

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.
WEST HOLLYWOOD PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Faltz at 5:02 p.m.

A. Land Acknowledgement: Chair Faltz read the Land Acknowledgement.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Faltz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Lindsey Deaton
Commissioner Martin Gantman
Commissioner Catherine Lee
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman
Commissioner Todd Williamson
Commission Vice Chair Mito Aviles
Commission Chair Dan Faltz

Absent: None

Also Present: Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Oceguela
Arts Coordinator Michael Che
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff
Public Art Consultant Jessica Rich

D. Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Approval of the November 17, 2022 meeting agenda with item 3B being heard before item 3A **motioned by Chair Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the October 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Approval of the October 27, 2022 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Williamson, and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment Richard Giesbret, West Hollywood, spoke in opposition of Urban Art Subcommittee 4A Item: Concept Art Plan STAGE II, *Before Picasso*, by Artist Karon Davis.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion.
Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Williamson, 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. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Lee on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held November 17, 2022, and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Lee, Subcommittee Chair for Art on the Outside, shared information on the temporary art project *Honeycomb Harmonies* by Keenan Hartsten.

Commissioner Lee also shared information on the temporary art project *Falling on Deaf Ears* by Julio Sims.

Commissioner Lee concluded her report by sharing information of the revised Request for Qualifications for Artists and Curators for a Public Art Exhibition (Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny Drive median).

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve temporary art project presented by Keenan Hartsten for *Honeycomb Harmonies* with a total of \$15,000 dollars that include four (4), one-day events. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved noting a No Vote by Commissioner Williamson.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Request for Qualifications for Artists and Curators for a Public Art Exhibition (Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny Drive median). **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Gantman on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held November 10, 2022, and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman, acting Chair for Urban Art Subcommittee due to Commissioner Williamson's absence, shared information on the Melrose Avenue Gathering Space Stage I/II Concept Art Plan for *Before Picasso* by Karon Davis.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann gave a synopsis of the project timeline before introducing Artist Karon Davis where she proceeded to present the proposed Concept Art Plan, *Before Picasso*.

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Concept Art Plan STAGE I/II, *Before Picasso*, by artist Karon Davis. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

RICHARD GIESBRET, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to the artwork proposal.

C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Vice Chair Aviles on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee for its meeting held November 3, 2022 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Aviles shared that the Subcommittee, Miss Tiger, Co-Chair of LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, and Shane I. Nash, Chair of the Transgender Advisory Board, reviewed applications received for the 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Vice Chair Aviles shared information about the Arts Grant Program – Multi-year Grantee 2023 Project Proposals for Arts Project and Organizational Development Grants. The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the project proposals, totaling \$65,500, for the multi-year grantees (year 2 Arts Project and year 2 and 3 Organizational Development grantees).

Vice Chair Aviles concluded his report by sharing that the Subcommittee is reallocating funds for Grant Applicants. Arts Grant Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared details of the changes. Due to changed circumstances for second year Arts Project Grantee, LAXART, and Community Arts Grantee, Chicana Directors Initiative, the Subcommittee approved the reallocation of \$10,500 to Transgender Arts Initiative applicants: Alanna Blair (\$2500), Donna Westwood Band (\$2500), and Love Bailey (\$2500) and Community Arts Grant applicant: Up & Coming Actors (\$3000).

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the finalists Rubén Esparza, Artlounge Collective/K. Ryan Henisey, and HIT/Sean Knapp for the 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer Request for Qualifications. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the second-year Arts Project Grant and second-and third-year Organizational Development Grantees

2023 project proposals. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved unanimously.**

- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve award Transgender Arts Initiative Grants of \$2,500 to Alanna Blair & Lauren Neal, \$2,500 to Love Bailey, and \$2,500 to the Donna Westwood Band. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve award Community Arts Grant \$3,000 to Up & Coming Actors. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lee wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Commissioner Deaton thanked everyone for their support with the TransVagina Diaries and thanked Staff for their hard work year around.

Commissioner Williamson shared that he would step down from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission after 11 years and will not return in January. Thanked the Commission and staff for the great memories.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman shared that she would like to see more artwork in the east side of West Hollywood.

Vice Chair Aviles thanked Commissioner Williamson for his years of service to the Commission, echoed Commissioner Moreno-Freedman's request, thanked staff for the year's hard work, and concluded his comments by requesting a discussion for the Drag Laureate Program to return to the Commission at a future meeting.

ACTION:

Approved to put in a future agenda a discussion and updated section for the return of the Drag Laureate Program. **Motioned by Vice Chair Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**

Chair Faltz thanked everyone for their dedication in arts initiative throughout the year. Chair Faltz also stated that patrons were flummoxed by procedural issues in the Urban Art Subcommittee meeting that took place on November 10, 2022, wanted everyone to know that the issues do not speak to any lack of qualifications to the artist and that it was brought to the Commission so that a thorough conversation could take place. Chair Faltz

thanked Commissioner Williamson for his service and wished everyone a happy holiday.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared Grantee events information, Invertigo Dance Theatre presents “Walk the Walk Zine Release Party” on November 18 at 7:30 p.m., 2022 WeHo Artists: Alixen Pham, Daniel Bayot, and Katie Bright will be celebrated on December 7 at 6:00 p.m., Muda presents “Year 31 – The Preview” on December 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. and Dance Studio Showtime-Katusha presents “New Year Musical Dance Show” on December 18, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. Eva concluded her comments by sharing that the Artist Bootcamp 2023 deadline to apply is December 16, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che shared that Shelley Heffler’s *Rescued Refuse* will be deinstalled in December from the Library, WeHo Reads: *Light in Our Hearts* is on the WeHoArts YouTube page, the new 2023 WeHo Reads series begins on February 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers. Michael also celebrated Commissioner Deaton for the TransVagina Diaries and wished everyone a happy holiday season with news that the Holiday Artwork banners will be installed after Thanksgiving.

Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Ocegüera reminded everyone that Winter Sounds will begin January 28. Dennice also wished everyone a happy holiday season and thanked Commissioner Williamson for their years of service.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann reminded Commissioners to save the date for two Laurel House meetings, ‘Neighborhood Conversations: Let’s Talk about an Artist Residency Program’, on December 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center Room 2 and December 3, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Laurel House. Rebecca also shared that the February Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee meeting will be fully dedicated to a full discussion of Laurel House. Rebecca stated that community meetings will begin shortly for the City Playhouse, they will be led by the Urban Design and Architecture Studio and she will relay all information to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission as it becomes available. Rebecca invited the Commissioners to West Hollywood Day to celebrate 38 years of the City’s Cityhood, this event will take place November 29, 2022 at the Aquatics and Recreation Center. Rebecca also thanked Commissioner Williamson for his time and dedication in the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. Rebecca concluded her comments by wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA


The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2022.

Commissioner Gantman moved for a discussion of the Public Art + Beautification Fund at a future Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:22 p.m. to its meeting scheduled on January 26, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ON THIS 17th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022

DocuSigned by:

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DAN FALTZ
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:
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DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY