

DRAFT MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Cultural Commission (CCCC)
Monday, June 12, 2023 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada

Commission Members

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| 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
Dan Earp, Recreation Superintendent
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

(5:33:05) – Chairperson D’Anneo called the meeting to order at 5:33 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 | Present | |
| Samuel Flakus | Present | 5:37 p.m. |
| Michael Smith | Present | |
| Valerie Moore | Present | |

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:33:51) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2023

(5:34:08) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained comments, changes, and a motion.

(5:34:34) – **MOTION:** Commissioner Drysdale moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Commissioner Horton abstained from voting, as he was not present during the March 13, 2023 meeting.

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

4. MEETING ITEMS:

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

(5:34:56) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Mr. Earp reported on the following Carson City Arts and Culture updates:

- Sierra Scott had resigned from her position as Carson City Arts and Culture Supervisor, and there was an ongoing recruitment to fill the vacant position with the intention to fill the vacancy by early- to mid-August.
- The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Carson Street/South Stewart Street Roundabout Public Art Project was published, and the Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department would be accepting applicants through June 30, 2023.
- Ms. Scott was working with the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts to participate in free educational community performances at the Community Center’s Bob Boldrick Theatre, with performances having been scheduled to take place once a month.
- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was collaborating with the Sierra Arts Foundation in order to offer several art classes in the module building outside of the Community Center next to the Aquatic Facility. An art camp would be offered from July 31, 2023 through August 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The Music and Murals Festival was scheduled to take place on September 20, 2023 through September 30, 2023 with the goal of a minimum 19 murals. Walls were being identified for the murals, including some walls of City buildings. The artists who would be participating in the Music and Murals Festival had also been chosen.
- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department was collaborating with the Sierra Arts Foundation to organize a fall art festival at Silver Saddle Ranch.

(5:44:23) – Addressing members of the public, Chairperson D’Anneo asked that those interested in such programs as the art classes offered for kids by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department and the Sierra Arts Foundation could make a donation to the Department to help more children get involved with the programs. Chairperson D’Anneo also recognized Ms. Scott for her time and efforts with the Department and noted that Ms. Scott developed five projects during her employment as the Arts and Culture Supervisor. Chairperson D’Anneo believed that Ms. Scott was “working towards bringing Carson City into the arts and culture forum.”

(5:48:03) – Ms. Soule reported on the following Arts and Culture updates:

- The Mark Twain Days Festival was “a fair success,” and the attendance of City residents and City visitors was higher than Staff expected. All the ticketed events at the festival had sold out, and the Bowtie Ball was “very close” to selling out of tickets. Ms. Soule noted how those who attended the festival were having “so much fun,” and Staff were receiving questions about another festival being organized during the following year. Additionally, the 2024 festival would be held during the Mother’s Day weekend in May 2024, and Staff were in the process of determining the overall costs and profits for the 2024 festival. Senator Jackie Rosen had awarded a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for the Mark Twain Days Festival, and the festival was selected as the “Best New Event” by the Carson City Chamber of Commerce.
- The Carson City Arts and Music Festival was held on Saturday, March 11, 2023, which was a Sierra Arts Foundation endeavor, and Ms. Soule noted that the festival was “a tremendous success.”
- Staff were working with Brewery Arts Center (BAC) festival organizer Eric Brooks on the Murals and Music Festival.
- Staff were working with organizers for the fall Silver State Art Festival.
- The Carson City Culture and Tourism Authority had been adding updates to the Arts and Culture component of the Carson City Visitor Guide.

(5:51:37) – Commissioner Moore reported on the Arts and Music Festival, which was held at the State Legislature Grounds. She stated that individuals who attended the event had asked if the event would be held during the following year, and she confirmed that the event would take place again next year. In response to Chairperson D’Anneo’s question, Commissioner Moore stated that there were roughly over 200 people who attended the Arts and Music Festival. She believed that there would have been more participants at the event if the weather conditions had not caused the event to end before 5:00 p.m.

4.b FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2023 WORK PLAN.

(5:52:55) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Mr. Earp referenced the 2022/2023 Annual Report and 2023/2024 Work Plan and the Staff Report. He also responded to clarifying questions. Referencing page #6 of the document, Commissioner Drysdale pointed out that Susan Mowers was the CCCC Vice Chair as of January 30, 2023.

4.c FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CARSON CITY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ("RDA") FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT FUNDING OF UP TO \$25,000 AMONG ANY OR NONE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS: WILD HORSE PRODUCTIONS, MILE HIGH JAZZ BAND, CAPITAL CITY ARTS INITIATIVE, THE BIRDHOUSE GROUP LLC DBA THE DOWNTOWN VINTAGE MARKET, CARSON CITY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION, NEVADA DANCE COMPANY (NEW PROJECT), NEVADA DANCE COMPANY (RECURRING PROJECT), CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NEW PROJECT), CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (RECURRING PROJECT), LATINO ARTE AND CULTURE AND THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NORTHERN NEVADA

(5:57:44) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. She and Mr. Earp referenced the Staff Report, the accompanying attachments, and the Late Material, all of which are incorporated into the record. Mr. Earp explained

that automatic point deductions were included on the score sheet for recurring projects, for which the point deductions were based on the number of times each applicant had been awarded Carson City Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds for recurring projects, as the purpose of the Grant was to encourage new events to be organized in Carson City. Mr. Earp also responded to clarifying questions.

(6:11:17) – Regarding the application for the Latino Arte and Culture project, Chairperson D’Anneo commented that, though she was in favor of the idea of a Latino Arte and Culture project, there was “no plan here.” Referring to the application for the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada, Chairperson D’Anneo stated that, while the project was “a nice idea,” there was “no plan here.” In response to Commissioner Horton’s question, Mr. Earp indicated that the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada and Latino Arte and Culture were the applicants that had not previously submitted applications for the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant. Chairperson D’Anneo suggested that the Latino Arte and Culture and the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada applicants work on their plans to submit applications for the Grant for the following year. She commented that the projects for the Latino Arte and Culture and the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada were “super worthy.” Commissioner Flakus commented that a new project may “need ironing out just because it’s a new project,” and there would be some parts of a new project that may need to be figured out in the process of completing the project. Chairperson D’Anneo pointed out that some of the applications did not have a location identified for the proposed projects.

(6:17:03) – Commissioner Moore proposed dividing the available \$25,000 in Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds among the applicants percentagewise, which Commissioner Drysdale believed would be a fair approach. Commissioner Drysdale suggested prioritizing what the Commission would be willing to fund with the Grant funds, such as requiring that the applicants fund their own marketing for the proposed projects, and the Commission could possibly choose to fund such needs as production and/or facility costs. Mr. Earp entered the possible Grant fund allocation amounts suggested by the Commissioners throughout discussion on the item into a spreadsheet to calculate the possible total Grant funds that would be allocated for each applicant’s project. Discussion ensued, during which Commissioner Smith suggested renegotiating the totals of the Grant funds. He also noted that there were some Grant applications that did not meet the criteria outlined for the Grant, and he recommended that the Commission concentrate on the applications that met the criteria as well as the new projects. He stated that the Commission wished to introduce new artists and new culture activities and programs to the City. The other Commissioners agreed with Commissioner Smith’s input.

(6:31:20) – Chairperson D’Anneo pointed out that there were several museums in Carson City and asked if any of the museums could assist the Carson City Historical Society. She also inquired about helping the Carson City Historical Society with contacting the other community museums for funding assistance. Commissioner Flakus commented that the other community museums were “fighting for their own survival, too” and “digging out of the same pot.” Commissioner Smith believed that both Carson City Historical Society projects should be removed from the scoresheet for consideration, as the Carson City Historical Society was active for 53 years, and he believed the Carson City Historical Society should have been able to find a way to obtain funding. He mentioned that the Carson City Historical Society’s marketing may need to be more robust.

