide cultural community, and the general public.

Promoting and assisting the community's awareness and opportunities to participate in and experience the highest quality of arts and cultural programming possible. Assist in bridging the gap between public and private organizations to work together for the advancement of the arts.

Advisory recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to Carson City's arts and cultural programming, including recommending grants-in-aid to individual and/or groups of artists, cultural groups and arts organizations, designating cultural districts, neighborhood and landmarks. Promote arts education and a cultural environment that stimulates economic

development, cultural tourism and enhanced public participation.

### **Functions**

The functions of the Carson City Cultural Commission include, but are not limited to:

1. Advising the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to the City's arts and cultural programming.
2. Fostering public and private partnerships for providing arts and cultural programs for the citizens of Carson City, without directly engaging in program management deemed in competition with existing constituent organization programming.
3. Promoting access and awareness for the public to the highest quality arts opportunities possible.
4. Promoting an environment that supports the work and advancement of artists and arts groups and celebrate the City for its ethnic diversity, creativity and its leadership in arts and culture.
5. Making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding grants-in-aid to individual and group of artists, cultural groups and arts organizations.
6. Encouraging the provision of cultural and artistic facilities and features in public and commercial construction.
7. Facilitating and promoting the establishment of an Art in Public places policy that supports the installation of publicly significant art installations, and encourage the inclusion of public art components in private development.
8. Helping to identify and designate cultural districts, neighborhoods and landmarks throughout the city.
9. Promoting a cultural environment that stimulates economic development, cultural tourism and enhanced public participation.
10. Promoting greater arts education in the schools and through programs accessible to the public.
11. Promoting new policies to build green, reduce power sector demands and support incentive to green up our existing built environment.
12. Providing for incentives for cultural and artistic facilities and features in public and commercial construction.

### **Membership Requirements**

Members of the Commission must meet the following qualification criteria:

1. Be residents of Carson City;
2. Have a broad and informed perspective of the arts along with a demonstrated knowledge and responsiveness to the existing arts community and community at large;
3. Represent a cross section of the City's age, multi-cultural, socio-economic, professional, artistic and volunteer diversity;
4. Have an appreciation for Carson City's rich cultural tradition.

### **Membership Terms of Office**

1. The Carson City Cultural Commission shall consist of seven Commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
2. Commissioners shall be appointed for a term of three years, commencing and ending on January 1.
3. Terms are sufficiently staggered and Commissioners may serve for unlimited consecutive terms.
4. A Commissioner shall continue in office for the term for which that Commissioner was appointed or until a successor is appointed.

### **Cultural Commission Meetings**

The Cultural Commission meets quarterly, on the third Tuesdays of March, June, September and December. Meetings are held in the Carson City Community Center, Sierra Room, 851 E. William Street. [Click here for agendas](#) [Click here for past meeting minutes](#)

***Contact Information***

Administrative services for the Cultural Commission are performed by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department

Staff Liaison: Vern L. Kahn, Park Planner

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***Go to Frequently Asked Questions***

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## Cultural Commission

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Explain the difference between the Carson City Cultural Commission (CCCC) and the Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition (CCACC)?***

The CCCC is an appointed government advisory board made up of separate individuals who volunteer to serve as a voice for all of Carson City in matters regarding arts and culture. They then bring that voice, with advice, to the Board of Supervisors in an effort to coordinate all levels of government resources in ways that simultaneously benefit the cultural community and community at-large. The Commission is subject to the open meeting law and, therefore, can not meet as a group to discuss and work on issues outside their quarterly meetings.



The CCACC is a group of individual arts and culture entities who are practitioners of the craft – they are the producers of arts and culture expressed, exhibited and available in Carson City. They are made up of private for-profit folks, private not-for-profit folks and public institutions run by the State or City.

#### ***Shouldn't the people on the CCACC actually be the members of the Commission?***

No. The CCACC should be focused on sticking together and helping each other "practice the craft." If the grassroots group doesn't stick together to help each other they lose their valuable partnership synergies, and together they're much stronger. The Cultural Commission

#### ***What is an example of the kinds of things the Commission can accomplish?***

- Select public art.
- Advise how funds granted from other government or private trusts be spent on the Carson City arts and culture community.
- Review and evaluate requests for funding from Carson City's arts and culture community.

NOTE: This is where the Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition might come in ... when they request the "commission" consider their recommendations on how certain available government funds be directed toward, say, public buildings or programs that accommodate the needs of the CCACC, the practitioners, of Carson City's arts and culture community.

#### ***How do I know if I'm a good fit to serve on this Commission and what is my time commitment?***

- Be a Carson City resident.
- Have a broad perspective about arts & culture and understand how that relates to economics, safety, education, etc.
- Are able to meet quarterly – for approximately 2 – 3 hour meetings.
- Appreciates and knows something about our unique arts & culture Carson City "story" and the organizations and institutions who express that story.
- Can be a passionate advocate for arts and culture in Carson City.



***When is the next vacancy and who do I contact?***

Cultural Commissioners serve staggered terms, meaning one or more Commissioner terms usually expire each December. Go to the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page of the City's website to see current applications being solicited for commission vacancies.

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