

# INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

## ARTS COMMISSION

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A meeting of the Inglewood Arts Commission was convened on April 20, 2022, via Zoom. Commissioner Metcalf called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

### Roll Call

#### Present

Commissioner Althea Metcalf, District One  
Commissioner Phyllis Battle, District Three  
Commissioner Vicki Perryman-Banks, District Four  
Sabrina Barnes, Director-Parks, Recreation, and Community Services  
Helen Lessick, Public Art Consultant  
Stephanie Maldonado, Senior Management Assistant

#### Absent

Commissioner Jacques Lesure, Commissioner at Large  
Commissioner Onna Ehrlich-Bell, District Two

### Public Comments

None

### Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Banks made the motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2022. Commissioner Battle seconded and the minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Battle, Banks, and Metcalf  
Nays: None

### Special Presentation

Jason Witt, Director of Community Engagement from Hollywood Park/SoFi Stadium provided his quarterly update report on the Hollywood Park Public Art. He briefly discussed the correspondence he received regarding the Maren Hassinger project stating they are evaluating the public art areas and discussing a permanent location for the project. The Allison Sarr Project continues to move forward with plans for installation in the retail area in late June/early July. Swaps, the next project installation will take place at the Pump House (the center of the Lake). Also, staff is working on gathering pictures and descriptions of the completed artwork for the city's Public Art website.

Commissioner Metcalf requested to revisit Ms. Hassinger's letter and asked if there have been any changes. Mr. Witt stated upon review of the public/fan interaction with the project site, we are not sure that creating a gathering area in the proposed space is still ideal. We are also focusing on fan interaction in multiple locations for placement of projects around Hollywood Park and the Lake. Commissioner Metcalf asked what is the status of the project and are the revisions that big of a change? Mr. Witt stated redesign and relocation of the project will entail the artist having to return to approve the new site. Commissioner Metcalf also asked if there is an installation date or schedule. Mr. Witt stated there is no current date of installation or schedule.

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Commissioner Banks requested a map to view the potential site locations and to be notified when the projects are completed. She also stated the Commission would like to feel a part of the projects.

Commissioner Battle stated she is confused about some information stated in Ms. Hassinger's letter and asked for clarity. Mr. Witt stated, to the best of his knowledge, Hollywood Park has 25 years to accomplish a multi-million dollar art commitment to the City of Inglewood and there was a misinterpretation of the time to complete the entire project by the artist. Commissioner Battle asked if the only change is that the project will be relocated, is it still moving forward. Mr. Witt replied right now we're looking into redesigning the project due to a new location.

Director Barnes stated she wanted to clarify the Commission's interest to Mr. Witt, saying the Commission wants to know if the project is going to happen. Mr. Witt stated we have intentions of moving forward with the project. Helen Lessick public art consultant gave a brief explanation about the percent for art and the unique connection between the City and Hollywood Park development stating the 25 years is a part of the agreement that the city signed with the developers with all aspects of building including the casino, stadium, the commercial and retail spaces. Ms. Lessick explained there has been a slew of various dates discussed and informed the commission that a representative from the gallery was present in the meeting and suggested she may be a great resource to give input in the artist feelings. Ms. Lessick added over all the Arts Commission doesn't have any direct oversight of this project. We pay attention to it and expect the quarterly updates.

Director Barnes reflected back to the introduction of the initiative and the language it entails stating it was a voter initiative that brought the project forward and the city did not develop the 25 year window. The city did however understand that this is a very large project and it could take a number of years to complete. Thus the allowance or fact that it would be built out over a number of years. As different pieces come on board the associated art happens with it.

Commissioner Battle asked if Ms. Hassinger understood that part of the agreement, that this was not the city's decision regarding the 25 years. Director Barnes response was that she could not speak to the artist understanding and unless you read the initiative or studied the agreement you wouldn't know the extent of the 25 years. Commissioner Battle again asked if the agreement is between the developers or the city. Director Barnes stated the city has an agreement with the developer to realize the project. The initiative put forth and approved by voters allowed various terms and conditions for such a large project with various different phases. Commissioner Battle asked will it take 25 years to get all of the art placed in the various locations. Director Barnes again states there is an allowance, it could or it could not. Ms. Lessick added that art moving around to adjust to commercial spaces and stadium fans as opposed to the community is a concern that she'd like the Commission's opinions on.

