



Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission

City Council established the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) in 1987 to:

- Provide accessible arts and cultural programming for all residents;
- Support quality arts and cultural organizations in the City;
- Advise City Council on policies affecting the arts and cultural life of the City, its residents and the organizations that provide such services to the City.
- Promote arts and cultural activities;

Outstanding Accomplishments

- Contracted with Classical Theatre Lab and facilitated Free Shakespeare in the Parks, which each year presented twelve free performances for the public – “The Merchant of Venice” at Plummer Park and Kings Road Park.
- Produced and presented a series of 3 Summer Sounds concerts in Kings Road Park, and 2 concerts in Plummer Park.
- Installed “Poetic Expressions of Jean Cocteau 1889 – 1963,” an art exhibition featuring original drawings and lithographs by French poet, writer, artist, and film maker Jean Cocteau in the West Hollywood Library as part of One City / One Pride 2012.
- Managed and produced One City / One Pride, a month-long festival of LGBT arts and cultural programming during June.
- Piloted the use of the new Council Chambers as a cultural facility within the City with presentations of more than 50 cultural events including music, opera, theatre, lectures, spoken word and film.

Support quality arts and cultural organizations in the City

- City of West Hollywood Arts Grant Program provided a broad range of arts activities for residents and visitors. This year 16 grants were awarded to nonprofit arts organizations totaling \$62,441.
 - SASSAS: "sound. At the Kings Road Park Pavilion" and "sound.at the Schindler House" (three concert series of experimental music)
 - Metropolitan Master Chorale: Concert "Green" to commemorate World Environment Day.
 - Outfest: 30th Anniversary of Outfest which included the free screening of 4 classic LGBT films in the City's Council Chambers.
 - CA LGBT Arts Alliance: "The LGBT Cultural Diversity Project" two projects in conjunction with WeHo's One City / One Pride Celebration.
- Applied for and received a Free Concert in Public Sites grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to help fund a Summer Sounds concert at Kings Road Park.
- Managed a partnership with LA Art to install The Artists' Tower of Protest as part of the City's "PST...It All Started Here".
- Installed "Frostig At Large," an exhibit of six large scale sculptures on the Santa Monica Blvd. / Doheny Dr. median in collaboration with The Frostig Collection.

Promote arts and cultural activities

- Presented West Hollywood's "PST... It All Started Here—West Hollywood Celebrates Pacific Standard Time," a collection of events and exhibits that celebrates the art world icons, rock music stars, visionary conceptualists, and revolutionary thinkers that made the City a world renowned cultural destination.
- Produced the Big Read 2012, a month long celebration of events and book discussions featuring Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451.
- Worked with Economic Development and Planning Division to create a webpage informing businesses and artists about how to implement temporary art activities in vacant retail spaces.
- Collaborated with the Public Information Office and Economic Development to implement social media strategy, including the development of a social media strategy for arts & culture, establishment of a Facebook Page for arts & cultural activities, establishment of a Constant Contact account, and the establishment of a Survey Monkey account to use for ongoing assessment of community needs and interests.

Advise City Council on policies affecting the arts and cultural life of the City

- Worked with an urban arts consultant to help research conservation policies applicable to the Urban Art Ordinance.
- The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission began an exploration of creating a cultural plan.
- Americans for the Arts released "Arts and Economic Prosperity IV" results that West Hollywood nonprofit arts and culture generates \$29.2 million in total economic activity. This spending—\$20.7 million by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and an additional \$8.5 million in event-related spending by their audiences—supports 776 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$24.5 million in house hold income to local residents, and delivers \$2.8 million in local and state government revenue.

Looking Forward

Over the next two years, the Commission will continue to oversee the work plans of its subcommittees as well as review and approve recommendations proposed by each. The Commission will also continue to work in collaboration with other City Boards, Commissions and departments by focusing its attention on projects and initiatives that enhance the arts and cultural life of West Hollywood as well as provide arts opportunities for individual artists and arts organizations.

Proposed projects include:

- Continuing development of the One City/One Pride brand for Pride Month with an array of arts and cultural events throughout June.
- Development and implementation of comprehensive art and cultural programming at the West Hollywood Library.
- Expansion of the City's Summer Sounds program to include music and performances at indoor venues during the winter months, with a focus on the new West Hollywood Library and expanding Summer Sounds to West Hollywood Park.
- Development of a resident company program to provide a greater array of cultural programming at City facilities.
- Oversight of the Arts Grant program.
- Review and update of the City's Urban Art Ordinance, developer's guide and other collateral material.
- Collections management including overseeing conservation and maintenance of public art works throughout the City.