

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
April 20, 2022  
Palm Springs City Hall  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was conducted by teleconference.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Pritchard on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Vice Chair Russell Pritchard, Commissioners Gary Armstrong, Barrett Newkirk, Matthew Lesniak (joined at 5:00 minutes)

Not present: Chair Tracy Merrigan, Commissioner Shawnda Faveau

City Staff: Jay Virata

**C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. CARRIED 3-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** From the meetings of February 23, 2022, and March 16, 2022.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2022, AND FOR MARCH 16, 2022, MADE BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG. CARRIED 3-0 TO APPROVE.

**F. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:** None.

**G. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:**

1. Discuss/Approve extension of loan agreement at no cost for the Gonzalo Lebrija "Suspended in Time" artwork. Receive staff report on funds dispersed to date on art installation costs of "Suspended in Time." Request museum to update signage to reflect the monetary sponsorship of this artwork from the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission. The artwork is on city property, and they can extend the loan agreement to April 2023.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT TO APRIL 2023, AND TO REQUEST UPDATED SIGNAGE IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AS THE SPONSOR., SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

2. Discuss/Approve the request from Palm Springs Art Museum to renew artwork loans at the Airport and the Convention Center. A list of the loaned artworks and a copy of the current agreement has been requested. Item is tabled for discussion at the May meeting.

TABLING OF ITEM AND ITS ADDITION TO THE MAY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA APPROVED 4-0.

3. Report on One PS Picnic, Public Arts Commission participation and updated budget. Commissioner Lesniak reporting that the picnic was a success, much positive feedback; total cost was approximately \$572, budgeted for \$2,300. A list of suggestions for the commission to engage with the community in the future was created. A proposal for supplies, e.g., canopy, will be added to the May agenda.
4. Commissioner Updates:
  - a. Temporary Art Subcommittee – None.
  - b. Stop in the Name of Love Utility Boxes – None.
  - c. Parks & Rec – Commissioner Armstrong met with Parks liaisons last week to discuss the idea of an Eco Artwalk along North Riverside and obtain their support of the project, to be forwarded to Sustainability for their support, then go to the Measure J commission for some funding. Public arts budget would pay for some specific art pieces, other commissions would assist with items such as benches, and shade structures. Concept proposal to be developed and taken to Lisa Middleton for initial feedback. The budget would be for a multi-year project.
  - d. Art is Everywhere Neighborhood Grant Program – Recreated a past program with \$25,000 divided for up to five \$5,000 grants in five neighborhoods; this was approved by city council. After the project is created, commissioners will contact people in the area to approve it, obtain commission approval, followed by the approval by city council. Commissioner Newkirk has been contacted by the Tahquitz Creek Golf neighborhood about using the funds for an entryway installation.
  - e. Main Street – Commissioner Lesniak shared dates for the upcoming Gay Pride event, its 36<sup>th</sup> year; the rainbow stripes should be updated and there will be another art installation. Providing shade structures in public parks was mentioned at the recent city council meeting; the structures could have artwork. Jay Virata noted that Community Development Block Grant funds could be used for two parks, would need council approval, and they can

work with the engineering department for installation. Jay Virata and/or Commissioner Lesniak will contact engineering to research the plans for the parks and possible work on the shade structures. An RFP for artists would be created.

- f. Downtown Benches – Vice Chair Pritchard reviewed the solicitation of proposals for cleaning the benches with low-pressure water, which would be supervised by Tysen Knight. Commissioner Lesniak and Chair Merrigan to discuss the possible phasing out of some of the artwork, returning the benches to their terracotta color; downtown constituents are not in favor of removing artwork from the benches.
5. Update on Richard Wyatt Mural, the attendance by Vice Chair Pritchard and Commissioner Armstrong at the Desert Highland Estates Neighborhood Council Meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss options for the mural. The residents want the Richard Wyatt mural recreated in tile on the building. Vice Chair Pritchard requested a letter from the head of their committee stating the neighborhood's preference. Planning, engineering, and city council would subsequently need to approve it. To be added to the May or June commission meeting agenda, and options for funding. Commissioner Faveau to be the lead on this project; an updated estimate is needed.
  6. Update on Culturally Strong Mural Project: Commissioner Armstrong mentioned a city council member's pitch of a plan for the garage, that other council members, city staff, and the art commission did not know about, so art commission funds could not be used for that plan. The project is on hold for further review by the councilmember. Councilmember Holstege expressed a need to do more artwork outside of downtown; Councilmember Woods discussed the maintenance needs of murals. Options for getting council approval for the concept, without specifics, discussed.
  7. Discuss commissioner ideas for new projects:
    - a. Commissioner Armstrong would like to have curated art walks throughout the city, highlighting the city's art catalogue; possibly curated to coincide with different thematic events in the city, e.g., gay pride. Commissioner Lesniak mentioned the need to promote the sculpture garden by the convention center to visitors here for conventions.
  8. Receive staff update on Public Arts Commission Yearly Work Matrix submitted in October 2021 and requested by council. – No updates, to be discussed at tomorrow's council meeting.
  9. Receive staff update on flag replacement for "Taming of Horses" payment - Jay Virata stated that DesertX was responsible for the maintenance, and they have made the payment.

10. Review and approve Public Arts Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2023. – No updates.

**H. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:** Jay Virata shared a request from a councilmember that the artwork on the Crescendo property, “Fossils of the Future,” be purchased by the city for its permanent collection, and to add an art bench to that location. Vice Chair Pritchard will add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

**I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

1. Commissioner Newkirk mentioned a request by a local rotary club member to have someone from the commission speak at one of their upcoming meetings; he will get additional information for the commission.
2. Commissioner Lesniak suggests that for events, commissioners contact artists so they can be at their installed artworks, as a feature and to provide information to event attendees.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission adjourned to a regular meeting on May 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via teleconference.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 4-0 TO ADJOURN at 5:15 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 18, 2022, AT 4:00 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Jay Virata*

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Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development Department