



## THE CATHEDRAL CITY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016  
5:00 p.m.

#### **Public Arts Commission**

Minutes for March 14, 2016

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present: Alan Carvalho, Simeon Den, Tim Parrott, Sue Townsley, Pam Price, Denise Rodriguez Bowman (late 5:43pm), Greg Murphy

Absent Excused: None

Absent Not Excused: None

Staff Present: Deanna Pressgrove

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

5:04 p.m.

#### **AGENDA FINALIZATION**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **URGENCY ITEMS**

1. All Valley Public Arts Meeting: Due to unforeseen circumstances the Subcommittee wants to discuss and vote with the full commission the future for this event. It originally had been scheduled for March or April and now we're looking at possibly May. Also, the location has become contentious and we need to have full commission input before we can move forward, The issues are as follows:
  - a. Date of event
  - b. Location of the event
  - c. Sponsors for the eventPam Price made the motion to add item to agenda #9 Greg Murphy second (6/0)
2. City Wide Directional Sign Program: The City has a committee made up of representatives of the various commissions and councils and staff to study and recommend to council a design plan for "way finding" or "directional signs" for the City. It's urgent to get input from the entire Public Arts Commission before the next meeting of the committee. Tim Parrott made the motion to add item to agenda #10 Simeon Den second (6/0)

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Simeon Den made the motion to approve February meeting minutes Alan Carvalho second (6/0)

#### **STUDY SESSION**

1. **Discussion regarding Carlo Wahlbeck as possible artist to be exhibited. Alan Carvalho, Greg Murphy**  
Greg Murphy presented item to Commission. Presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.
2. **Volunteers to manage exhibit space in old chamber room in order to make exhibits available to the public. Alan Carvalho, Simeon Den**  
Chair will present request to City Council at the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 meeting. If approved will bring item back to Commission to discuss hours of operation and budget.
3. **Honoring artist Simi Dabah, unveiling of sculptures to the public. Sue Townsley, Pam Price**  
Pam Price made the motion to host an event honoring artist Simi Dabah and the unveiling of Big X at the Public Library. Simeon Den second (7/0)  
Sue Townsley made the motion to host event in April. Alan Carvalho second (7/0)  
Subcommittee will bring budget back for approval in April.

**4. Rainbow mural art on the crosswalk. Alan Carvalho, Simeon Den**

Alan Carvalho informed Commission that the rainbow art will be installed at the end of this week.

**5. Update mobile app. Tim Parrott, Alan Carvalho**

Staff member Chris Parman emailed City Attorney request for information. Parman's email: Good Morning, the Public Arts Commission has developed a smartphone app called "Cathedral City - Where Art Lives". The app provides walking and driving tours, list of art galleries, and much more. The Arts Commission has been approached by several businesses that want to sponsor the app and be listed on the "Local Sponsors" page. The app itself cost the Arts Commission several thousand dollars a year to operate/license fees, so the sponsorship dollars would help mitigate those costs. I believe they would sell sponsorships where the businesses would pay a monthly, semi-annual or annual amount. They will determine the amounts. Is it possible for you to develop a simple contract for the Commission?

Deanna, who is cc'd on this email, is the staff liaison for the PAC. Thanks, Chris Parman

**6. Public Arts Commission Start Time for Meetings Alan Carvalho, Deanna Pressgrove**

Simeon Den made the motion to change the meeting start time from 5:00pm to 5:30pm beginning at the April 2016 meeting. Denise Rodriguez Bowman second (7/0)

**7. Chalk Festival. Tim Parrott , Alan Carvalho**

Alan Carvalho will send an email to organizers asking that they contact the arts commission 2 months prior to event.

**8. Ramon Pedestal**

Deanna Pressgrove presented the CJ Rench art piece. Presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.

Comments: Not a good piece for Ramon Rd, Artist not local , Better suited to place in front of Boys and Girls Club

**9. All Valley Public Arts meeting**

Tim Parrott made the motion to move the All Valley Public Arts meeting event to May. Simeon Den second (7/0)

**10. City Wide Directional Sign Program**

Presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.

**Staff Comments**

None

**Commissioner Comments**

Comments are included with the recording of the meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 7:04pm

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**Subcommittee information**

Name of Subcommittee	Members	Date Established
Children's Community Theatre	Denise Rodriguez-Bowman, Simeon Den	8.10.16
Mural Program	Simeon Den, Alan Carvalho	9.14.16
General Plan	Tim Parrott, Alan Carvalho, Sue Townsley	10.12.16
Requests for Proposals for Public Art	Greg Murphy, Tim Parrott	10.12.16
Policies related to murals	Simeon Den, Alan Carvalho	10.12.16
Exhibit highlighting Latinos in the Valley	Denise Rodriguez-Bowman, Tim Parrott, Simeon Den	11.9.15
Locations for Art Pieces	Sue Townsley, Pam Price, Denise Rodriguez-Bowman	11.9.15
Placement of Donated Pieces	Sue Townsley, Pam Price, Denise Rodriguez-Bowman	12.14.15
Hosting Valley wide Public Arts Meeting	Greg Murphy, Tim Parrott, Sue Townsley	12.14.15
Process for featuring artists within City Hall Exhibit space	Simeon Den, Alan Carvalho	1.11.16

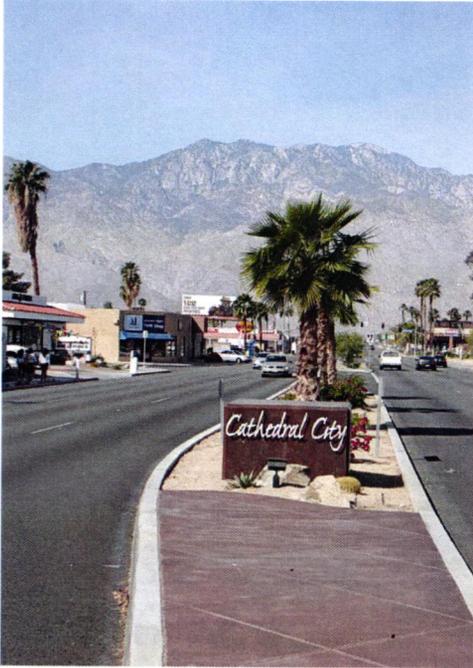
**Term and Attendance information**

	Term Expires	Elected Co-Chair	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Murphy	6/30/17		A	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P			
Price	6/30/18		P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Carvahlo	6/30/17	7/13/15	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Bowman	6/30/18		P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P			
Den	6/30/18	7/13/15	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Parrott	6/30/18		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Townsley	6/30/18		P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			

P=Present, E=Excused Absence, A=Absent, C=Cancelled

If a member is absent without advance permission of the board or commission or of the appointing authority, from three consecutive regular meetings or from twenty-five percent of the duly scheduled meetings of the board or commission within any fiscal year, the member's position shall thereupon become vacant and shall be filled as any other vacancy.

## Agenda Item 8: Ramon Rd Pedestal near Whispering Palms



Ramon Rd near Whispering Palms

Staff recently learned that an art piece designed by CJ Rench Design Studio that has been displayed at the former S.C.R.A.P. Gallery facility in Indio is available for purchase. Staff has consulted with the artist who confirmed that the piece can withstand the desert environment.

Art piece is made of mild steel and coated with a two part industrial epoxy

**Purchase Cost: \$12,800**

**Cost to relocate and install:** an amount not to exceed \$1,000. The cost to relocate and install can be covered by the environmental fund in support of promoting joint environmental programs at the Boys and Girls Club.

At the January 2016 meeting, the Commission made the motion to explore with the assistance of city staff the possibility of adding an art piece along Ramon Rd near Whispering Palms with a nexus to the nearby Boys and Girls Club Facility.



CJ Rench Design Studio [cjrdesignstuido.com](http://cjrdesignstuido.com)



TAYA LYNN GRAY, THE DESERT SUN

Carlo Wahlbeck, a renowned artist who has lived in Palm Springs for 40 years, purchased wall panels that used to hang in one of the underground gambling joints of the 1930s in what is now Cathedral City. Various celebrities who frequented the establishment, such as cartoonist George McManus, have signed the panels.

# Peek into the past

## Panels from gambling club signed by host of stars

BY DENISE GOOLSBY  
THE DESERT SUN

If these walls could talk, they would tell tales of Hollywood stars and starlets illegally drinking and gambling at a local speakeasy in the height of the Jazz Age.

These 29 wood panels in Carlo Wahlbeck's possession were autographed in the 1930s and early 1940s by the likes of Humphrey Bogart, Betty Grable, Jack Benny, Cole Porter, Fanny Brice and Charlie Farrell. They used to hang in the now-demolished 139 Club, an old gambling joint that used to occupy the corner of Grove Street and Highway 111 in what is now Cathedral City.

Wahlbeck, a local artist and on-and-off resident of Palm Springs for 40 years, bought the panels in 2004. And he is eager to share his find with the valley. He will soon sell prints of his collection to the public.

Wahlbeck, 72, is a multi-media artist who specializes in hand-made cast paper sculptures constructed from water and cotton fiber.

Wahlbeck acquired this history-rich cache from a woman who happened into his studio gallery on Palm

Please see WAHLBECK, D7

## A sampling of autographs

Gracie Allen, George Burns, Jackie Coogan, Babe Didrickson, Tommy Dorsey, Arlene Francis, Rita Hayworth, Jack Haley, Harry James, Buster Keaton, Dorothy Lamour, Guy Lombardo, Chico Marx, George Montgomery, Grantland Rice, Rosalind Russell.

## Solve the mystery, share your story

Can you trace the tracks of the historic panels back to when they hung on the wall of the club? Were you ever a guest of the club? Is your name on one of the panels?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please contact business reporter Denise Goolsby at 778-4649 or e-mail [denise.goolsby@thedesertsun.com](mailto:denise.goolsby@thedesertsun.com)

## The 139 Club history

Earl Sausser opened this exclusive club in the late 1930s. Two other illegal gambling establishments, the Dunes and the Cove, were also operating during this time.

Former Palm Springs Mayor Frank Bogert — who accompanied the likes of Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck to the popular Hollywood hot-spot — has fond memories of the club's owner.

"Earl Sausser was the nicest man who ever lived," said Bogert in a recent interview. "If you won, he would congratulate you. If you lost, he'd say, 'You've got to learn there is no way to beat the house.'"

## Wahlbeck

**Continued from D1**

Canyon Drive a few years back.

Jacqueline Brown, a resident of Lake Tahoe, obtained the panels with her now-deceased former business partner, Ron Anderson.

Aware of the history carved into the wood panels that once covered the walls and basement of the illegal gambling parlor, Brown came to the desert and "started snooping around to see if anyone would be interested in them," she said.

While in the area, Brown happened to walk into Wahlbeck's downtown studio. She described her collection and asked Wahlbeck if he might be interested in purchasing the panels.

By a chance common thread, both were interested in Hollywood memorabilia — Brown at one time owned a shop that specialized in the genre.

Wahlbeck jumped at the chance, but the transaction did not happen immediately. They would consummate the deal another day.

Before Brown left the studio, Wahlbeck recalls, "I only gave her my name, I didn't take hers. If it was meant to happen, it will happen," he reasoned.

It happened.

When the call came, Wahlbeck said he jumped at the opportunity and bought the collection. He later moved the panels from their Lake Comanche residence

in Northern California back home to Palm Springs.

Wahlbeck refused to disclose what he paid for the panels. However, he was quick to say that he didn't purchase the panels to turn a fast buck. He said he wants to make prints of the panels and donate those prints as auction items for various charities especially schools.

Well-meaning friends, however, wondered why he didn't just call Sotheby's, an international auction house in New York City.

For example, Sotheby's sold Johnny Cash's 1960s acoustic guitar, with case, for \$131,200; and it sold Babe Ruth's original 1919 contract transferred from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees, for \$996,000.

Wahlbeck's friends were certain he could have made a similar fortune had he gone that route.

The Swedish-born sculptor, painter, jewelry and printmaker — whose work has been collected by the likes of Lucille Ball, Ronald Reagan and Elizabeth Taylor — said he will soon exhibit the panels in his downtown Palm Springs gallery.

When the 4- by 8-foot wall

panels go on display, the public will see a George McManus sketch of Jiggs and Maggie — characters from his famed comic strip "Bringing up Father"; a hand-drawn bar of music by Cole Porter, (he titled the snippet of music "It's de Lovely"); and more than one unlikely pairing of autographs on the same panel, such as Babe Didrikson, Olympic athlete and professional golfer, and Arline Judge, B-picture actress who was married and divorced eight times.

The doodles, autographs and graffiti of 200-plus patrons of this notorious club and its gambling equipment were confiscated by state and local law enforcement agents in 1941.

The autographs, most of which have been permanently emblazoned into the panels with an electric wood burner, have withstood the test of time. They have outlived most of the celebrities who penned them.

Would he ever part with the panels? Wahlbeck said he would only sell them if they were to be kept on public display — perhaps on the walls of a new club, he suggests.

**Denise Goolsby** is a business reporter for The Desert Sun. Reach her at 778-4649

## 139 Club Panel Signatures

### Panel 1

Dorothy Lamour  
Johnny Mercer  
Ralph Bellamy  
Rex Bell  
Wesley Ruggles  
Beans Reardon  
Buster Keaton  
Bob Carnahan

### Panel 2

Rosalind Russell  
Allan (Rocky) Lane  
Freddy Martin  
Sam Coslow  
Harry Link  
Dave Rose  
Jack Kapp  
Carmen Lombardo  
Florence Lombardo  
Vido Lombardo  
Nata Stein  
Guy Lombardo  
Alies Kreitzer  
Lilliebell Lombardo

### Panel 3

Charlie Farrell  
Ann Peppers  
Dennis Day  
George Montgomery  
Ruthie Skinner  
Louis Alter

### Panel 4

Don Ameche  
Lum & Abner  
Conrad Nagel  
Reginald Owen  
Mary Astor  
Wayne Morris  
Bill Garg  
Harry Rosental  
Carrol (Nancy)  
John Boles  
Stella Castle  
Diana Lewis

### Panel 5

Dick Powell  
Ed "Archie" Gardner  
Stanley Fields  
Gilbert Roland  
Micha Auer  
Jack Schurch  
Joe Ross

### Panel 6

George McManus  
Binnie Barnes  
Walter Catlett  
Simone Simon  
Amos & Andy  
Milton Shubert  
Jack Haley  
Sidney Lanfield  
Gene Buck  
Cole Porter  
Fanny Brice  
Sidney Kingsley  
Vina Delmar  
Jack Oakie  
Dean Jagger  
Jack B. Tenney

### Panel 7

Fred Brady  
Grantland Rice  
John Montague  
Bud Relland  
Frank Condon  
Wla Logan  
Bruno Lessing  
Mike Frankowich

### Panel 8

Jack Benny  
Gracie Allen  
George Burns  
John P. Meadbury  
Harold Lloyd  
Cornel Wilde  
Stanley Barbee  
Walter Pidgeon

### Panel 9

Eugene Pallette  
Chester Morris  
Jean Ackerman  
Edna Johnson  
Jean Howard

### Panel 10

Humphrey Bogart  
Ruth Clifford  
Clara Bow Bell  
Jack Hennley

Panel 11

Richard Greene  
Frank Scully  
Jimmie Shields  
H.W. Ross  
Reggie Gardner  
Virginia Belos  
Chick Shandler  
Allan Curtis  
Hal E. Roach

Panel 12

Arline Judge  
Tony Martin  
Ritz Brothers  
Babe Didrikson  
Germaine Vernay

Panel 13

Hoagy Carmichael  
Dennis O'Keefe  
Dee Lerner

Panel 14

Bill Courter  
Earl Baldwin  
Jack Benny  
Madeline Lieurance

Panel 15

Farid Simaika  
Dutch Smith  
Ric Cortez  
Charlotte Glendye

Panel 16

Eddie Moran  
Lou Nova  
J. Carrol Naish  
Eadie Adams

Panel 17

Alice Faye  
Arthur Freed  
Jackie Coogan  
Andrew Leeds Howard  
Nat Bangs Pendelton

Panel 18

Irene Hervey  
Allan Jones  
Sophie Tucker  
Joe Penner  
Wheeler & Woolsey  
Sally Wheeler  
Norman Taurog  
Norman McLeod  
Eleanor Powell  
Franchot Tone

Panel 19

Jack Larue  
Rosco Ates  
Martin Benson  
Kay Kyser  
Tommy Dorsey  
Pete Smith  
Barbara Roy  
Estelle Taylor  
Frederic Tonedale  
Cliff Reid  
Harvey Revel  
Marc Gordon

Panel 20

Charles Butterworth  
Judy Starr  
Alan Dinehart  
Edmund Goulding  
Anna May Wong  
Chuck Morrison  
Jimmy Starr  
Julie Starr  
Jimmie Fidler  
Archie Mayo  
Jimmy Simms

Panel 21

Betty Grable  
Harry James  
Jeri Sullivan

Panel 22

Paul Lukas  
June Travis  
Pierre Walter  
Jean Parker  
Charles Coburn  
Madge Bellamy  
Big Boy Williams  
Georgia Carrol  
Hal Wallis

Panel 23

Frank Buck  
Chico Marx  
Patsy Kelly  
Robert Joyce Hacker  
Jack Schurch

Panel 24

Jimmie McHuef  
Charles Wakefield  
Cadman

Panel 25

Rita Hayworth  
Sam Harris  
George White  
Holt Marvell  
Herbert Marshall  
Walter Connolly  
Arch Selwyn  
Moss Hart  
Mark Sandrich  
Claire Windsor  
Rudy Vallee

Panel 26

John Payne  
Helen Budline  
Jean Crain  
Gloria DeHaven  
Judy Canova

Panel 27

Van Heflin  
Bob Hutton  
Bill Farnum  
Robert Callahan  
Gregory Ratoff  
Joaquin Garay  
John Hodiak

Panel 28

George Brent  
Al Pearce's Band (all  
members)  
Henry King  
Ruth Elder  
Leo Fields  
Arlene Francis  
Mabel Todd  
Mary Amsterdam  
Walter Kelsey

Panel 29

Dio Dati  
Johnnie Johnston  
William Powell