



**City of El Segundo**  
**Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
for August 24, 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: Maureen Kingsley, Mark Knight, Michael Kreski, Brian Mitchell, Vice Chairperson Natalie Strong, Eva Sweeney 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 and Cultural Arts Coordinator Sam Lee.

**C. PRESENTATIONS - NONE**

**D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 27, 2021**

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

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Mark Knight and SECONDED by Brian Mitchell to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021. Motion CARRIED 7-0.

**F. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

1. Neal Von Flue announced that Jeff Cason has accepted a job in North Carolina and so is ending his ACC term early. The ACC sends Jeff best wishes and gratitude for everything he has done.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Neal reported that the Festival of Holidays sub-committee (Neal Von Flue, Maureen Kingsley, Julie Todd and Sam Lee) recently met with a member of the DEI committee to develop a plan for implementing the event.
2. TEDx sub-committee (Eva Sweeney, Brian Mitchell, Julie Todd, and Sam Lee) plan to meet at 11am, Monday, August 30, to discuss a plan to implement the event. Eva reported that TEDxManhattanBeach will be hosting their next event on Saturday, November 6. Since she is going to the event, Eva suggested that Julie and Sam also attend to research planning TEDxEI Segundo. Julie will look into using some of her training budget towards tickets for both Sam and herself.

## **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Share CicLAvia ideas and Metro Open and Slow Streets grant process to possibly bring the event to El Segundo by December 2023.  
(Sam Lee/20 minutes)

Sam reported that LA Metro recently issued a call to cities throughout LA County to submit applications for its Open & Slow Streets Grant Program. CicLAvia works with LA Metro to produce a one-day event to promote alternative modes of transportation such as biking, skating, rollerblading, walking (all human-powered transportation) whereby a planned route in a city would be closed to cars and used as a public car-free space. Sam has been working with other City Departments to get cost estimates, which would then be compiled into a report for the City Council's approval for Community Services to apply for a \$350K grant with a 20% matching fund from the City to implement a one-day event from 9am to 4pm in El Segundo in May 2023. In addition to promoting alternative modes of transportation, Sam explained that the event would bring exposure to El Segundo, connect to regional neighboring cities, and increase in revenue by 25% for local businesses on the event day. The event would also re-establish existing partnerships with service organizations such as Kiwanis or Rotary Club as well as create new partnerships with corporations within El Segundo.

Eva asked about the 20% matching fund, and if it can come from in-kind contributions? Sam responded that it can but needs to be classified as "billable" for example, it could be hours donated by El Segundo Police Department. However, it cannot be volunteer hours from Rotary Club.

Mark reminded the ACC and City staff of the existing South Bay Bicycle Master Plan that was developed 2011 to promote safer use of bicycles for residents and visitors. Mark thinks that an Open Street event would be a good event for El Segundo.

Neal asked if a preliminary conversation with Chevron had occurred between the corporation and City staff. Neal suggested that it would be advantageous to get them on board and help support this project. Sam responded that he had not but would strategize on how to approach them for their support.

Maureen added that on the Chevron's website, their mission is to try to lower carbon as much as possible. Mark interjected that the new CEO would be more inclined to a possible partnership and a phone call to him would start that conversation. Mark made a motion to support City staff's application for the Metro Open Street Grant Program.

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Mark Knight and SECONDED by Neal Von Flue to support City staff's application to LA Metro's Open and Slow Street Grant Program. Motion CARRIED 7-0.

## I. GOVERNANCE

Julie reported that the last art activation from the *Art + Dine* series will occur on Friday, August 27, from 7pm to 10pm. The project has been very successful. City staff would like to continue this series by first getting the blessing from the ACC to expand the project for another month to enhance the outdoor dining experience, possibly using City Hall Plaza as the next location. Also, the restaurants could create a Friday night to-go special so diners could pick up the food and dine in the Plaza while artists create and perform amongst diners.

Neal stated that he supports this idea and that the City Hall Plaza should be promoted as a family-friendly area. Neal asked for the costs spent for the *Art + Dine* series in August 2021 from the allotted \$55,000 for the outdoor dining enhancement initiative. Sam reported that there were 8 artists procured for August, each received a \$600 stipend; the total expense spent was \$4,800 to date. Sam added that providing music was originally discussed as an enhancement for Richmond Street however, Second City already provides music on Friday. Julie and Sam did not want to impact the restaurant's existing program. Sam added that if City Hall Plaza will be *Art + Dine's* next location, musicians can be added to the festivities.

Julie mentioned that the plan is to start the next *Art + Dine* series in October 2021. Neal asked why not September. Sam responded that it would provide more time for the process of procuring local artists; he wanted to ensure that artists are notified in advance and then confirmed their availability to participate.

