

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES, AND  
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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May 13, 2015  
Start: 11:16 a.m.  
Recess: 11:41 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway- Committee Rm, 16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E:  
JAMES G.VAN BRAMER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ANDY L. KING  
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES  
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY  
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL  
JULISSA FERRERAS  
LAURIE A. CUMBO  
PETER A. KOO  
STEPHEN T. LEVIN

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much. Good morning everyone and welcome to a very important hearing about the committee on Cultural Affairs, libraries, and international intergroup relations. I'm the chair Jimmy Van Bramer and I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Council Member Steve Levin from Brooklyn, Council Member Helen Rosenthal from Manhattan, Council Member Peter Koo from Queens, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley from Queens and we are here today to vote and joined by Council Member Julissa Ferreras from Queens and Council Member Costa Constantinides from Queens and we are here today to vote on Intro 742A which is an amendment to the percent for art law which was passed in 1982 and has not been amended since then. The law which requires one percent of city budget for city funded capital construction projects be used on public artwork is an incredibly important law. We support public art and we believe in the power of the percent for art program. However it's been true that we could and should empower communities that have more of a say and more input and ore engagement in those public art

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2 projects that will become a permanent part of their  
3 neighborhoods and it is essential that we do that  
4 and it ultimately we will support public art, we  
5 will support artists more when we engage the  
6 communities whose work they will be enjoying in the  
7 process. This is public tax dollars that we're  
8 talking about and the public should have a roll in  
9 this process. They should have an opportunity to  
10 meet the artists. They should have an opportunity  
11 to take a look at some of the plans that have input  
12 and engage in a meaningful dialogue. That doesn't  
13 exist but with this law that will exist and we will  
14 have a stronger percent for art program in the city  
15 of New York as a result. So I want to thank the  
16 Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Tim  
17 Finkelparl for working with us on this  
18 legislation, thank my colleagues, thank our staff  
19 Aminta Killowan [phonetic] and Chloe Rivera from  
20 the Cultural Affairs Committee Cody Writer, my  
21 Deputy Chief of Staff for helping to draft the  
22 legislation with the Department of Cultural Affairs  
23 and I hope everyone will support this legislation  
24 and community empowerment and engagement as it  
25 relates to public art and percent for art law in

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2 the city of New York. And with that I ask the

3 Sergeant of Arms to call the roll and urge everyone

4 to vote yes.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Committee Clerk

6 William Martin Committee..

7 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Oh Committee

8 Clerk. Sergeant of Arms... call it...

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: ...Martin

10 Committee Clerk, roll call vote on Committee on

11 Cultural Affairs Introduction 742A. Chair Van

12 Bramer.

13 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Crowley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ferreras.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

22 Congratulations Mr. Chairman and please sign me

23 onto the bill. Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Constantinides.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] I  
4 vote aye and congratulations to the chair who's  
5 been working hard for a very long time to get this  
6 bill passed. Well done.

7 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very  
8 much.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of  
10 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
11 no abstention item has been adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very  
13 much to all of my colleagues and we're going to  
14 keep the vote open for at least 15 minutes. So  
15 thank you all very very much.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member  
17 Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye  
19 and congratulate the chair on all his hard work in  
20 passing this piece of legislation. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Current vote  
22 now Committee in Cultural Affairs is seven in the  
23 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
24 abstention with the roll being held open for 15  
25 minutes as per requested of the chair.

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2 [background comments]

3 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Vote in  
4 Committee in Cultural Affairs Introduction 742A  
5 Council Member Cumbo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to  
7 thank you all for holding the vote open for me. I'm  
8 very proud and pleased today to join with Council  
9 Member Jimmy Van Bramer on number 742 in regards to  
10 a local law to amend the New York City Charter in  
11 relation to the Community Engagement Process and  
12 the Percent for Art Law and I am very proud that  
13 this is going to bring more community engagement  
14 into the artistic process so that all community and  
15 residents feel that they have a roll to play in the  
16 artistic landscape of their community. And I  
17 proudly vote aye.

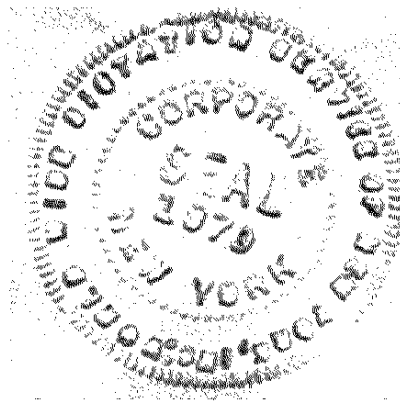
18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Final vote now  
19 Committee on Cultural Affairs is eight in the  
20 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
21 abstentions.

22 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 15, 2015