



**City of El Segundo**  
**Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
for September 28, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Zoom

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva. We recognize the Tongva people as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands). We also acknowledge that Los Angeles County is home to the largest Indigenous populations in the U.S.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Neal Von Flue.

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. Members present: Joanna Bowe, Jane Burrell, Maureen Kingsley, Mark Knight, Michael Kreski, Brian Mitchell, Joan Palmer, Vice Chairperson Natalie Strong, Eva Sweeney, Tanya Taylor, and Chairperson Neal Von Flue.
2. City Council Liaisons not present:  
  
Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present  
Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present
3. City Staff Liaisons present: Senior Librarian Julie Todd, Library Manager Mark Herbert, Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee.

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

1. No presentations.

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

1. No public communications.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for August 24, 2021**

1. Approval of minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Regular Meeting of August 2021.

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Mark Knight and SECONDED by Natalie Strong to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2021. Motion CARRIED 11-0.

## **F. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

1. Swearing in of new ACC members.  
(Deputy City Clerk II Mona Shilling/10 minutes)

Neal Von Flue mentioned that the swearing in of new ACC members had already happened prior to this ACC meeting. Joanne Bowe, Jane Burrell, Joan Palmer, and Tanya Taylor are now official ACC members.

2. Introduction of new Arts & Culture Advisory Committee members.  
(Chairperson Neal Von Flue/15 minutes)

Neal mentioned that he is very excited that the ACC now has a full roster in its history. He asked for the new members to make a brief introduction.

Joanna Bowe mentioned that she is happy to be on the ACC. She loves seeing the different pieces of public art and programs that the ACC presents and creates. She feels that it will be an honor and privilege to serve on the committee. Joanna is a local parent; her kids are in pre-K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Richmond Street school. Joanna is a part-time corporate fundraiser for the education foundation in town.

Jane Burrell is also excited to be on the committee. She has a background in the arts, so this opportunity really resonated with her. Jane worked at LACMA for 41 years and is currently retired. She has time to give back to our wonderful community. Jane spent 26 years of her time at LACMA as the head of education and public programs, so she brings a lot of experience working with communities. Jane is excited to lend whatever help she can provide to this great committee and City.

Joan Palmer is very happy to be on the committee. She has a background in advertising and marketing.

Tanya Taylor is a private equity international tax lawyer who also works as a volunteer with non-profit organizations. She has an appreciation for the arts; she is starting a family in the City and very much would like to be a part of making the City great.

Neal mentioned that the remaining three spots were reappointments, which consist of Eva Sweeney, Brian Mitchell, and Neal himself. Neal has been on the ACC for a total of four years so far; 1 year of that as chair.

Eva Sweeney is the founder and interim director of ESMoA. She is one of the first members of the ACC and very excited about this group. Eva mentioned that the group has accomplished a lot since 2018, establishing the Cultural Development Program and the full-time Cultural Arts Coordinator position.

Michael Kreski has a background in the arts and architecture. He has been on the ACC for two years. He congratulated the new members and the reappointed members as well.

Brian Mitchell has a background in the television and entertainment industry. Like Tanya, Brian is also a lawyer, although he does not practice law anymore.

Natalie Strong is Vice-Chairperson of the ACC. She is a local artist and teaches art at Parks & Rec. She is happy to have a full roster, as the ACC needs more voices and help.

Maureen Kingsley is writer and editor with a background in teaching. She has two kids in the El Segundo schools. She is happy to have all the new members.

Mark Knight has been on the ACC for two years now. His background is in the sciences and has been a photography enthusiast for the last twenty-years.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. John McCullough and George Renfro debrief ACC on El Segundo Art Walk.  
(John McCullough and George Renfro/20 minutes)

Chairperson Neal Von Flue welcomed John and George to the meeting and asked them to provide a summary of the recent El Segundo Art Walk event. Neal mentioned that \$20,000.00 of the Cultural Development Fund helped fund this year's ESAW; he hopes that the ACC will continue to support ESAW. One of the things that the City Council looks for are key performance indicators (KPIs), which calculate the success of the event.

