



**City of El Segundo**  
**Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
for April 26, 2022 5:30 p.m.

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 5:31 p.m. by Chairperson Natalie Strong.

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. Members present: Joanne Bowe (arrived 5:35pm), Jane Burrell, Maureen Kingsley, Michael Kreski, Brian Mitchell (arrived 5:45 p.m.), Joan Palmer, Chairperson Natalie Strong, Eva Sweeney (arrived 5:32pm), Tanya Taylor, and Vice Chairperson Neal Von Flue.
2. City Council Liaisons:  
  
Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present  
Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present
3. City Staff Liaisons present: Senior Librarian Julie Todd and Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee.

**C. PRESENTATIONS – NONE**

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 22, 2022**

1. Approval of minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting of March 22, 2022.

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Vice Chairperson Neal Von Flue and SECONDED by Joan Palmer to approve the minutes. Motion CARRIED 7-0.

## **F. SPECIAL BUSINESS – NONE**

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Debriefing of ACC's City Council presentation April 19<sup>th</sup>.  
(Natalie Strong/45 minutes)

Action: Discuss and determine if member assignments are needed to address City Council feedback in preparation for final budget approval in June.

Chairperson Natalie Strong reported to the ACC that the presentation went well. City Council was supportive of our initiatives but voiced that the ACC should not lean too heavily on its potential partners and take ownership of its initiatives. Council also reminded the ACC to be prepared to support public art projects with the Plunge renovation and the Gateway Project when the time comes.

Neal Von Flue complimented Natalie for doing a great job at the Council meeting and for presenting the dense information in a clear manner to the City Council. He suggested that the City staff check in with City Council for any adjustments that may be needed for the final budget process in June. Sam Lee shared with the ACC that he had followed up with Joe Lillio after the meeting and via email with a summary of the initiatives for FY 2022-2023.

Natalie asked if interim Community Services Director John Jones can be of any assistance in our budget request process. Sam replied that John was very instrumental in helping the City staff with crafting a solid staff report. Tanya asked about the process for the final budget approval. Julie Todd replied that the ACC may need to present the ACC's FY 2022-2023 initiatives again at the June 2022 City Council meeting for final budget approval, but she will look into the final process and confirm. Based on the previous year's process, Neal mentioned that the Community Services Director will present the initiatives to Council in June. Natalie asked if there should be any revisions needed for the June meeting. Should the ACC include more details or a line item breakdown of the budget for each initiative? Sam suggested that the June presentation should be tighter and focus on the essence of each initiative. He added that the details of each initiative, which are well thought out, were presented at the April meeting, so no need to revise them. Neal concurred that the June presentation should feature the essentials; it should be aspirational and inspirational to the City Council.

Anticipating the budget request will be approved, Julie mentioned that Sam has started creating the Request for Proposals for the Visual Artists in Community Program to be ready for the new FY. Neal asked if the established Artist Pool yielded good results and if another push for artists submission from the surrounding communities could help. Sam replied that he will reissue the RFQ for the Prequalified Artist Pool so artists within LA County would have one more opportunity to apply. Tanya suggested posting the RFQ on Facebook; Eva mentioned LA County Arts Commission as a good resource.

The ACC and City staff also discussed the Festival of Holidays. Neal suggested that the City staff start planning the event earlier this year by setting up a calendar in which the important details and deadlines are determined ahead of time, so that other City departments are notified. He added that the event should be combined with the annual Christmas tree lighting and Menorah lighting. The City should have a concerted effort. Maureen reminded the ACC that the Festival should not take place on a Friday because the Jewish community observes Shabbat. Eva suggested that the Festival can take place on Saturday and the Christmas tree lighting be on Friday if Recreation would consider this proposed change. Sam mentioned he and Julie will be meeting with Jeff Cason via Zoom to have a preliminary discussion for the vision of this year's Festival. Brian Mitchell expressed that the City staff should not be producers of the initiatives but as overseers because the budget accounts for the hiring of an event planner who would execute the event. Sam responded that the City staff could reissue the Request for Qualifications for Event Planners, so that we can select qualified candidates for the respective initiatives.

Sam brought up the 2<sup>nd</sup> City Talks (working title) initiative and mentioned that the working group, which consists of Jane Burrell, Brian Mitchell, and Eva Sweeney, and City staff should resume the planning process for the event. Julie suggested that they wait until after the final budget request approval in June to proceed with the planning. She reminded the ACC that Scott Werve, Director of Operations at the El Segundo Performing Arts Center, had emailed her, expressing his willingness to partner with the ACC and City staff if a series of talks were to take place. Sam asked if we would be infringing on copyrights if we were to mirror the concept and format of TEDx. Brian and Eva both commented that we would not be because we are not using the name. However, Brian added that 2<sup>nd</sup> City might be a trademark of the City of Chicago.

Neal mentioned the El Segundo Art Walk and shared with the ACC that the budget request is twofold: 1) the operating budget, and 2) the art component, which includes a mural and an AR installation. ACC discussed the artist selection for the Art Walk mural, the ACC's involvement with the Art Walk, and the financial responsibility of the Art Walk for this year's event.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS – NONE**

## **I. GOVERNANCE**

Julie reported that City attorney Joaquin Vazquez would be available to meet and give an in-person training on the Brown Act to the ACC either on June 1, June 15, June 29 or June 30 at 5:30pm. Most likely there will be a Special Meeting scheduled for Joaquin's presentation. Date to be determined based on ACC member availability.

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

Joanna Bowe – no comments.

Jane Burrell – no comments.

Maureen Kingsley – no comments.

Michael Kreski – no comments.

Brian Mitchell – no comments.

Joan Palmer – no comments.

Natalie Strong – thanked those who attended or viewed via Zoom the April 19th City Council meeting in support of the ACC's FY 2022-2023 recommendations. She appreciated that the committee members' presence made her presentation to the Council least intimidating.

Eva Sweeney – mentioned the staff at ESMoA has been busy with their new exhibition, *Experience 51: TIME*. She invited the ACC and City staff to attend the special preview and opening reception on Saturday, April 30, 5pm to 8pm.

Tanya Taylor – announced that she is establishing a non-profit organization, Black in Mayberry, and will have a launch party at ESMoA on Saturday, May 21, from 1pm to 3pm. As an international tax and private equity lawyer, she is a longtime activist and advocate for civil rights and social justice. The mission of Black in Mayberry is to combat racism through the arts. She plans to work with artists who address the topics of racism through their art, raising awareness and fostering diversity through the arts. Tanya thanked Neal for his assistance.

Neal Von Flue – expressed his gratitude to and appreciation of the ACC and City staff.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS – NONE

Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present

Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present

## **K. CITY LIAISON UPDATES**

Julie reported that she and Sam implemented a series of Friday night poetry events (April 1, April 8, April 15) where poets created poems via their typewriters on the spot for participants on the 200 block of Richmond Street and at Tapizôn. Poems were read and given to each participant.

Sam reported that on Saturday, April 9, South Bay Swing Orchestra performed music from 20s, 30s and 40s in the gazebo from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. It was a nice turnout and wonderful to see people enjoying the music. Hopefully with the approval of the Arts & Culture Community Engagement Fund for FY 2022-2023, more events like this will be offered for free to the residents of and visitors to El Segundo.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm, in person at ESMoA, 208 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

Posted by: Sam Lee, Date & Time: