

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
November 16, 2022  
Palm Springs City Hall  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and in-person.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Pritchard on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Shawnda Faveau, Matthew Lesniak, Barret Newkirk, Vice-chair Armstrong, Chair Pritchard.

City Staff: Jay Virata

**C. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

Chair Pritchard suggests that Items #H3 and #H6, regarding art mapping and the mobile app/art tour, be combined, Item #H6 was deleted.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NEWKIRK, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**E. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:**

Chair Pritchard wants to bring attention to the art maintenance contract and what it addresses: Signature Sculptures' contract is for maintenance, upkeep, and cleaning and to identify specific repairs that should be brought to the attention of the Commissioners. An identified necessary repair is on today's agenda.

Former Commission Chair Sheffer gave Chair Pritchard an inventory of 77 pieces of public art in the city's collection, including artists, mapped locations, valuations, and installation dates. The inventory is not current, but it's a starting point for updating the list in 2023.

The relocation of the Intersecting Cubes artwork: Palm Springs Museum Architecture and Design Center declined, need to identify alternative locations. The Lawn Chair installation has been removed from the Skylark Hotel and a new

location needs to be identified; it is now in the storage maintenance yard. These should be Agenda items for the January or February meetings.

**F. REMARKS FROM THE VICE CHAIR:**

At an event sponsored by the Inland Empire Community Foundation, arts fund for creative leadership, Vice Chair Armstrong learned that there will be a study published in Fall 2023 on the effect of the arts on economic prosperity. He asked that they provide information on the impact of the arts on both visitors and residents so that information can be included in presentations to City Council.

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

1. Consider proposal from Bayanihan of the Desert for Demuth Park Community Center Mural in the amount of \$22,000. Overview and first mural draft provided by Christine Soto and Adam Labuen Garcia from the Bayanihan of the Desert organization. They will return to the Commission after the artwork is finalized and permit has been obtained.

2. Amend approval to accept gift of “Banned Booty” from the estate of Steve Maloney reducing the gift from three 7’ pieces to just one 7’ long 18” deep 36” high piece.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTONG TO AMEND THE APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF “BANNED BOOTY” FROM THE ESTATE OF STEVE MALONEY. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

3. Discuss and approve repair to “Chairman of the Links” for \$895, as recommended by maintenance firm, Signature Sculptures.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$895 FOR THE REPAIR OF “CHAIRMAN OF THE LINKS” BY SIGNATURE SCULPTURES. CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE

4. Discuss and approve a contract extension with Tysen Knight for maintenance of the benches and utility boxes in the amount of \$5,000 for the period of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023. An RFP to bid for this work will be put out in early 2023.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LESNIAK, SECONDED BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH TYSEN KNIGHT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF BENCHES AND UTILITY BOXES, TO JUNE 30, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000. 4 TO APPROVE, 1 TO ABSTAIN, CARRIED 4-1.

5. Consider request from Sunup Rotary in the amount of \$3,000 for the Chalk Art Festival 2023.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR ARMSTRONG, CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE A BUDGET OF \$3,000 FOR THE CHALK ART FESTIVAL 2023.

## H. PROJECT UPDATES:

### 1. Utility Box Project: update and brief with mapping (Faveau and Lesniak)

Commissioner Faveau mentioned that a few artists should start painting boxes this week. The designs for the artwork were pre-approved by the Commission and by possibly by City Council, and but the execution had been delayed. Commissioner Faveau to contact the artist to discuss plans to redo the AstroTurf box on Indian Canyon and Tachevah, for an additional fee of \$500. Chair Pritchard mentioned that an artist is currently working on the box on Tahquitz Canyon and Caballeros. Chair Pritchard said to avoid putting anyone at risk, if an artist feels unsafe at a box location, assign them a different box. Approved designs can be assigned to any box that is city property. A new design can be approved by Commissioners Lesniak and Faveau. Suggestion to reach out to tribal leaders and engage tribal artists to paint boxes located on tribal land.

### 2. Frances Stevens Park: Social Issues Wall (Armstrong)

Vice Chair Armstrong and Commissioner Newkirk are working on an installation component. He has had discussions with former commissioners Al Jones and Ann Sheffer who are working on a possible wall installation that will highlight the contributions of gays, lesbians, and their allies to the culture of Palm Springs. Vice Chair Armstrong was informed by the head of DesertX of the event launching in March 2023 and Frances Stevens Park as a possible location for an art installation.

### 3. Art mapping and mobile app/art tour project (Newkirk)

Commissioners Newkirk and Lesniak met with Story, an online app creation service, to discuss a potential tool the Palm Springs Art Walk mapping online app. Concerns raised about public websites, record keeping, resources, maintenance, and continuity. Suggestion to contact neighboring municipalities and the museum for feedback and information. Commissioner Lesniak is working on an updated inventory list and would like to include information on the app about the artists, the artworks, and acquisition dates. Chair Pritchard recently supplied the art GPS team with updated information. Jay Virata will provide guidelines regarding authority limits to the Commissioners. Public Records legislation applies to apps, but the I.T. department can work with it. I.T. recommends that the city control the app, as the account holder.

4. Tahquitz median art installations (Armstrong, Lesniak)

Vice Chair Armstrong and Commissioner Lesniak have been scoping venues, taking photos. Vice Chair Armstrong circulated a timeline and budget, and the concept will be presented again to the Human Rights Commission. DesertX contact (Susan) will assist in identifying potential artists, and other leads are also being consulted.

5. Discuss neighborhood arts grant request for World Art Night festival at Demuth Park (Newkirk).

This is a preliminary proposal for a neighborhood arts grant. World Art Day is on April 15, 2023, and this would be Palm Springs festival, the Art in the Park in the Dark, with local artists. Shann Carr, neighborhood representative for Demuth Park, talked with Parks & Recreation about adding this to their World Art Day activities. Carr would like this Commission to sponsor lighting, benches, and the creation of a Night Gallery; she will work with Commissioner Newkirk to identify specific items for funding. Chair Pritchard notes that the three Clements sculptures will be relocated to the park by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

6. General commissioner reports or comments

Vice Chair Armstrong, Jay Virata, and a museum representative (Adam), airport staff and Airport Commission members met at the airport to review the public art and the Palm Springs Museum art installations, and to determine maintenance needs and responsibility; the museum is responsible for most of the artwork. The Airport Commission would like more public art. They requested more painted benches inside of the airport; due to logistics and security it was suggested that multiple artists design the benches, but 1-2 artists execute the work; a dedicated art maintenance contact would be assigned a security badge for access. Airport renovations include a restaurant/bar area, and an art concourse is recommended. They would like a large outdoor art installation, as much of the landscaping will be removed. The Airport Commissioners would like to create an overall art plan; Vice Chair Armstrong will work with them and the art museum on this.

Commissioner Faveau requests information regarding the amount the Public Arts Commission contributes annually to the Black History Committee for Black History Month in February; recommended Agenda item for January 2023.

Update on the pending approval by council of the budget for the asphalt project. The Desert Highlands Community will be able to suggest artists and to view the design.

**I. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:**

Jay Virata confirmed that WOW, Popsicles, and the mural at Desert Highlands and were approved by the city council.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Public Arts Commission will adjourn to a regular meeting on January 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of Palm Springs City Hall located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.

MOTION BY CHAIR PRITCHARD, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER FAVEAU, CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN AT 7:27 PM TO A REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2023, AT 5:30 PM IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jay Virata

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Jay Virata, Director  
Community & Economic Development Department