John mentioned that he is excited to meet the new ACC members. He thanked everyone for supporting the ESAW. John specially acknowledged Eva, Maureen, Natalie, and Neal, for their contributions. He also thanked Shawn Green from Parks & Rec for his help. John reported that during and after the event, John and George received an overwhelmingly positive response from this year's event.

John shared his presentation to the ACC with a breakdown of the budget. The extension of the hours, the switching of the event to a Saturday, the distribution of 2,000+ masks, and the creation of a new mural by Bunnie Reiss are some examples that made the event a success. John expressed his gratitude to Sweet Spot Media for their wall contribution for the mural. John would like to clear coat the mural to protect it. He showed the breakdown of the reach and impressions that the event created through all digital platforms as well as the breakdown of expenses for staff, production, entertainment, marketing, and insurance.

George Renfro echoed John's sentiments and thanked the ACC for its support.

Tanya Taylor asked how many years the ESAW has been running and how frequent do John and George produce the event? Annual or bi-annual? John replied that the Art Walk has been happening since 2015. It started as the third Thursday evening event in June, July, and August. This may change because there are benefits to doing the art walk on a Saturday for a longer period. Tanya also asked if the artists were all local, and how was the art selected for display? John answered that the ESAW has an open application process. Almost everyone, except two are from L.A. County. The focus has been to attract artists from the South Bay area. John and George vetted each application and looked at the work of each artist who submitted. Tanya commented that the ESAW was a great event and looks forward to more.

Joanna asked if John and George would consider the ESAW as a weekend event as opposed to three Thursdays. John replied that that depends on several factors such as rentals, live events, etc. It is something that they will explore.

Eva commented that the budget for the ESAW should be increased to help with the production of the Artwalk, especially for mural creation, which become assets for the City. Eva also suggested that an ad hoc committee could be created from the ACC to assist the ESAW in the planning of each Artwalk.

2. Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee gave an update on the Metro Open and Slow Streets grant.  
(Sam Lee/5 minutes)

Sam Lee reported that the City Council did not approve the Cultural Development Program's request to apply for a \$350K Metro Open and Slow Streets grant.

Tanya asked if the City Council gave their reason for rejecting the application process. The City Council's concerns centered around the 20% funding match required from the City.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Clarification of usage, copyright, and accessibility requests for public art.  
(Assistant City Attorney David King/20 minutes)

David King welcomed the new ACC members. He told the ACC that he was asked by City Staff to attend the meeting because there were some usage, copyright, and accessibility issues that recently arose regarding Nanibah Chacon's mural in the El Segundo Public Library. David mentioned that he had emailed a memo to the ACC and pointed out that the City has an existing agreement with the artist. The agreement outlines what the City can and cannot do. David was available to answer any questions that the ACC had regarding the usage agreement of the mural.

Eva mentioned that she was surprised to read that the City will ensure that such reproduction was made in a tasteful manner. Eva suggested that the City takes

this clause out of the existing agreement. David replied that the agreement envisions the City would have been contacted by an individual who is interested in making a reproduction; that language was created to give the artist assurance that the City is going to have standards in place and quality control. David noted that substantial and material reproduction is what we are concerned about. For example, someone who takes a selfie in front of the mural does not constitute a reproduction. There are many exceptions to copyright law; there's personal and incidental use, non-commercial, and commercial use.

Tanya agreed with Eva about the removal of the quality control clause so that the City is protected. Tanya also added that the agreement should have an additional clause regarding third-party responsibility. In other words, the City cannot be responsible for people who make reproductions without the City's knowledge. Mark Knight also pointed this out. David noted that it is an excellent point and will be folded into the revised agreement.

Mark suggested that there should be a one-page guideline that informs the viewer of what they can and cannot do. Tanya countered that we need to be careful with doing that because people can be very creative. Someone will think of doing something that is not on that list. Rather than writing a list of rules, it is better to quote the law and guide people to the laws that are specific and to contact Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee.

Jane Burrell mentioned that in her experience at LACMA, museum staff had to go back to the artist for copyright permission sometimes, depending on the request and wondered why that is not the process here? David replied that the reason is because the artist gave the City a limited license to make reproductions and allow others to reproduce.

Sam Lee added that the procedure for the rights/reproduction requests should be established to filter all requests. The Cultural Development Program staff should be the first point of contact and work with the artist to grant permission. Eva agreed that the process needs to be addressed. Mark Knight concurred. Sam will put this on his task list and circle back to the ACC in a future meeting.

## **I. GOVERNANCE**

Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee provided an update to the ACC regarding the TEDx event. El Segundo will create its own TEDx. Sam shared three broad concepts, whereby one would be selected and used to frame the inaugural event. Three concepts are as follows: innovation, re-evaluating time, and measuring success. No vote is needed from the ACC. Neal suggested that now would be a good time for any new ACC members to join the TEDx planning process with Sam and Julie. Jane Burrell mentioned that she would be happy to help with this initiative.

Sam also provided an update regarding the Festival of Holidays initiative, which is scheduled for Friday, December 3, in City Hall Plaza from 3pm or 4pm to 8pm.

Diwali, Kwanzaa, Nochebuena, Òmisoka, Christmas, and Hanukkah are the primary holidays of focus. Neal, Maureen Kingsley, Julie Todd, Christina Vazquez-Fajardo (DEI), Kelly Watson (Rec. & Parks Commission) and Sam Lee have discussed ideas for the festival's vision. Tanya expressed interest in contributing to the planning process.

Sam Lee shared that the Request for Qualifications was recently issued to find the City's inaugural Poet Laureate. The call has been posted on the El Segundo Public Library's social media platform and website and the City's website. The deadline has been extended to Friday, October 29, 2021.

## **J. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Joanna Bowe had no comments.

Jane Burrell mentioned that she is also a member of the Woman's Club and is currently organizing their Holiday Boutique, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. She encouraged everyone to attend and support the event. They will have some great vendors. It will be a lot of fun.

Maureen Kingsley welcomed the new ACC members. She shared that the Old Town Music Hall has re-opened. Maureen spoke with them for the October issue of the El Segundo Scene and encouraged all of us to support them. They have online ticketing. Maureen commented that they deserve our recognition because they are unique and historical.

Mark Knight welcomed the new ACC members. He appreciated the usage/copyright discussion earlier and the clarity that David King brought to the meeting. Mark looks forward to the document that will share with the community broad usage guidelines.

Michael Kreski had no comments.

Brian Mitchell welcomed the new ACC members. Brian wanted to call out Julie and Sam for their hard work, both for their foreground and background dedication to the ACC.

Joan Palmer had no comments.

Natalie Strong shared that she has been leading the Knitting Circle group at the ES Public Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. She encouraged anyone to join if they are interested in learning to knit. The events are free. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a program based on the *Baby Snooks and Daddy* radio shows from the 1940s will be performed readers theater style at the library. The auditions will take place on Friday, October 1, from 2pm to 4pm, and Saturday, from 11am to 1pm in the Community Room at the ES Public Library. The performance will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2pm.

Eva Sweeney welcomed the new ACC members. She also shared that ESMoA was

currently in the middle of its annual fundraiser. Bernhard Zunkeler, Curator at ESMoA, and an artist painted over 100 paintings that he donated for the fundraiser. They are available for sale. ESMoA has a webpage that shows the available artworks. All proceeds will go towards ESMoA's Education Department.

Tanya Taylor expressed her excitement to be a part of the ACC and looks forward to working with everyone.

Neal Von Flue mentioned that Jeff Cason introduced Wendy Farber, a passionate theater individual, to him and wanted to share her information as a partner, if anyone was interested in speaking with Wendy about starting up a theater group, etc. Neal also welcomed the new ACC members again. He encouraged the new individuals to reach out to him for any questions or concerns.

#### CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS – NONE

Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present

Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present

#### **K. CITY LIAISON UPDATES**

Julie Todd welcomed the new ACC members and thanked them for their commitment to the City and passion for the arts.

#### **L. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.

NEXT MEETING: A Special Meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Posted by: Sam Lee

Date & Time: 10/20/21, 12:00PM