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Neal Von Flue and SECONDED by Mark Knight to approve the continuation of the *Art + Dine* series. Motion CARRIED 7-0.

Julie reported that the City Council also held interviews to fill the vacant ACC positions on Monday, August 23. The announcement of the new ACC members

will be made at the next City Council meeting on September 7th. Neal asked Julie to remind him of the swearing-in process. Julie will confirm with City Clerk's office and provide an update. Neal added that there are incredible candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences for the 7 vacant spots and the sooner they can join the ACC, the better. There is a lot of work to do to implement the approved initiatives and having new members will be helpful.

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

Neal Von Flue – Neal thanked everyone and expressed his gratitude to the members for their contributions to and work for the ACC. Neal reminded everyone that the El Segundo Art Walk is Saturday, August 28, 3pm to 9 pm. Neal and Natalie are participating and will have their studio setup at Neal's Smoky Hollow space. Neal encouraged everyone to stop by the Art Walk and to his studio. Neal also added that he is happy to see single-message GovDelivery newsletters that promote individual events and suggested that City Staff promote the Poet Laureate Call for Artists initiative using GovDelivery.

Natalie Strong – Natalie also shared her upcoming participation in the Art Walk. Natalie added that *The Hollow Legs* will be performing during the Art Walk. She expressed that this band is awesome and encouraged everyone to check them out. Natalie reported that she participated in the Venice Art Crawl the previous week and will be sharing her experience through the September issue of the *El Segundo Scene*.

Maureen Kingsley – Maureen mentioned that she noticed El Segundo's Call for Poet Laureate. Julie confirmed that the Poet Laureate RFP is now open and City staff look forward to submissions. Maureen asked if she had missed the live poets from *Art + Dine* series and if the poets who had participated would want to apply for the City's Poet Laureate initiative. Sam responded that he would be happy to put together a Powerpoint presentation of the poems created at the *Art + Dine* evenings and share them in the next ACC meeting. Maureen asked if she could post the Call for Artists in the *El Segundo Scene*. Julie replied that Roslyn Templin from the Public Library will reach out to Maureen with the request.

Mark Knight – Mark reported that he was recently supporting a student-led project that requested access to Nanibah Chacon's *Portals to Memory* mural in the library's Community Room and was denied access. Julie Todd explained that Mark's access request was received last minute and was also for a time that the library was closed to the public. After talking with Mark Knight and Library Manager Mark Herbert to offer an alternative time, Julie mentioned that ACC Governance decided it was best to check with the artist first for consent. Mark Knight expressed his frustration with accessibility to this public mural. Mark Knight also shared that the City may be the custodian of artworks under the public arts program, but people must remember that the art belongs to the public and not the City. Barriers to engagement with art, go against the purpose of public art. Mark hopes the ACC will work to ensure that the public has unencumbered access to art and cultural resources and he looks forward to furthering discussion. Julie Todd will invite Assistant City Attorney David King to

September's ACC meeting for this conversation. Eva reminded that Chacon's mural was not financed by the Cultural Development Program fund, but part of a Book to Action Library program where funds were raised with program grant money, the Friends of the Library and generous community members. Eva added that because it is inside the library, the public has access to the mural during open hours. Neal supported the need to receive the artist's approval before altering its original form. Neal suggested that the ACC agenda this item for discussion with the City Attorney for clarity moving forward.

Michael Kreski – Michael commented that it was a happy coincidence that he was reading the article about the muralist Bunnie Reiss in the El Segundo Art Walk magazine and then saw her putting on the finishing touches of her mural in the alleyway. He was reminded of what a wonderful place El Segundo is and thought that the mural looked good.

Brian Mitchell – Agreed that the issue of copyright is an important topic to address. He looked forward to the agenda item for discussion in the September ACC meeting. Brian added that he was one of the candidates whom the City Council had interviewed and added that the questions asked by City Council were well thought out.

Eva Sweeney – Eva invited everyone to ESMoA on Thursday, September 9, from 6 to 8pm, for an in-person party for the current *Free State* exhibition. The artist will be in attendance to sign books and posters.

#### CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS – NONE

Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present  
Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present

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

There were no City Liaison comments at this time. Neal added that the ribbon cutting event in front of Bunnie Reiss' mural during the El Segundo Art Walk will happen at 3:45pm, Saturday, August 28. Neal reminded the ACC that John McCullough and George Renfro want to show their appreciation for the ACC's support of the event and requested the ACC's presence. Neal encouraged those who are available to attend.

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

NEXT MEETING: on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., held virtually on Zoom.

Posted by: Sam Lee  
Date & Time: