

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Cultural Commission (CCCC)
Monday, December 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 Program Supervisor
Dan Earp, Recreation Superintendent
Todd Reese, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
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

(6:00:40) – Chairperson D’Anneo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

(6:01:03) – 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	

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:01:18) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments. Sharon Rosse of Capital City Arts Initiative (CCAI) addressed the Commission regarding Item 5.C, concerning the proposed grant scoring guide. Ms. Rosse noted that the current Bob Crowell Room art exhibition was one of CCAI’s 14 annual exhibitions across four city sites. She expressed concerns with the proposed grant scoring criteria, stating that the Commission was prioritizing new organizations over existing arts groups by penalizing established art organizations for requesting repeat funding. She added that the Nevada Arts Council encouraged 501 (c) (3) organizations to apply for small introductory grants, which provided new groups with the opportunity to prove themselves capable of handling the grants and asked the

Commission to consider a similar approach. She questioned why an organization would not deserve funding because it had previously received funding, stating that existing art groups provide cultural enrichment to the City. Ms. Rosse noted that City funding is important to the CCAI to help the organization continue providing 900 annual Citywide gallery days. She expressed disappointment with “being downgraded” and said she hoped that the Commission had plans to increase grant budgets to support more art groups. Ms. Rosse noted that for profit businesses were allowed to apply this past grant cycle and stated that non-profit groups were at a disadvantage. She requested that the Commission provide grant funding exclusively to Carson City 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations. Ms. Rosse commented that Carson City residents deserve a vibrant arts and culture environment. She suggested that the Commission revise its scoring guide to include support for the longstanding successful arts organizations that are vital to the City’s cultural health.

(6:04:55) – Commissioner Flakus agreed with Ms. Rosse’s point, stating that he was frustrated that the Commission could only provide \$25,000 to applicants of Carson City while providing “almost ten times that much for a sculpture that was farmed out to somewhere else.”

(6:05:52) – Deni French, a Carson City resident, echoed Ms. Rosse’s statement regarding grant funding.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

(6:06:18) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained comments, changes, and a motion.

(6:06:30) – Commissioner Flakus noted that he hadn’t been informed about the Special Cultural Commission meeting on November 13, 2023. He expressed disappointment with “being left out of that process” regarding the roundabout sculpture. Mr. Flakus added that the selected sculpture was “a mistake.”

(6:07:31) – Chairperson D’Anneo called for a motion.

(6:07:34) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mowers moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Special Meeting as presented. Commissioner Drysdale seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

5. MEETING ITEMS:

5.A FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CULTURAL COMMISSION IN THE ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN AND CARSON CITY MUNICIPAL CODE (“CCMC”).

(6:07:58) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Ms. Freeman referenced the Staff Report and the Carson City Arts and Culture Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, both of which are incorporated into the record.

(6:12:19) – Chair D’Anneo noted that she requested the item to ensure that Commissioners were in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and City Code. Ms. Freeman stated that on March 15, 2022, the Cultural Commission proposed changes to the Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) regarding the role of the Commission.

(6:16:15) – Mr. Reese recommended opening Item 5.B for discussion since it was brought up. In response to Chair D’Anneo, Mr. Reese clarified that Commissioners are not required to attend training on ethical considerations and Open Meeting Law but added that presentations were occasionally provided. He explained that ethics and Open Meeting Law trainings were available online and offered to provide links to Commissioners.

5.B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION A REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (“BOARD”) CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES TO CARSON CITY MUNICIPAL CODE (“CCMC”) CHAPTER 2.41, INCLUDING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CULTURAL COMMISSION.

(6:12:58) – Ms. Freeman referenced the Staff Report and CCMC Chapter 2.41.070 Functions of the Cultural Commission, both of which are incorporated into the record. She responded to clarifying questions regarding Function 6 included in the proposed changes. Ms. Freeman pointed out that the redlined text in the list of functions were proposed to be removed and the blue text were functions that were proposed to be added.