(6:34:24) – Carson City Historical Society President Sue Ballew introduced herself. Referencing Commissioner Smith’s input, Ms. Ballew indicated that the Carson City Historical Society’s website was working, and she commented that the Carson City Historical Society had “gone through a social change over the years of bringing people in” before the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, which was the main purpose for the organization requesting

funds. She stated that the Carson City Historical Society did not always have an income, and the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds had helped the Carson City Historical Society with paying for entertainers and production costs. Ms. Ballew stated that the Carson City Historical Society would be “very grateful” to receive some of the requested Grant funds. In response to Chairperson D’Anne’s question, Ms. Ballew stated that the Carson City Historical Society had roughly 60 members and mentioned how the Carson City Historical Society was “about to fold up” before she joined the organization. Chairperson D’Anne advised that the Carson City Historical Society needed to accrue funding in order for the organization to continue its efforts.

(6:36:45) – Chairperson D’Anne stated that the Commission could help the Carson City Historical Society by awarding it some of the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds. Commissioner Horton confirmed that the Carson City Historical Society’s website was working. He commented in support of the Carson City Historical Society as “an important member of the community” and noted that their contributions are valuable. He also believed the Carson City Historical Society’s new project should especially be considered.

(6:37:57) – Commissioner Horton pointed out that the application for the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada was a new project and also did not indicate a plan, so the Commission should discuss the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada as it did the Latino Arte and Culture project. Discussion ensued on the matter.

(6:41:00) – Commissioner Drysdale requested organizing a grant workshop or a “Q&A session” for the next Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant application process in order to advise applicants on what would need to be included in their applications. Commissioner Horton added that he would advise the Commission to internally revise the Grant application criteria to be more specific.

(6:42:07) – Elinor Bugli introduced herself and mentioned how she had advised creating scoring criteria and a rubric for the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant during her service as a CCCC Commissioner. She commented that there were currently numerical scoring criteria for the Grant to award extra points for good plans, omit points for undeveloped plans, and deduct points for recurring projects. She recommended that the Commission use the proportional scores it calculated to distribute the Grant funds according to the total scores that included all the criteria. Chairperson D’Anne and Commissioner Horton agreed with Ms. Bugli’s input; however, Commissioner Drysdale did not wish to potentially lose the focus on new proposed projects that may have scored lower.

(6:43:46) – From the total Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds available, Commissioner Moore proposed awarding \$2,500 to the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada and \$1,400 to each of the remaining applicants other than The Downtown Vintage Market, as she believed that The Downtown Vintage Market application did not apply to the Grant.

(6:47:14) – Nevada Dance Company President Joe Infantino introduced himself and explained that the recurring project, formerly called Pinkerton Ballet Theatre, sponsored *The Nutcracker* every year for the last 33 years. He explained that a new board had been established after the board for the Pinkerton Ballet Theatre had disbanded, and two new creative directors who assumed responsibility over *The Nutcracker* developed the new project to promote ballet and dance in the Carson Valley area. Mr. Infantino described the new project, *New Beginnings*, as the development of young individuals who wish to use dance as a career, and it was featured at the BAC in April 2023. He mentioned that the Nevada Dance Company was involved in the Dog Days of Summer Festival in Reno with the Nevada Dance Company’s pre-professional group and some professional dancers.

(6:53:37) – The Downtown Vintage Market General Manager/Project Manager Travis Legatzke, commenting in response to the possibility of The Downtown Vintage Market being removed from consideration of Redevelopment District Arts and Grant funds, mentioned how the Carson City downtown community was “feeling a big loss” from the Farmer’s Market moving its location from the downtown Carson City area. He stated that The Downtown Vintage Market had featured over 65 individual local artisans and makers directly to market during the previous year in addition to utilizing five local musicians. Mr. Legatzke indicated that part of The Downtown Vintage Market’s primary intent was to build and maintain a weekly market in the downtown area, and he pointed out that there were multiple weekly markets operating in Douglas County and Reno. Commissioner Flakus noted that the venue alone is important sometimes and encouraged Mr. Legatzke to look elsewhere within the City for support. He commented that such opportunities as The Downtown Vintage Market that support the arts “come up,” but there were several other “things” that support the arts that do not need to be supported by the CCCC through funds. Commissioner Flakus personally supported The Downtown Vintage Market.

(6:57:04) – Further discussion ensued among the Commissioners about how the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds would be distributed among the applicants. Chairperson D’Anneo commented, “from the inception of the [Grant] of \$25,000, and ... every organization made a presentation.” She noted that the applicants were “great” organizations and was considering what the applicants were providing to the community for viewing, engagement, and participation. Additionally, she was considering which applicants were achieving “really good audiences.” Chairperson D’Anneo and Vice Chairperson Mowers agreed with input from Commissioner Drysdale about organizing a workshop for the Commission to discuss the specific criteria for the Grant application process.

(7:06:31) – Commissioner Flakus wished to award the most qualified applicants with the amount of money that would “actually make a difference” for their projects while also ensuring that the applicants who “didn’t quite make it” felt supported by the CCCC. He commented that the individuals participating with arts and culture needed to feel supported to reapply for the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant, which he indicated was the reason why he supported awarding half of the requested Grant funds to the top six applicants. Commissioner Drysdale did not believe that giving every applicant some of the requested Grant funds was the best use of \$25,000 because awarding any of the applicants \$1,000 would not be enough assistance with their projects. She also added that the Commissioners had already spent time scoring the applications, during which Commissioner Drysdale had considered how the proposed projects served the public and offered arts to the community.

(7:16:21) – Mr. Reese offered recommendations for the phrasing of the motion.

(7:18:57) – MOTION: Commissioner Flakus moved to recommend for the fiscal year 2023/2024 Carson City Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant distribution of the \$25,000 as follows:

- **Nevada Dance Company (New Project): \$5,000**
- **Carson City Symphony Association: \$2,500**
- **Latino Arte and Culture: \$5,000**
- **Mile High Jazz Band: \$2,500**
- **Nevada Dance Company (Recurring Project): \$2,500**
- **Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada: \$3,500**
- **Carson City Historical Society (New Project): \$4,000**

Chairperson D’Anneo entertained discussion before calling for a vote. Commissioner Drysdale believed that the Commissioners had done a good job with how they determined the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds would be awarded to the applicants. **Chairperson D’Anneo called for a vote.**

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| RESULT: | APPROVED (7-0-0) |
| MOVER: | Flakus |
| SECONDER: | Smith |
| AYES: | D’Anneo, Mowers, Drysdale, Horton, Flakus, Smith, Moore |
| NAYS: | None |
| ABSTENTIONS: | None |
| ABSENT: | None |

5. NON-ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

5.a COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(7:22:50) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained Commissioner reports and comments. Commissioner Drysdale stated that she participated in the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority Art Advisory Committee, which had recently awarded a contract to an artist for the first public art installment of a 450-foot-by-7-foot art piece at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO).

5.b FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(7:24:16) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained suggestions for future agenda items and noted that Commissioner Drysdale had requested a workshop for the Commissioners to discuss the Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant application process. Discussion ensued, during which the Commission agreed to direct Staff to discuss the Grant application process with specific Commissioners.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:27:21) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments. Carson City Grants Administrator Rebecca Phipps introduced herself. She explained that grants were “very specific” and similar to contracts, as grant funds may only be used according to federal law and on the basis of what the applicant applied for. She also offered her assistance to the Commission. She added that the Commissioners’ decision on how Redevelopment District Arts and Culture Grant funds are award to applicants should be based on the rankings of the applicants as determined by the Commissioners.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJORN.

(7:31:30) – Chairperson D’Anneo adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The Minutes of the June 12, 2023 Carson City Cultural Commission meeting are so approved this 11th day of September 2023.