

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Cultural Commission (CCCC)
Monday, September 11, 2023 ● 6:00 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 – Samuel Flakus	Commissioner – Michael Smith
Commissioner – Valerie Moore	

Staff

Anna Freeman, Arts and Culture Supervisor
Dan Earp, Recreation Superintendent
Todd Reese, Deputy District Attorney
Tamar Warren, Senior Deputy Clerk
Minutes by: Briana Munoz, 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 are available on www.carson.org/minutes.

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

(6:01:34) – Chairperson D’Anneo called the meeting to order at 6:01 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	
Valerie Moore	Present	
Michael Smith	Present	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:02:06) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 12, 2023

(6:02:26) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained comments, changes, and a motion. Vice Chair Mowers noted that the minutes reported her as present at the June 12, 2023 meeting when she was absent.

(6:02:53) – **MOTION:** Commissioner Drysdale moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion.

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

(6:03:09) – Chairperson D’Anneo thanked Mr. Earp for leading the Arts and Culture Program. She welcomed the new Arts and Culture Program Supervisor Anna Freeman. Ms. Freeman introduced herself and stated that she was excited to work with the Commission.

4. MEETING ITEMS:

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

(6:04:36) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Mr. Earp reported on the following Carson City Arts and Culture updates:

- The South Carson Street Roundabout project received 153 applications. Three finalists, Curt Pittman, Mike Szabo, and Karen Yank were selected. Mr. Earp presented examples of the finalists’ artwork. He stated that October 30, 2023, was the deadline for the project’s Phase 2 proposal submissions.

(6:13:57) – In response to Commissioner Smith’s question, Mr. Earp stated that the three artists were not from Northern Nevada. Mr. Earp reported on the following:

- Contract recreation classes were held throughout the summer, including workshops and a summer camp with Sierra Arts Foundation.
- Adult art classes will be held in the fall.
- Staff plans to conduct youth camp in the winter and spring.

(6:16:49) – Chairperson D’Anneo noted that children’s summer art classes needed art supplies. She stated that “we are on a very limited budget” and encouraged Commissioners to donate. Mr. Earp reported that Staff worked with the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts and conducted a variety of free performances at the Bob Boldrick Theater, with 40 to 50 registrations for the latest event. He added that Staff is looking into ways to continue the free performances.

(6:19:00) – Eric Brooks of the Brewery Arts Center provided an update on The Murals and Music Festival, scheduled for September 28 through September 30, 2023. Mr. Brooks reported that final design approvals were underway.

(6:26:56) – Mr. Earp reported on the following Arts and Culture updates:

- A special CCCC meeting will be held in November 2023.
- Sierra Arts Foundation will hold a Fall Art Festival at Silver Saddle Ranch on November 18, 2023.

4.B FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY MANAGER OR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING MURALS ON THE WALLS OF THE CARSON CITY LIBRARY AND THE CARSON CITY COMMUNITY CENTER AS PART OF THE MURALS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL.

(6:27:48) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Mr. Earp referenced the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record and Ms. Freeman referenced the Late Material, which is incorporated into the record, and went over the proposed mural design called *All in This Together*.

(6:38:17) – Commissioner Horton noted that the design was “childlike” and said that his grandchildren would love it. He stated that he was against the use of words and phrases on a public building because of the potential for debate and argument. He added that the artwork was “really cool looking.”

(6:38:48) – Vice Chair Mowers proposed asking if the artist of the mural, Hannah Eddy, could utilize a geometrical style. She stated that she was not opposed to the words on the mural but suggested a phrase that was more in line with themes of Nevada such as “all Nevada.” Vice Chair Mowers added that the mural was “bright” and “vibrant.”

(6:40:40) – Commissioner Flakus stated that the phrase “all in this together” reminded him of Nevada’s state motto “All for Our Country.” He suggested coming up with a similar phrase.

(6:41:22) – Chairperson D’Anneo echoed the Commission’s comments. She stated that she liked the artwork but was unsure if it suited the community building. She suggested the phrase “life is beautiful” and added that she would like to see artwork that was “a little more sophisticated.”

(6:41:54) – Ms. Freeman explained that the artist, Ms. Eddy, would not offer revisions for the design of the mural.

(6:43:42) – Commissioner Drysdale stated that she was one of the 12 panelists on the public art panel that reviewed the mural designs. She added that although the mural’s phrase could be misconstrued politically, she felt that there would be more individuals in support of it rather than opposed to it.

(6:45:10) – Ms. Freeman stated that out of the 12-person panel, 11 people stated that they would recommend the mural for the south wall of the community center. Commissioner Drysdale mentioned that she was the panelist who expressed opposition but stated that she would now recommend it.

(6:46:13) – Commissioner Horton stated that “art is wonderful” and noted that the artwork inside of the Bob Crowell Room didn’t have words, phrases, or comments on any of it.

(6:46:59) – Commissioner Smith suggested letting “the person who is looking at the art decide a title for it.” He questioned how the phrase “all in this together” could be misconstrued. Commissioner Smith added that he liked the word “together” and felt it was a pleasant message. He stated that the design was “a little cartoony” but didn’t have any objections with the phrase.