(6:14:59) – Ms. Freeman clarified that the proposed functions of the Cultural Commission were not codified and were recommended on March 15, 2022. She went over the proposed changes and referenced Function 7 regarding the investigation of a non-profit Local Arts Agency (LAA). Ms. Freeman noted that the existing Carson City Arts and Culture Coalition was designated as an official LAA by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She added that the City’s Arts and Culture program could pursue federal match funding for sub-granting without establishing a separate LAA.

(6:25:31) – Commissioner Drysdale emphasized the need for the Commission to take more action and provide direction to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) beyond the promotion of the arts. Vice Chair Mowers agreed with Commissioner Drysdale and suggested removing Function 7 from the list of functions. She recommended strengthening the language within the functions. Mr. Reese encouraged the Commission to consider the broader concepts within the proposed changes rather than “minute details of the language.” He noted that the Commission’s recommendations will be presented to the BOS for consideration.

(6:30:22) – Commissioner Smith raised concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the functions, highlighting that a nonprofit LAA was not mentioned in the preceding functions. He suggested revisiting the selection process for grant funding. Mr. Reese clarified that the investigation of a nonprofit LAA was driven by the need to explore potential pathways for NEA grant funding and was not directly related to the selection of grant recipients. Commissioner Horton noted that the keyword in Function 7 was “investigation.”

(6:36:41) – In response to Vice Chair Mowers, Ms. Freeman explained that the NEA sets strict federal requirements for subgranting and said that the City or LAA could add additional stipulations but must adhere to NEA regulations as the funds are matched. In response to Chair D’Anneo, Ms. Freeman clarified that being an LAA and having eligibility as a subgranting entity was not the same but often overlap. She noted that while pursuing eligibility as an LAA for additional funding is worthwhile, it may not necessitate inclusion in the CCMC. In response to Vice Chair Mowers, Ms. Freeman stated that the City would continue to function as the official subgranting entity, with the Cultural Commission making recommendations.

(6:41:03) – Mr. Reese confirmed that the allocation of redevelopment funds for the arts will remain unchanged. He noted that determining the official granting agency for the NEA is a separate matter.

(6:42:07) – Chair D'Anneo expressed concerns regarding the City's ability to sign grant applications, stating that she believed the City is not a nonprofit organization and may need to seek signatures from elsewhere to apply for grants.

(6:42:36) – Commissioner Moore mentioned that the Sierra Arts Foundation is an LAA and expressed hesitation about further exploring the “LAA rabbit hole.” She added that she preferred allowing the City to handle grant allocations as done in the past. Vice Chair Mowers clarified the distinction between NEA grants and City allocation funds. She emphasized that while the City allocates funds specifically for arts and culture, the process differs from that of an LAA. Ms. Freeman noted that the Sierra Arts Foundation is a regional arts agency.

(6:44:08) – Commissioner Smith inquired about the process for requesting additional funding through the Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee (RACC). In response to Commissioner Smith, Mr. Reese clarified that anyone could request additional funding from the City, however, the availability and allocation of funds is up to the Board. Mr. Reese added that the NEA does not affect the City's decision-making process regarding additional funding for the arts.

(6:45:59) – Chair D'Anneo expressed frustration over past attempts to secure additional funding for arts programs. Commissioner Smith echoed Chair D'Anneo's comments. Commissioner Horton proposed approaching RACC for more funding. Mr. Reese explained that while the specific action to request additional funding was not on the meeting agenda, it could be included in a future meeting agenda.

(6:50:08) – Vice Chair Mowers suggested adding Function 10 back into the list of functions and amending it to “in the community” instead of “in the schools.” Ms. Freeman noted that the amendment might become redundant with “in the community.” Vice Chair Mowers suggested improving the language of Function 10.

(6:52:40) – In response to Commissioner Drysdale, Mr. Reese noted that Function 7 was a “specific version” of Function 2. He suggested deleting Function 7 if the Commission was satisfied with the language of Function 2.

(6:53:19) – MOTION: Commissioner Drysdale moved to send the proposed changes from the March 15, 2022 Cultural Commission meeting to the Board of Supervisors, striking the blue version of Function 7 and adding back the redlined version of Function 10. Vice Chair Mowers seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

5.C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REDEVELOPMENT ARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS AND THE SCORING RUBRIC USED FOR THE GRANTS.

(6:54:36) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Ms. Freeman referenced the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. She went over the scoring of the Fiscal Year 2024 Redevelopment Arts and Culture Grants which included 0 to 60 points for implementing the Carson City Arts and Culture Strategic Plan, 0 to 30 points for project planning, 0 to 30 points for project management and feasibility, 0 to 30 points for community impact, and 0 to 30 points for artistic merit or capability skills enhancement. Ms. Freeman noted that points were deducted for repeat events or projects that had received funding in the past.

(6:56:26) – Chair D’Anneo emphasized the need to clarify what was considered repeat funding and distinguishing between ongoing projects and new initiatives, citing the Carson City Symphony creating a new score every year as an example.

(6:57:07) – Commissioner Horton questioned the definition of “new,” noting that it should be removed from the criteria to simplify the process and avoid unnecessary debate.

(6:58:05) – Chairperson D’Anneo highlighted the need for new artists and stated that the same groups request funding every year. Commissioner Horton commented that both new and existing artists were beneficial.

(7:00:09) – In response to Vice Chair Mowers, Chair D’Anneo clarified that the grant funds were not for operational purposes.

(7:00:22) – Commissioner Horton suggested that the Commission revamp the criteria before moving forward with the item. Commissioner Drysdale concurred with Commissioner Horton’s recommendation, noting that there were several ways of addressing the matter and that it would require more thought.

(7:01:26) – Vice Chair Mowers proposed separate criteria for seed funding versus funding for established organizations.

(7:02:05) – Commissioner Horton stated that he would like Ms. Freeman to return with different proposals. Chairperson D’Anneo added that before the Commission goes to RACC, it needs to have a plan prepared.

(7:03:25) – Commissioner Flakus emphasized the need to establish if the grants were for seed funding or for operations. Chairperson D’Anneo stated that grant funding was strictly for projects and artwork, not for operations. Commissioner Flakus added that it should be stated in criteria. Chair D’Anneo noted that it was stated in the rules. Commissioner Horton emphasized the need to revise criteria to clarify information.

(7:04:04) – Vice Chair Mowers noted that an artist’s organization and an individual artist would require different amounts of funding and suggested considering that in the rubric.

(7:05:12) – Chair D’Anneo recommending reviewing the RACC grant form and determining the rationale for grant funding.

(7:06:05) – Commissioner Flakus expressed concern over the competitive nature of grant funding, stating that it had a negative impact on the arts community.

(7:06:32) – Vice Chair Mowers suggested showing RACC that the Commission had a well-defined plan for the funds so that it could potentially receive more. Chairperson D’Anneo highlighted the difficulty in allocating the funds to several different organizations, stating that organizations were pit against one another.

(7:07:39) – Commissioner Horton noted that \$25,000 might be all the Commission ever receives and all it could do was hope for the best. He stated that in the interim the Commission should focus on revising the criteria to the best of its ability. Commissioner Horton added that although grant funding could potentially pit organizations against each other, he stated that it was “an unfortunate side effect but we have to work with what we have.”

(7:08:07) – Mr. Reese recommended tasking Ms. Freeman with revamping the rubric. He noted that Ms. Freeman could contact Commissioners individually as needed for clarification on the new rubric.

(7:09:19) – Commissioner Drysdale suggested asking grant applicants to specify what grants will be used for so that the Commission could score accordingly. Chair D’Anneo suggested putting “the rationale together” for why the Commission needs to have increased funds to propose to RACC.

(7:14:41) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mowers moved to have Ms. Freeman review the grant program including the rubric from top to bottom and come back with recommendations for the Commission to review. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion.

(7:15:03) – Chairperson D’Anneo encouraged Commissioners to individually run ideas by Ms. Freeman.

(7:16:37) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:16:55) – Mr. French stated that the update on the matter should be placed on the agenda once it comes back for discussion.

(7:17:53) – Ms. Rosse expressed appreciation for the discussion. She said that she would like to meet with Ms. Freeman to share her experience with “these kinds of grants.” She noted the difficulty in raising money for staffing and operations of an organization.

(7:18:54) – Chairperson D’Anneo told Ms. Rosse that as a member of the public she has every right to meet with Ms. Freeman. She emphasized that the grant funding criteria was created to encourage art organizations to seek funding apart from funding from RACC.

(7:20:22) – Chairperson D’Anneo called for a vote. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

5.D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF A DONATION FORM AS EXHIBIT A OF THE PUBLIC ART POLICY.

(7:20:38) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Ms. Freeman referenced the Staff Report, the Public Art Donation Proposal Form, and the Carson City Public Art Policy, all of which are incorporated into the record.

(7:22:53) – Commissioner Horton asked that that the proposal form require an in-depth description on the piece of art instead of a brief description.

(7:23:08) – Vice Chair Mowers noted that the optional information portion of the form should not be optional. Chair D’Anneo agreed. In response to Vice Chair Mowers, Ms. Freeman clarified that the donation proposal form would become Appendix A of the Public Art Policy. Ms. Freeman noted that it was not necessarily “the end all be all” for donating artwork and was created to simplify the donation process.

(7:24:49) – Vice Chair Mowers said that she felt the form should require donors to state the current condition and maintenance required for an art piece.

(7:25:52) – In response to Chair D’Anneo, Ms. Freeman confirmed that the donation proposal form had not previously existed. Mr. Reese added that the form had already been reviewed by the legal department and noted that he would reassess it considering the discussion. He noted that because the matter was part of the public art policy it had to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

(7:26:58) – MOTION: Commissioner Drysdale moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of the public art donation proposal form, with the changes discussed on the record to make Number 2 required not optional, to become Appendix A of the public art policy. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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

5.E. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE.

(7:29:12) – Chair D’Anneo introduced the item. Ms. Freeman referenced the Staff Report and the proposed meeting schedule for 2024, both of which are incorporated into the record. Commissioner Drysdale inquired about the proposed meeting time for 12:00 p.m. Ms. Freeman noted that the 5:30 p.m. meeting time conflicted with the Cultural Tourism Authority (CTA) meeting at 4:00 p.m. Vice Chair Mowers indicated that 12:00 p.m. was a complication due to her work schedule. Chair D’Anneo said she wished the meeting could begin at 5:30 p.m. otherwise the meetings go on late into the evening. Commissioner Flakus stated that the Commission should

consider that members of the public may not be able to attend at 12:00 p.m. Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding schedule conflicts with the Board Room.

(7:33:58) – Commissioner Drysdale suggested meeting at 5:30 p.m. and recommended starting the meeting later if the CTA had a heavy agenda and Commissioners agreed.

6. STAFF UPDATES - FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(7:34:34) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item. Ms. Freeman reported on the following:

- A public survey for input on arts and culture programs will go live in January 2024 and will continue throughout February 2024.
- A Spring Break Arts Enrichment Camp hosted by the Sierra Arts Foundation will be held for children ages 7 to 12 on April 1 through April 5, 2024.
- A Cinco De Mayo Celebration and Mark Twain Days will be taking place in May 2024.
- Potential activities for the 50th anniversary of the Bob Boldrick Theater in September 2024.

(7:35:59) – In response to Chair D’Anneo, Ms. Freeman stated that a press release on the public survey will be distributed to local newspapers.

