

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.

*Location: City Hall – Community Meeting Room
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Moreno-Freedman at 5:02 PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Jessica Rich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioner Martin Gantman
Commissioner Madeleine Rackley
Commissioner J. Dallas Dishman
Commissioner Dan Faltz
Commission Chair Dawn Moreno-Freedman

Absent:

Commissioner Catherine Lee
Commission Vice Chair Todd Williamson

Also Present:

Arts Manager Andrew Campbell
Recording Secretary DeeA'na Saunders
Arts Coordinator Michael Che
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff
Arts Technician Joy Tribble
Consultant Nancy Meyer

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the December 19, 2019 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the November 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.**

E. Public Comment

None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matter were acted upon by one motion.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved unanimously.

A. Posting of the Agenda

The agenda was posted per proper noticing procedures at City Hall, Plummer Park, West Hollywood Library and West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

ACTION: Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Arts Festival Feasibility Study Update and Report

The Commission will receive a report from Two Tigers consultants Leah Thompson and Jillian Schwartz on their draft report of findings from the survey and community meetings regarding the feasibility of creating an arts festival for West Hollywood.

Two Tigers provided the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission with an update on the results from the Art Festival Feasibility Study with 227 respondents.

Commissioner Gantman expressed concern with the results of the survey.

Arts Manager, Andrew Campbell, shared that the results will be helpful when the Commission presents the idea to the Council, having a point of reference.

Commissioner Dishman explained the benefit of researching the foundation of other successful festivals. Additionally, Commissioner Dishman asked about the participants of the survey.

Commissioner Rackley asked questions about the update report.

Commissioner Faltz shared other models Two Tigers could explore while researching for West Hollywood Festival. Commissioner Faltz also shared that one of the goals of the Festival is to engage people who are outside of the City of West Hollywood.

Andrew Campbell stated that there are other resources outside of the state of CA that could be useful.

Chair Moreno-Freedman expressed that the festival should be fee free so that artists can see some income for participation in the festival through sales or grants.

Commissioner Dishman provided feedback about the word cloud. He also shared other festivals that could be looked into.

Commissioner Faltz shared that the design of the report should be unique, to show that it is something new.

Commissioner Gantman said to keep in mind that sometimes people may want something, but do not show up.

Commissioner Rackley inquired who would ultimately make the decision if the City were able to put on a Festival.

Andrew shared that the Commission would provide Council with the recommendation, but Council would make the final decision.

Commissioner Rackley expressed concern with the number of respondents and feels more are needed to make a recommendation.

Andrew clarified, the purpose of the survey is to see if there is interest in a Festival, it doesn't mean that there will be one.

ACTION: The Commission received and discussed the report and provided direction as applicable.

B. Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its special meeting held December 5, 2019.

Commissioner Rackley reported that the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee had a presentation from CCI for the Artist Roundtable. CCI is working with Staff during the application process and the Roundtable is set to begin February 2020.

ACTION: Received the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report. No recommendations were presented for ratification during the report. A separate action item proposed by the Subcommittee was presented as Item IV.A.

C. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Urban Art Subcommittee did not meet on December 12, 2019, due to a lack of agenda items. No action required.

D. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its special meeting held December 19, 2019.

Commissioner Dishman reported the subcommittee approved a mural at Rock & Reilly's.

Commissioner Dishman informed the Commission about a billboard at Carneys owned by Clear Channel. The Company offered to let the Commission put artwork up free but because they are in a permitting process, the Subcommittee declined.

Lastly, Commissioner Dishman shared that the Subcommittee reviewed muralist roster guidelines, discussed upcoming projects and reviewed art project guidelines, with no changes, for temporary art projects.

Arts Manager, Andrew Campbell, shared the edits are minor, with word changes.

ACTIONS:

1. Approval of the Rock and Reilly mural located at 8911 Sunset Boulevard. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**
2. Approval of edited version of guidelines, noting a reservation from Commissioner Gantman on the definition of aesthetic criteria. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Chair Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 WeHo Artist Grant Program Funding Recommendations

The Commission ratified the recommendation proposed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee to award WeHo Artist Grants of \$2,000 each to six (6) West Hollywood Artists.

Commissioner Rackley discussed the 2020 WeHo Artist Grant applicants. A total of 21 applications were received, several were deemed ineligible either because they did not live in West Hollywood or have previously received funding.

Commissioner Gantman asked about repeat grantees.

Arts Manager, Andrew Campbell, informed the Commission that grantees are not eligible if they have received a grant in last two years.

Grants Coordinator, Eva Angeloff, shared that there is a policy in place for previous grantees and also mentioned that there are different types of grants that an artist can apply for and be awarded.

ACTION:

Approval of the award of WeHo Artists Grants of \$2,000 each to West Hollywood artists Carolyn Campbell, Ryan McCann, Felice Picano, Don Tinling, Fletcher Crossman, and Carolina Hoyos as recommended by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Chair Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

B. Winter Sounds and Summer Sounds Concert Series (2020-21)

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission ratified the recommendation proposed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee to select a pool of musicians/bands to perform during the City's 2020 Summer Sounds & 2020-21 Winter Sounds Series.

Commissioner Rackley shared there were 65 applicants, with a recommendation of sixteen.

Arts Technician, Joy Tribble, shared the artist selection process with the Commission.

Commissioner Dishman requested a concert featuring artist and/or music from Eastern Europe.

Commissioner Rackley assured the Commission next time there will be extra outreach to the Russian-speaking community for applications.

Commissioner Dishman thanked staff and the Subcommittee for their hard in selecting artists.

Staff shared that they have reached out to the Russian-speaking community to encourage artists to apply.

ACTION:

Approval of the following pool of 16 musicians/bands to select from to perform during the City's 2020 Summer Sounds & 2020-21 Winter Sounds Series: Acoustic Asylum, Black Nile, Cliff Beach, Dirty Cello, Farofa, Hand Drawn Maps, Heartbeat Brazil, Izela, Jessica La Rel, John Tegmeyer, Judy Wexler Quartet, Las Chikas, Murphy's Flaw, Quarteto Nuevo, Rocky Dawuni, Yari More Latin Band. **Motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.**

C. Acceptance of Gift of Collar & Leash Rainbow Neon Dog

The Commission agreed to recommend to City Council that the City accept, as a gift from the owners of the Collar & Leash pet store, the Collar & Leash Rainbow Neon Dog sign.

Arts Manager, Andrew Campbell, reported that the owners of the Rainbow Neon Dog sign are gifting the sign to the City. He mentioned that there is work needed and named sites where the sign could be housed for display.

Commission Faltz asked if the sign will still spin.

Commissioner Rackley mentioned that the tail spins also.

Andrew Campbell explained to recreate the same sign today it would be \$100,000 and considers the sign to be an asset, accruing in value.

Commissioner Dishman noted that the sign could be leased out to other cities for revenue.

Chair Moreno-Freedman asked if the sign could be displayed at one of the City's dog parks.

ACTION: Recommend acceptance of gift to City Council. **Motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Felice Picano spoke about the financial problems artists face on a daily basis.

2 Affiliates with

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rackley expressed thankfulness for being on the Commission. She thanked support staff for all their work and wished a happy holiday to all.

Commissioner Faltz seconded Commissioner Rackley.

Commissioner Dishman also seconded Commissioner Rackley.

Chair Moreno-Freedman wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Coordinator, Mike Che, shared that Dan Berkowitz, Co-Founder of the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, and recipient of multiple arts grants from the City of West Hollywood recently passed of sudden heart attack last week. Mike also mentioned the City of West Hollywood was nominated for LA Blade's Best of LGBT LA, as best workplace, best TV channel, and best Performing Arts venue. Lastly, he wished everyone happy holidays.

Arts Manager, Andrew Campbell, wished everyone a happy holiday. Andrew shared that he will be out of the office for two weeks, in his absence please contact Mike Che. Lastly, Andrew let everyone know how wonderful it is to work with them.

Grants Coordinator, Eva Angeloff, wished everyone a happy holiday. She mentioned that applications for artist bootcamp are being solicited with 25 applications already received. The deadline is January 16, 2020 with space for 24 applicants. Eva also shared that contracts are going out for approved grants and grantees will be required to complete an orientation. Eva commented that Happy Notes, who received a grant in November, will present its program tonight. Lastly, Eva stated she will share CCI's presentation with the Commission, per Commissioner Gantman's request.

Arts Technician, Joy Tribble, wished everyone a happy holiday.

Consultant, Nancy Meyers, wished everyone a happy holiday.

Recording Secretary, DeeA'na Saunders, wished everyone a happy holiday.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:49 PM to its meeting scheduled January 23, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, 90069.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ON THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.



DAWN MORENO FREEDMAN, CHAIR

ATTEST:



DEENA SAUNDERS,
RECORDING SECRETARY