Commissioner Metcalf brought to Mr. Witt's attention that his last quarterly report was about seven months ago and that it is important the Commission is informed in a timely manner to have the ability to keep up with what's going on. Commissioner Metcalf went on to say this particular artist is 75 years of age and is eager to fulfill her contract. In my opinion, I believe both she and her contract should be made a priority. She is also an artist that is representing our community which is very personal. The artist isn't feeling great about this and in turn the Commission is really concerned. We rely on you to be the voice and communicate what we're trying to do here. Jason Witt stated he does understand the commission's concerns and their working to ensure the project happens in a timely manner and again restated all intention to move forward with the project. Commissioner Metcalf asked is the

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Commission and artist privy to details of the relocation sites. Mr. Witt informed the Commission the artist will be integral in relocation decisions. The art can't be moved without discussing and agreement from the artist. Commissioner Battle asked if it was possible for the Commission to receive Mr. Witt's and the developer's position on Ms. Hassinger's situation.

Susan Inglett (Maren Hassinger's New York Dealer) joined in the conversation giving a brief description of Ms. Hassinger's initial role in this project and also some of her own personal opinions regarding the project. Commissioner Battle asked Ms. Inglett who was her agreement signed with. Ms. Inglett response was the agreement was signed with SoFi (Jason Gannon). Commissioner Metcalf asked Director Barnes should Ms. Hassinger's letter be read into the record. Sabrina Barnes response was it's the Arts Commission decision to read the letter while informing them that the letter is a part of the record being that it was included with the agenda. Commissioner Metcalf read the letter. Commissioner Battle again requested written information pertaining to the project in the future. Helen Lessick suggested bringing back the 2019 art plan and requested a public art tour from the community engagement director with Commissioners onsite to see the projects accomplishments (physically being onsite is the best way to see public art). Ms. Lessick also requested scheduling Mr. Witt for a meeting in July. Commissioner Banks asked Mr. Witt do we have a commitment from you. Mr. Witt stated yes and he has the meeting recorded on his calendar for July 20, 2022.

Director Barnes inquired about photos and the Public Art Educational Project website piece. Mr. Witt stated he needs two weeks. Commissioner Metcalf thanked Mr. Witt and reiterated that we trust that you recognize the importance and sensitivity of this matter and asked that Ms. Hassinger's project be kept top priority.

### Staff Report

Stephanie Maldonado introduced a staff report recommending the Arts Commission receive and file a final report regarding the Rogers Park Artist in Residence Program managed by Public Art Consultant Helen Lessick. Helen Lessick gave a brief overview of the project and anticipates closing out the project once the artist's final report is completed and submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Commissioner Battle asked why the fees are being paid in a 6-month period. Ms. Lessick gave clarification and a timeline refresher.

Commissioner Battle made a motion to approve the staff report and Commissioner Banks seconded. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Commissioners Battle, Banks, and Metcalf

Nays: None

### Verbal Reports

Helen Lessick gave a verbal report regarding the following:

- It Takes A Village Quilt Portable Art Project Update: Artist Shelli Heffler's has decided to donate 28 of the 41 squares that will make a 4x7 feet rectangle that will be framed and given to the city's public art collection. This donation was not a part of her contract. Staff is working on securing a contract for a framer. Commissioner Banks asked is there an estimated cost for the framing. Ms. Lessick stated the estimate is about \$5,500.00 with a 15% discount applied.

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- The Infinite Library Diorama is an electric light sculpture comprised of three dioramas and three peep holes exploring different libraries and literature. The 2016 project is by artist Susan Simpson. The contacted Ms. Lessick informing her that the projects lights were flickering. We contacted the artist along with her electrician for troubleshooting. It is lit with LED lights and the wiring in the facility couldn't take the electricity load. The piece will be return to its original space with a dedicated outlet. An estimated balance of \$250.00 is owed to both the artist and her contractor.

### Public Comments

None

### Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Metcalf informed the Commission of the Getty Foundation sponsoring an Art and Culture Festival being held on May 14 and 15, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event is free event and will be held at Grevillea Art Park, in front of City Hall and at the Beckmen YOLA Center. Commissioner Battle asked who in the city is collaborating with the Getty to put on this event. Ms. Lessick stated this is not a City of Inglewood event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.