7. MEMBERS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION - FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(7:36:19) – Chairperson D’Anneo introduced the item and entertained Commissioner announcements and requests for information; however, none were forthcoming. She wished everyone a happy holiday season.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

(7:36:39) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained requests for future agenda items. She requested a recap and review of the discussion regarding RACC grants.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:38:05) – Chairperson D’Anneo entertained public comments.

(7:38:20) – Ms. Rosse shared that the CCAI has an exhibition in four city venues. She noted that CCAI provides honorariums to the artists it works with. Ms. Rosse mentioned that the art in the Bob Crowell Board Room was “Art with Aloha” by Jackie Pias Carlin. She added that Ms. Carlin is a printmaker and a painter who lives in Carson City. Ms. Rosse noted that Ms. Carlin’s video will be posted on CCAI’s YouTube channel. Ms. Rosse stated that the “It Started with Willows” exhibition was open until December 21, 2023 at Western Nevada College. She added that the exhibition includes 12 contemporary Native American artists with a variety of work and working baskets by 12 artists from the mid-twentieth century, on loan from the Lloyd Chichester Collection. Ms. Rosse stated that the exhibition essay was written by Terry McBride, which was available in the gallery and on the CCAI website. She noted that the exhibition “Windows to the Soul” was displayed in the Courthouse Gallery through January 25, 2024, stating that James Gayle is amazing and paints watercolor portraits. Ms. Rosse noted that Chris Lanier wrote the exhibition essay, which could be found in the gallery and on the CCAI website. She added that Photo Finish 2024 will be displayed in the CCAI student gallery in the Community Development building, featuring photographs

by 12 Carson High School advanced photography students. She encouraged Commissioners to go on the CCAI website, to visit all four galleries, and to follow CCAI on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. Ms. Rosse responded to clarifying questions.

(7:41:08) – Mr. French echoed Chair D’Anneo’s holiday greeting and said he appreciated the Commission. He asked Commissioners to speak up or to sit closer to their microphones.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJORN.

(7:41:45) – Chairperson D’Anneo adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

The Minutes of the December 11, 2023 Carson City Cultural Commission meeting are so approved this 11th day of March 2024.

Public Comment

Cultural Commission
#5C

11 December 2023 Meeting

I am Sharon Rosse with the Capital City Arts Initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment. This current Crowell Room exhibition is one of CCAI's 14 annual exhibits in 4 city sites. I am addressing agenda item #5C and the proposed consideration for the scoring guide to be used for future grants. I have comments on repeat funding, increasing grant funds, and grants to for-profits.

To my understanding the Cultural Commission's charge is to support, develop, and improve the cultural environment and a healthy quality of life for all the people of Carson City.

The Commission has changed its focus to emphasize new organizations over existing arts groups by penalizing established groups for requesting ongoing funding. Please note that repeat applicants continue to provide their strong programing for the city's residents and visitors.

In my years working on grants with the Nevada Arts Council, new 501(c)3s were always invited to apply for smaller, introductory grants. These small grants were awarded to give the young group an opportunity to prove themselves capable of succeeding and handling the grant's responsibilities. Please consider this approach.

To me, the idea that an organization does not deserve funding because it has been previously funded does not make sense. Why should arts applicants receive low scores because they continue to successfully provide cultural enrichment to the city's residents and visitors? City funding is important to CCAI to help us continue providing 900 annual city-wide gallery days including this exhibition. It is discouraging to be downgraded because of our ongoing hard work.

Does the Commission have plans to increase its grant budget via more city funding to help support more arts groups?

In this past grants cycle, for-profit businesses were allowed to apply. This puts non-profits at a disadvantage. I ask that the Commission only provide its grants funding to city 501(c)3 non-profits.

The 59,000 people who live in Carson City deserve a high quality of life that includes a vibrant arts and culture environment. I respectfully request that you revise your scoring guide to include support for the long-standing, successful arts organizations that are vital to the city's cultural health.

Thank you.