

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Cultural Commission (CCCC)
Monday, March 13, 2023 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Commission Members

Chair – Barbara D’Anneo	Vice Chair – Susan Mowers
Commissioner – Curtis Horton	Commissioner – Bethany Drysdale
Commissioner – Susan Mowers	Commissioner – Samuel Flakus
Commissioner – Michael Smith	Commissioner – Valerie Moore

Staff

Debra Soule, Arts and Culture Program Manager
Sierra Scott, Arts and Culture Supervisor
Todd Reese, Deputy District Attorney
Danielle Howard, Public Meetings Clerk

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board’s agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

All approved meeting minutes for this meeting is available on www.carson.org/minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(00:29) – Chairperson D’Anneo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Barbara D’Anneo, Chair	Present	
Susan Mowers, Vice Chair	Present	
Bethany Drysdale	Present	
Curtis Horton	Absent	
Samuel Flakus	Present	5:31 p.m.
Michael Smith	Present	
Valerie Moore	Present	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(01:31) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments. Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI) Executive Director Sharon Rosse introduced the new exhibition displayed in the Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room, Marietta Sophie Paul’s *Scuttled/Transformed*. Ms. Rosse noted that Ms. Paul was a Carson City resident, a silver maker/metal worker by trade, and has been creating prints at Western Nevada College (WNC). She indicated that more information regarding Ms. Paul could be found on the CCAI website, <https://www.ccainv.org/>, and there would be a reception organized on Thursday, March 30, 2023 in the Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room, at which Ms. Paul would be providing an artist talk at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Rosse indicated that CCAI was presenting three additional exhibitions, including Michael Plyler’s photography titled *Selected Works* at the Carson City Courthouse Gallery, Sydne Teske’s paintings for the exhibition titled *A High Desert Tribute* at WNC’s Bristlecone Gallery, and photographs from Carson High School students at the Carson City Small Business Development Center (BRIC)

that would be followed by the exhibit titled *Spring Forward 2023*, which would feature pieces by students from Carson High School, Dayton High School, Douglas High School, and Pioneer Academy.

(04:25) – Dan Thielen from the Nevada State Railroad Museum introduced himself and commented about the Nevada State Railroad Museum’s interest in working with the CCCC and Carson City Arts and Culture Program Staff on projects related to arts at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. He noted how beneficial collaborations with Visit Carson City staff have been in regards to arts and culture-related projects, and he mentioned interest in future public art at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. In response to Chairperson D’Anne’s question, Mr. Thielen indicated that the Nevada State Railroad Museum had assisted with the Mark Twain Days Festival with Staff and noted the Iron Horse Roundup that was organized during the previous summer. He added that the Nevada State Railroad Museum had some “great opportunities” that could be incorporated into “spots on the calendar that are empty” for Carson City and work cooperatively with the Arts and Culture Program goals and initiatives, especially concerning the arts.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.a JANUARY 30, 2023

(07:09) – Chairperson D’Anne introduced the item and entertained comments. Vice Chairperson Mowers pointed out that the minutes incorrectly identified the Vice Chair.

(09:07) – **MOTION: Commissioner Drysdale moved to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2023 meeting as corrected.**

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Drysdale
SECONDER:	Mowers
AYES:	D’Anne, Mowers, Drysdale, Flakus, Smith, Moore
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Horton

4. MEETING ITEMS:

4.a FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON CARSON CITY ARTS AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES.

(09:21) – Chairperson D’Anne introduced the item. Ms. Soule reported on the following updates on activities and events pertaining to the Mark Twain Days Festival:

- The Mark Twain Days Festival, at this point, would begin in six weeks, and the festival program, which was nearly complete, was being designed to appear as an old-fashioned newspaper.
- Tickets would be available for purchase within the next few days for the ticketed events at the festival, though most of the festival’s features would be free to participants, and the content was in the process of being finalized for the sale of those tickets with E-Ticks as well as other partners selling tickets for their own events.

- The “Twain Train” excursion had expanded to include a short stop in Virginia City, where those on board would be invited to attend a one-hour catered reception at Piper’s Opera House.
- The “Walk in Sam’s Shoes” event with Mary Bennett was confirmed and arranged.
- An “artist-painted rocking chairs” activity, “Art Rocks,” had taken place, and the chairs used for the activity were distributed to area artists, with one of the chairs being displayed at the Visit Carson City Visitors Center. During the month of April 2023, the chairs would be displayed at the Brewery Arts Center (BAC) Artisan Gallery before being delivered to various locations in the downtown Carson City area for display during the festival weekend. After the festival, the chairs would be auctioned off online for those interested in owning a unique rocking chair. Ms. Soule commented that the chairs that returned from the area artists were “absolutely stunning.”
- The Nevada State Railroad Museum was participating in the festival by operating the steam train on the Saturday afternoon of the festival and into the evening with featured activities for Steampunk festival participants. There would be special train rides, photography opportunities, entertainment, and a beverage area during the Saturday afternoon of the festival.
- The BAC would be hosting Mark Twain movie screenings with live music on the Friday night and the Saturday night of the festival, with there also being *Bonanza* episodes featuring Mark Twain to be shown on Saturday night. Additionally, the BAC was hosting “Paint and Sip” evenings on Friday night and Saturday night for the festival, during which participants could create a canvas incorporating an image of a book and a pipe as well as one of Mark Twain’s famous sayings.
- Street decorations were acquired for the festival.

(14:27) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained Commissioner questions, and Ms. Scott and Ms. Soule responded to clarifying questions. Commissioner Drysdale complimented Staff for the advertising for the Mark Twain Days Festival and commented that she had seen marketing for the festival “everywhere.” She also complimented the essay contest. Ms. Scott noted that she had assisted mostly with the “literary component” of the festival and added the following updates regarding the Mark Twain Days Festival:

- There was a total of 30 entries for the middle school, high school, and college/adult categories of the essay contest. Ms. Scott mentioned that the judges for the essay contest were local literary artists who provided “great feedback.” Additionally, the winner of each category of the essay contest would be printed in the Mark Twain Days Festival program, and the top three entries would be offered to read their essays during the festival’s “Friday evening special.” The top three entries would also be featured in the *Mark Twain Journal*, a national periodical.
- The poster contest was originally intended to be organized in cooperation with the Carson City School District; however, because the School District was unable to assist with the poster contest due to constraints, the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department had partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, and, instead of there being a contest, the Boys and Girls Club would involve an academic component of teaching elementary school-aged children about Mark Twain and creating posters to be displayed at the BAC.
- Free writing workshops were approved for the Saturday of the festival, with Nevada author Suzanne Morgan Williams facilitating the morning workshop and Nevada poet Laureate Gailmarie Pahmeier and Nevada author Courtney Cliften facilitating the evening workshop.

(17:02) – Vice Chairperson Mowers thanked Ms. Scott for her help on the literary component of the Mark Twain Days Festival and noted how full the festival’s schedule was. Referencing the festival’s schedule, she commented, “for the first year, this is going to knock it out of the part.”

(17:44) – Ms. Soule added that there would be a vendors marketplace in the Arlington Square site with several vendors, and Staff attempted to exclusively incorporate hand-made items for purchase, most of which may be associated with the “Twain era.” She stated that there would also be a “Writers Corner” at the vendors market to allow those attending to engage with writers who would be present with their wares and books.

(18:31) – Chairperson D’Anneo thanked and complimented Ms. Scott and Ms. Soule for the hard work devoted to the Mark Twain Days Festival. She also acknowledged the Commissioners who offered to assist with the festival.

(18:46) – In response to Vice Chairperson Mowers’ question, Ms. Soule stated that she was “overwhelmed” by the number of costume volunteers who wished to participate in the festival, and she indicated that there would be volunteers on the streets, the Twain Train, and at the “Bowtie Ball” in the Governor’s Mansion Nevada Room handing out programs, providing advice and assistance to participants, and entertaining participants. She noted that there were several categories and prizes for the costume pageant, the “Cast of Characters.” Ms. Scott added that costume volunteers would be relieved of their duties and invited to participate in the costume pageant.

(23:29) – Commissioner Smith proposed extending invitations to the Nevada Legislators, since the Nevada Legislature would likely be in session.

(24:07) – Ms. Soule and Ms. Scott reported on the following additional updates:

- The Mark Twain mural was progressing, as the artist purchased the Dibond aluminum panels that Staff had recommended, prepared the surfaces, and started painting the mural. Two of the four panels were completed, and Ms. Soule has been meeting with the artist regularly on Microsoft Teams. The mural panels were expected to be delivered before the end of March 2023, and the Nevada State Museum planned installation of the mural during the first week of April 2023.
- The request for funding (RFQ) for the South Stewart Street/South Carson Street roundabout project was completed. Ms. Scott had worked a lot with the Carson City Public Works Department and Carson City Purchasing and Contracts as well as many other different departments to complete the RFQ, which was the first major RFQ completed for such a piece of public art. The RFQ was intended to be presented to the Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval during the April 6, 2023 BOS meeting, after which applications would be accepted for the RFQ on April 17, 2023 pending BOS approval. A fabrication, a delivery, and an installation of the public art piece was expected by spring 2024.
- The Arts and Culture Program was recommended \$50,000 in additional funds from the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Carson City Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant to be allocated for the South Stewart Street/South Carson Street roundabout project in addition to the \$25,000 that has “rolled over” since 2019. The total budget for the roundabout was \$150,000.
- Planning for the Mural and Music Festival was ongoing, with walls currently being identified, and Ms. Scott was in the process of drafting a contract with the Sierra Arts Foundation, which was the fiscal agent. Staff were also considering other funding sources, including the Nevada Arts Council, for which Ms. Scott was writing a grant proposal to supplement the funding.
- The “kickoff ground mural” event would take place in May 2023 at the BAC.

- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was partnering with the Sierra Arts Foundation in order to offer three different summer art classes, which would be launched with a free series for every Saturday in May 2023 for youth ages seven years to 17 years. The free series would include a two-hour morning session for ages seven years to 12 years and two-hour afternoon session for ages 13 years to 17 years, with both sessions teaching the basics and fundamentals of visual art. The art classes would take place in the building behind the Community Center, which would be refurbished into a designated art space. There would be a paid art class series offered in June 2023, the “Youth Art Fundamental Series,” for artists seven to 12 years of age as well as a one-week “Art Camp” in July 2023.
- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was partnering with the Pioneer Center, which was offering “a really amazing program” at no cost called the Pioneer Center Youth Programs (PCYP). The PCYP provided the opportunity for individuals from all performing arts disciplines to engage in one-hour interactive performances in schools, libraries, and community centers for all ages. The PCYP would start in April 2023, and there would be a performance every month through August 2023.

(27:25) – Vice Chairperson Mowers noted supply chain issues for consideration with the South Stewart Street/South Carson Street roundabout project timelines.

(31:40) – In response to Chairperson D’Anne’s inquiry, Ms. Scott noted that the Arts and Culture Program benefited from the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department’s “reach” when advertising the outlined events, activities, and programs, which would also be included in the Department’s Activity Guide. Chairperson D’Anne suggested contacting any of the utility billing entities to ask if they could provide fliers to individual homes because she had noticed that many members of the public were not aware of the many events, activities, and programs being offered locally. Vice Chairperson Mowers suggested advertising to the public through the use of social media and an “email blast” if there was any email list available.

4.b FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CURRENT BUDGET INCLUDING CURRENT AND PROJECTED FUNDING FOR ARTS & CULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024.

(34:37) – Chairperson D’Anne introduced the item. Ms. Scott presented the FY 2023 and 2024 Arts and Culture Budget, which is incorporated into the record. She also entertained questions and responded to clarifying questions.

(41:26) – In response to Commissioner Flakus’ question, Ms. Scott indicated that the Redevelopment Authority, other grants, and public or private donations were the main funding sources that may be used to supplement the Budget if necessary. She stated that she seeks approval from the Carson City Parks and Recreation Director, Jennifer Budge, when applying for grants that Ms. Scott feels are appropriate on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, and Ms. Budge seeks approval from City Manager Nancy Paulson. Mr. Reese clarified that some grants would need to be approved by the BOS.

(44:08) – Responding to Vice Chairperson Mowers’ question, Ms. Scott wished to prioritize marketing. Mr. Reese also informed Vice Chairperson Mowers that the BOS would be beginning the budgeting process for FY 2024, and he recommended reviewing the BOS’ agendas for the budget items.

(46:38) – Chairperson D’Anne entertained public comments. Deni French introduced himself as a Carson City resident and asked about whether there would be a theme to the public art for the South Stewart Street/South Carson Street roundabout project, as he was concerned about there being “any real unusual distraction” when many

individuals experience difficulty with using roundabouts. He clarified that reflective or overly mobile public art in the roundabout may be more of “a negotiating factor as far as their getting around successfully.” He inquired about a time when the public art would be installed in the roundabout and asked if there would be another consideration regarding replacement of the public art piece. Mr. French commented that there were “a lot of amazing artists out there” that would “love” to have the opportunity to design a public art piece. He also asked if there would be a statewide review when considering artists for the position of designing the public art piece. In response to Mr. French’s questions, Ms. Scott stated that the RFQ for the South Stewart Street/South Carson Street roundabout project indicated the following:

“The final design must comply with traffic restrictions for the roundabout site, including but not limited to distance for viewing (non-interactive), non-obstructive to drivers at the perimeter of the roundabout, non-reflective, etc. The details, safety, and engineering of the artwork and its installation must be reviewed by Carson City’s Public Works Department, its Community Development Department, and perhaps other City departments.”

Ms. Scott noted that Staff were “very cognizant” of the safety factor concerning the roundabout. She stated that the public art piece was intended to be permanent, and Staff were considering other, temporary locations to install public art pieces at some point in the future. She clarified that the RFQ would consider artists nationwide for the position.

4.c FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT GUIDELINES.

(50:54) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. When responding to clarifying questions, Ms. Soule referenced the 2023-2024 Carson City Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant Guidelines, which is incorporated into the record. When no additional questions or input were forthcoming, Chairperson D’Anneo entertained a motion.

(54:04) – MOTION: Vice Chairperson Mowers moved to approve the Carson City Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant Guidelines as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Mowers
SECONDER:	Flakus
AYES:	D’Anneo, Mowers, Drysdale, Flakus, Smith, Moore
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	Horton

5. NON-ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

5.a COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(54:49) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained Commissioner reports and comments. She complimented Staff for “doing a bang-up job.”

(55:17) – Commissioner Smith informed the Commission that the Second Annual Capital City Black History Month Program had taken place on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at WNC, with a diverse attendance of approximately 65 individuals, including some State Legislators. He indicated that the program was scheduled to take place again at WNC on February 15, 2024. He commented that he was “glad to see that they have removed the interim name off the Dr. Kyle Dalpe, the President at WNC, to now the official President.” Commissioner Smith encouraged the Commissioners’ attendance.

5.b FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(56:35) – Ms. Scott referenced the outlined CCCC tentative meeting items, which are incorporated into the record, and she and Ms. Soule responded to clarifying questions. Ms. Scott wished to agendaize an item for the Commission to consider how to proceed with the remaining funds for FY 2024, such as ideas for programs and activities or for public art projects. Chairperson D’Anneio recommended that the Commissioners produce all their ideas as potential projects for the remaining funds.

5.c UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 21-23: MARK TWAIN DAYS

JUNE 12, 2023: CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

(1:02:59) – Chairperson D’Anneio introduced the item and announced the dates for the upcoming meeting and event.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

(1:03:19) – Chairperson D’Anneio entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJORN.

(1:03:51) – Chairperson D’Anneio adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The Minutes of the March 13, 2023 Carson City Cultural Commission meeting are so approved this 12th day of June 2023.