(6:48:58) – Commissioner Horton stated that although he supported Commissioner Smith’s perspective, he felt it was best to avoid phrases on a mural “in this day and age.” He agreed with Commissioner Smith’s point to allow the person observing the artwork to think what they’d like instead of adding a title or phrase to the mural.

(6:49:32) – In response to Commissioner Moore’s question, Ms. Freeman stated that if the Commission decides against the mural, there would not be a mural this year on the Community Center. Commissioner Horton stated that if the mural doesn’t work for this year’s Murals and Music Festival, there would be others.

(6:50:34) – Ms. Freeman referenced the Late Material and went over the second mural titled *Community Bookshelf* proposed for the east wall of the library. Ms. Freeman noted that the artist, Haley Meadows, said she was open to changing the titles of the books.

(6:51:28) – Chairperson D’Anneo said she wondered how many of the books on the mural were banned in other states and commented that the mural would be “wonderful” for that wall. Commissioner Horton noted that all of the books featured in the mural were American Classics. Ms. Freeman clarified that the books in the mock-up were not the books that would be featured in the mural. She stated that the Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) would select the books and would be limited to books that are public domain and not copyrighted. Commissioner Horton said he looked forward to seeing LBOT’s selections.

(6:53:11) – Commissioner Drysdale expressed support for the mural and stated that she loved “the space for it.” She said she hoped a banned book was selected for the mural “to push the envelope just a little bit.”

(6:54:49) – Mr. Earp clarified that the motion would be a recommendation to the City Manager for the approval of the mural art on the Community Center and Library and then she could decide if she would like to approve it or send it to the Board of Supervisors.

(6:55:31) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments. Deni French introduced himself as a Carson City resident and stated that he opposed any art mural on a public building without a broader survey. Mr. French stated that the Commission’s review was important and emphasized placing the mural on private property where it would not “cause a racket.” He added that murals change a structure’s look and architecture and stated that the *All in This Together* mural had an elementary school look that would be better suited for a school or inside a play area “but not on a building that I’m looking at through the eyes of this community’s nature, it’s historical value, and it’s look towards a future value.”

(6:58:26) – Commissioner Smith asked Staff how the survey was disseminated. He added that surveying 12 individuals was not “a good broad representation of the community.” In response to Commissioner Smith’s question, Mr. Earp explained the process of the 12-person panel and survey and stated that Staff followed the Public Art Policy, which “generally isn’t open-ended to the community” and involves selecting a panel that represents the community in different ways. Mr. Earp said that the panel consisted of representatives from different areas of the community including the Community Center, the Aquatic Facility, Library, and various commissions.

(7:02:52) – Mr. Reese stated that the murals could be separated into two different motions.

(7:03:15) – MOTION: Commissioner Drysdale moved to recommend the Library mural to the City Manager. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

(7:04:08) – Commissioner Smith asked for clarification on how LBOT would select book titles for the mural. Eric Brooks from Sierra Arts Foundation stated that LBOT formed a subcommittee to choose the potential titles. Commissioner Smith mentioned that he would like to see a diverse selection of books. Mr. Reese stated that the committee discussed diversity and representing local authors. **Chairperson D’Anneó called for a vote.**

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

(7:07:12) – **MOTION: Commissioner Horton moved not to recommend the mural on the Community Center to the City Manager. Commissioner Drysdale seconded the motion.**

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

5. NON-ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

5.A COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(7:08:53) – Chairperson D’Anneó introduced the item and entertained Commissioner reports and comments. Commissioner Smith mentioned that he attended an art exhibition by artist Eunkang Koh at Western Nevada College. He added that the event was well-attended and featured “beautiful work.” Commissioner Moore announced that the Sierra Arts Foundation will hold a holiday art sale event featuring live music at Silver Saddle Ranch on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Chairperson D’Anneó stated that several individuals were interested in learning about the role of the members of the Cultural Commission. She told Ms. Freeman that she would like to hold a session to discuss the responsibilities of the Commission and recent issues, including the Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee (RACC) grants and the scoring. The Commission and Staff agreed with the suggestion.

5.B FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

(7:13:10) – Commissioner Smith asked for an update on a plan to create a subcommittee for the RACC grants rubric and process. Mr. Earp stated that it would be discussed at the December meeting or a future meeting since Ms. Freeman had just been hired.

(7:15:26) – In response to confusion on the order of the agenda items, Mr. Earp noted that Staff is looking to make the CCC agenda template like the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee agendas so the template may have looked different.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:16:40) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments. Mr. French thanked the Commission and Chair D’Anneo for “the opportunity to get to know” them better and said he looked forward to seeing the progression of their “understanding” of their positions “because it was still a little vague.” Mr. French noted that the agenda didn’t follow the order of the items discussed. He stated that he would’ve liked the Commission to change their recommendation regarding the murals to not include city buildings for the Murals and Music Festival. Mr. French added that while he supported an inclusive event, he felt the public should have a “say as to what’s going to be on public buildings.”

(7:18:36) – Commissioner Smith suggested taking a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

(7:19:17) – The Commission took a moment of silence.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJORN.

(7:19:42) – Chairperson D’Anneo adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

The Minutes of the September 11, 2023, Carson City Cultural Commission meeting are so approved this 13th day of November 2023.