

**CULTURAL COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3A

APPLICANT: Commission Members
Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Director
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

REQUEST: For Possible Action: To approve a new approach for a Public Art Ordinance and request City staff to develop an ordinance based on this new funding structure approach.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: At the September 5, 2013, Board of Supervisors meeting the Supervisors rejected the Cultural Commission's proposed amendments to the Carson City Municipal Code, Title 2, Chapter 2.41 for the creation of a Public Art Program (Exhibit A). Four votes are required in order for the ordinance to pass. The ordinance received only three votes. Then at the Commission's meeting on September 19, 2013, the members discussed other funding options for the Public Art Program Ordinance and requested staff to return at the next meeting with a new funding approach for the ordinance. As requested, staff has returned to present a new funding structure for the Public Art Program Ordinance. This new funding approach has three parts.

1) Redevelopment Authority Grant (RAG):

Redirect a portion XX% or \$XXX,XXX of the Board of Supervisors' annual budget line item allocation of the RAG funds (Refer to Exhibit B) into the following categories to be awarded by the Cultural Commission:

50% - Performing Arts Grants

50% - Community Arts Capital Project Grants

2) Capital Improvement Project - Furniture, Fixture and Equipment (FF&E) Budget:

Mandate that every new City building and/or facility project allocate 1 % (or another percentage) of the project's cost into the (FF&E) budget line item for the design team to create a signature art piece and/or incorporate art elements/components into the visual character of the building.

3) Private Donations:

The Cultural Commission should have the ability to accept private donations on behalf of the City to encourage both the public arts and the performing arts. These donations could be given for a specific art piece, given towards supporting a cultural event in the City, or given to the Cultural Commission for creation of a "Youth Based" scholarship fund.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to approve the above funding structure approach for a Public Art Ordinance and request City staff to develop an ordinance based on this approach.

Board rejects public-art ordinance

By John Barrette
jbarrette@nevadaappeal.com

The Carson City Board of Supervisors rejected a Cultural Commission plan to fund public art in Carson City on Thursday, voting 3-2.

Some board members, however, sounded as though they might consider another ordinance if it used a different financing method. The plan they considered on first reading called for 1.25 percent of any general fund capital money set aside for projects to go into a public art fund.

"I just don't want to get into a situation where we buy things that we don't want," said Supervisor John McKenna, one of the trio

9-6-13 stopping the proposal in its tracks. The other opponents in the prevailing majority were Supervisors Brad Bonkowski and Jim Shirk. Favoring it were Mayor Robert Crowell and Supervisor Karen Abowd.

Even Crowell voiced some concern about the draft ordinance but added, "I think it's important for public art to get off the ground in our community."

Abowd voiced her support more assertively: "To me, this is a vision for the future."

Bonkowski said he supports the arts 100 percent, but he urged supporters to find some other financing solution. He was concerned that the ordinance as drafted would result in the city

padding project costs to cover the amounts earmarked for the public art fund.

McKenna in his earlier remarks talked about an alternative that might attach the financing to particular projects rather than the dedicated manner in the ordinance.

The ordinance had the support of representatives from the city's cultural community, as well as the backing of the Cultural Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff handling supervisors' questions included Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department director, and Vern Krahn, city parks planner.

Moellendorf said the financing was one of two

ways cities handle such public-arts funding, and he touted an unusual feature of the draft ordinance. He said it actually included 1 percent for the art, the additional quarter of a percent for its maintenance.

Among those testifying for the plan were John Shelton, executive director of the Brewery Arts Center; Robert Stansbury and Eugene Paslov of the Cultural Commission; and Carol Scott of Wild Horse Productions, whose late husband, Jeffrey, also was on the commission.

John Wagner, state chairman of the Independent American Party, opposed the ordinance.

"I have a problem with taxpayer money for art," he said.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-R-_____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$65,000 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 REVOLVING FUND OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT VARIOUS SPECIAL EVENTS IN REDEVELOPMENT AREA #1 AS AN EXPENSE INCIDENTAL TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 279.628, the Carson City Board of Supervisors must approve by resolution, adopted by a two-thirds vote, the expenditure of money from the Revolving Fund for the Redevelopment Authority for any expenses incidental to the carrying out of the Redevelopment Plan adopted by the Carson City Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Plan for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1 encourages redevelopment assistance for daytime and evening special events and promotional activities and the highest level of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all age levels and thus, there is a casual connection between this redevelopment effort and the need for this expenditure; and

WHEREAS, this incidental expense is necessary to ensure the Redevelopment Plan's objectives have been met; and

WHEREAS, the incidental expense is minor compared to the funds needed for the overall Redevelopment Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carson City Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the expenditure of up to \$65,000 from the Revolving Fund of the Redevelopment Authority for the support of the following special events in Carson City.

\$6,500 for Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company of WNC (Les Miserables),
\$2,000 for Pinkerton Ballet Theatre (Nutcracker Ballet),
\$2,000 for Sierra Nevada Ballet (Peanutcracker),
\$6,000 for Mile High Jazz Band Association, Inc. (Jazz & Beyond Music Festival),
\$6,500 for Advocates To End Domestic Violence (Taste of Down Town),
\$5,000 for Carson City Ghost Walk
\$5,000 for the Silver Dollar Car Classic,
\$8,333 for NV Rural Counties RSVP Program, Inc. (Spring Fun Fair),
\$8,333 for NV Rural Counties RSVP Program, Inc. (4th of July Celebration),
\$8,334 for NV Rural Counties RSVP Program, Inc. (Nevada Days Celebration),
\$2,000 for the Carson City Senior Center Fight Hunger Classic Car & Boxing Show), and
\$5,000 for Capital City Arts Initiative.

Upon motion by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____
ABSENT: _____
ABSTAIN: _____

Robert L. Crowell, Mayor
Carson City, Nevada

ATTEST:

Alan Glover, Clerk
Carson City, Nevada