

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM,  
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Moreno-Freedman at 5:00 p.m.

**A. Land Acknowledgement:** Chair Moreno-Freedman read the Land Acknowledgement.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Moreno-Freedman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call:**

Present: Commissioner Heather Allyn  
Commissioner Mito Aviles  
Commissioner Cameron Faber  
Commissioner Dan Faltz  
Commissioner Martin Gantman  
Commissioner Catherine Lee  
Commission Vice Chair Sigourney Gunther  
Commission Chair Dawn Moreno-Freedman

Absent: None

Also Present: Director of Economic Development Laura Biery  
Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann  
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Ocegüera  
Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell  
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff  
Arts Specialist Joy Tribble

**D. Approval of the Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the May 29, 2025 agenda was motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.

**E. Approval of the April 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the April 24, 2025 was motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Vice Chair Gunther and approved noting an abstained vote from Chair Moreno-Freedman.

**F. Public Comment** JESSICA RICH, Santa Monica, spoke about the Moving Image Media Art Program.

## II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion. Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Aviles and approved unanimously.**

### A. Posting of the Agenda

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

**ACTION:** Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

## III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Commissioner Outreach to the Public

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission continued a conversation about methods of how Commissioners can share information about arts and culture programming with the community.

**ACTION:**

Provided feedback as necessary.

### B. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Vice Chair Gunther on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee for its meeting held May 8, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts and Cultural Arts Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the applications for the Peer Review Panelist Roster from Adelaide Kuehn, Alexis Hyde, Andrea Bastug, Brenda Reynolds, Brian Sonia-Wallace, Chandra Jackson, Clay Ngo, Collette Rutherford, Cornelia Emerson, Cory Bilicko, Daniyar Aynitdinov, Deirdre Marlowe, Dena Derakhshan, Devon Caranicas, Emily Gallagher, Emily Wanserski, Erin Adams, Fletcher Crossman, Greg Cuellar, James (Shamey) Cramer, Jen Cheng, Jill Johnson, Jon Gentry, Juan Silverio, Katie Bright, Kiera Bratton-Lewis, Larry Laboe, Lee Lawlor, Lucy Wang, Mallery Jenna Robinson, MJ Kang, Monk Turner, Renée, Rezman, Rubén Esparza, Sam Hassett, Shaghayegh Cyrous, Sheldon Larry, Sibylla Nash, Steve Galindo, and Yash Bhutada and decline the applications from Jim Aframian, Hera Anderson, Luis Arevalo, Louis Jacinto, Jainai Jeffries, and Angela Su; authorize staff to secure peer review panelists for the Arts Grant Program and provide an honorarium for panelists who serve.  
**Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved noting a no vote from Commissioner Aviles.**
- 3) Approved a method of artist selection to include an RFQ for performance arts organizations to present an interactive and educational project in the City,

black owned/led performance art companies are especially desirable, invite semi-finalists to submit proposals for consideration, and select a finalist for the project to be presented in observance of Black History Month in February 2026, as discussed with staff and recommended by the Subcommittee.

**Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved unanimously.**

- 4) Approved Coeourage Ensemble to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2025 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

**Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Aviles, and approved unanimously.**

#### **C. Urban Art Subcommittee**

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Gantman on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held May 15, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

##### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved Allison Kunath for the creation of a new urban artwork for the city-owned Holloway Interim Housing project (The Holloway). **Motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Vice Chair Gunther, and approved noting a no vote from Commissioner Aviles and Commissioner Lee.**

#### **D. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report**

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Faltz on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held May 29, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

##### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the applications that include Jason Jenn, Kimberli Meyer (team), Jessica Rich (Moving Image Art LLC), Beth Stryker (team, MAK Center), and Carmen Zella (Now Art Public) and decline the application of Kacy Boccumini (My Best Guy). **Motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Vice Chair Gunther, and approved noting a no vote from Commissioner Aviles and Commissioner Gantman.**
- 3) Approved the applications received from Adam Agostino, Isabel Beavers, Daniel Canogar, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI, Rebecca Cleman), Chadwick Halbritter, kordae henry, Andrew Huang, Eli Joteva, June Kim, Cheryl Maeder, Kitty McNamee, Nina McNeely, MMIX (Rust & L) [MacCarthy & Faunt, respectively], Alistair Nicholls, Sondra Perry, Wade Robson, David Sheldrick, Steven Arnold Museum and Archives (Vishnu Dass), Tony Testa, Denna Thomsen, Video Data Bank (Emily Martin), Angela Wilcocks, Elizabeth Withstandley, Shoji Yamasaki, and Jody Zellen and declined applications received from MAK Center (Beth Stryker), Drake Carr, Manuela Klauser,

Sylke Rene Meyer, Christian Sampson, Beck Stafford, Lani Trock, and Avery Wheless for the Moving Image Media Art Program Prequalified List.

**Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

4) Approved the plans for the 2026 Art on the Outside Program open calls to artists for temporary public art project proposals. **Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

5) The Commission denied the Commercial Business Mural Application for 8483 Melrose Avenue and the WeHo Muralist Roster Application from Eric Skotnes. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved noting a no vote from Commissioner Aviles.**

**E. Library Cultural Programming Committee Report**

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Faltz on the Library Cultural Programming Committee on its meeting held May 14, 2025.

**ACTION:**

Received and filed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Arts Programming in Recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month in May 2026**

The Commission considered ways to highlight and support Jewish American Heritage artists, determined eligible project types, a selection process to develop arts programming in observance of Jewish American Heritage Month in May 2026.

**ACTION:**

Provided feedback and directed this item to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for further deliberation and planning. **Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

**B. Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission New Subcommittee Meeting Schedule and Draft Work Plan for FY25-26**

The Commission received a presentation from staff regarding the Subcommittee schedule change and considered the draft FY25-26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Work Plan.

**ACTION:**

Approved draft FY25-26 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Work Plan. **Motioned by Vice Chair Gunther, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

**V. EXCLUDED CONSENT None.**

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

VII. **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Allyn expressed appreciation for her time on the Commission so far and praised both the Harvey Milk Day event and the WeHo Pride Arts Festival.

Commissioner Aviles shared interest in bringing a trolley activation to the Arts Festival in 2026, shared about a new business in the city called *Gentle Monster*, and inquired about the installation timeline for the construction fence art project at the Robertson Lane/Faring site.

Commissioner Faltz attended the American Alliance of Museums Conference and a DCA event focused on the legal implications of recent Executive Orders. He emphasized the importance of continuing to support arts organizations while also being good neighbors and advocates for other cities in need.

Commissioner Gantman requested updates from staff on the City Playhouse and Laurel House projects.

Vice Chair Gunther attended both the Harvey Milk Day event and the WeHo Pride Arts Festival.

Commissioner Lee congratulated Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Ocegüera on her recent graduation from California State University Long Beach.

Chair Moreno-Freedman attended an event in Santa Fe, expressed interest in adding murals to restrooms, and shared that she will not be participating in the Commissioner's float at the WeHo Pride Parade this year. She offered her spot to others, though no one expressed interest.

VIII. **ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

Arts Specialist Joy Tribble thanked the Commission for attending the Summer Sounds Acoustic event and announced upcoming Summer Sounds dates for July and August.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff provided feedback on the May 17 Artists Roundtable, shared information about upcoming grantee events in June, and reminded the Commission of the July 1 arts grant application deadline.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann shared community feedback suggesting that any MIMA artwork featuring foreign language text should include English subtitles for accessibility.

IX. **DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Gantman requested two items for discussion, a review of the Art and Beautification Fund, and a possible new initiative of an annual Urban Art project led by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. **Motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner Aviles, and approved unanimously.**

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman requested a discussion on a possible new initiative to incorporate murals in restrooms at City facilities, as well as potential incentives for

commercial businesses to do the same. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:54 p.m. to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. to be held at the West Hollywood City Hall Community Meeting Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
ON THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June 2025.

  
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DAWN MORENO-FREEDMAN  
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
DENNICE OCEGUERA,  
RECORDING SECRETARY