

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.
*Teleconference Meeting***

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Williamson at 5:01 PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Commission Chair Gantman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioner Dan Faltz
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman 5:05
Commissioner Madeleine Rackley
Commission Vice Chair Martin Gantman
Commission Chair Todd Williamson

Absent:

Commissioner Catherine Lee
Commissioner J. Dallas Dishman

Also Present:

Acting Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Arts Coordinator Michael Che
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff
Arts Technician Joy Tribble

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the September 24, 2020 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the August 27, 2020 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, 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 Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, 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.**

B. Fiscal Year 2021 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Subcommittee Structure and Appointment to the Library Cultural Programming Committee

The Commission reviewed and considered approval of its subcommittee structure (Art on the Outside Subcommittee, Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee and the Urban Art Subcommittee) for the time remaining in Fiscal Year 2021 (October 2020 – June 2021) as proposed by the Chair, and considered appointing a commissioner to sit on the Library Cultural Programming Committee.

ACTIONS::

1. Approve the Subcommittee structure for FY 2021 for the Art on the Outside Subcommittee, Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee and the Urban Art Subcommittee as proposed by the Chair. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**
2. Reappoint Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman to sit on the Library Cultural Programming Committee during FY 2021. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

C. ACAC Meeting Schedule for November, and December 2020

The Commission discussed and considered approving a modified meeting schedule for all Commission and Subcommittee meetings in November and December 2020.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Approve a modified meeting scheduled for the November 2020 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving Holiday:
 - a. Move the November Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Meeting to November 5, 2020,
 - b. Move the November Urban Art Subcommittee Meeting to November 12, 2020,
 - c. Move the November Art on the Outside Subcommittee Meeting to November 19, 2020,
 - d. Move the November Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting to November 19, 2020.**Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**
- 2) Approve a modified meeting scheduled for the December 2020 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to avoid conflicts with holidays in December:
 - a. Move the December Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Meeting to December 3, 2020,
 - b. Move the December Urban Art Subcommittee Meeting to December 10, 2020,
 - c. Move the December Art on the Outside Subcommittee Meeting to December 17, 2020,
 - d. Move the December Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting to December 17, 2020.

Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held September 10, 2020 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Rackley reported that the Subcommittee reviewed applications for the LGBTQ History Tour Grant, of which the City received two, from ONE Archives and Jason Jenn. After review, the Subcommittee recommended approval of Jason Jenn/ ReEvolutionary Productions for the grant.

Commissioner Rackley also reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the recommendation for the next West Hollywood City Poet Laureate. Applications were open from May to July 2020 and eight applications were received. The applications were reviewed by a selection committee consisting of City Staff, Library Staff, former City Poet Laureates, and Commission members. The selection committee recommended Brian Sonia-Wallace to be named the next City Poet Laureate, and the Subcommittee ratified that selection.

Finally, Commissioner Rackley also reported on the selection process for the WeHo Sounds Online concert series. The City received seventy-one applications. Following review, ten musicians were selected and recommended for a pool of approved artists, from which the final selection will be made. The Subcommittee accepted this recommendation but added two musicians to the pool for a total of twelve approved musicians. Not all musicians may end up being used but having multiple options assists staff with flexibility for programming and scheduling once dates are proposed.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Receive and file the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approve applicant Jason Jenn/ReEvolutionary Productions for the 2021 City of West Hollywood LGBTQ History Tour Grant. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Recommend the City Council approve Brian Sonia-Wallace as the next West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (2020-22). **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approve a pool of 12 musicians/bands to perform during the WeHo Sounds Online Concert Series (2020-21). **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its meeting held September 24, 2020 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman reported that the Subcommittee reviewed applications for Commercial Business Murals, and discussed a review and edit to the guidelines for the WEHO Muralist Roster. He also mentioned that the Subcommittee denied two muralist roster applications due to the applicant's submitted work's content, which was mostly commercial rather than artistic. One other applicant to the WEHO Muralist roster was approved for one mural only (pending the Commission's approval of the edit to the guidelines, which make this possible), and another applicant was approved for the regular two-year terms onto the WEHO Muralist Roster.

Finally, Commissioner Gantman also explained that there was a miscommunication in one Commercial Business Mural application involving a gallery, but that issue was resolved and the Subcommittee recommends approval of the revised application.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Receive and file the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approve artist Casey Blaustein for a one-time installation of a mural at 470 N. Doheny, but deny the inclusion onto the WEHO Muralist Roster following the mural installation. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approve the WEHO Muralist Roster Application from Jack Chappel for inclusion on the WEHO Muralist Roster **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Deny the WEHO Muralist Roster Applications from Erin Miller Way, and Gooyey, but welcome their re-application if they present a portfolio that highlights their non-commercial work. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for 900 Hammond Street featuring artwork by Cori Alsbrooks. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for Robert Kuo LTD for 8686 Melrose Avenue featuring artwork by Londubh Studio. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.**
- 7) Approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for The Doheny Corner for 470 N. Doheny Drive featuring artwork by Kasey Blaustein. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Williamson, and approved unanimously.**
- 8) Approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for West Hollywood Gateway for 7100 Santa Monica Boulevard featuring artwork by Robert Dytch66 Gomez. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

- 9) Approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for 8811 Beverly Boulevard featuring the artwork by artist Lefty Out There. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.**

- 10) Approve the assessment of the WEHO Muralist Roster, including a review of the artists and removal of artists from the Roster, review of the evaluation criteria, and establishment of a time limit for the duration an artist is approved for the Roster. Edit the guidelines and application to: encourage early and mid-career artists to apply; emphasize the intent of the roster as an arts-based process and discourage branding and marketing; require an artistic portfolio submittal; and allow artists to be approved for one project only, without final inclusion into the roster. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Williamson, and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rackley thanked staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman shared that on the East side of the City, in front of the lot by an art installation, there is some dumped rubbish that the City should remove.

Commissioner Faltz announced the anniversary of his first year on the Commission.

Commissioner Williamson announced his 9th year on the Commission and thanked the Commission for their dedication to the City.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Coordinator Mike Che reported that an RFQ for West Hollywood artists to design the City's annual holiday artwork is open until October 5th. Additionally, an RFP for a producer for the City's WeHo Reads Spring 2021 season is open until October 29th. He also mentioned that three virtual Drag Queen Story Hour readings are viewable online now through the end of the year at the City's Arts Division YouTube Channel (www.bit.ly/wehoartsYT).

Arts Technician Joy Tribble announced the start of the City's Virtual Theatre program. Classical Theatre Lab's live costumed reading will be recorded and broadcast on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 2pm. Playwrights Ink's project, *While You Wait* is being launched via QR code stickers in lines at Astro Burger, BookSoup, Connie & Teds, Employees Only, and the Assembly. The short plays can also be viewed from home, at the City's free theatre page.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared that the next Artist Roundtable will take place on October 1st at 4pm. Invited grantees will share successes in transitioning from in-person events to digital events, and will also have a question and answer component.

Commission Secretary Moya Marquez wished Commissioner Faltz and Williamson a happy Commission Anniversary.

Acting Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann reported that the City received fifty-two grant applications in this cycle of grants.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Commissioner Rackley requested to discuss at some future date whether Commissioners are interested in exploring the ability to have teleconference meetings post-pandemic.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 5:56 PM to its meeting scheduled October 22, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ON THIS 22nd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Todd Williamson

TODD WILLIAMSON,
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Moya Marquez

MOYA MARQUEZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY