

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Gunther at 5:00 p.m.

**A. Land Acknowledgement:** Chair Gunther read the Land Acknowledgement.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Gunther led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call:**

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

Absent: None.

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

**D. Approval of the Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the September 25, 2025 agenda with item 5A moved to the beginning of the meeting was **motioned by Vice Chair Lee, seconded by Commissioner Allyn, and approved unanimously.**

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

**ACTION:** Approval of the July 24, 2025 was **motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Vice Chair Lee and approved unanimously.**

**F. Public Comment**

- 1) CHRISTOPHER MAIKISH, West Hollywood, spoke about Celebration Theatre.
- 2) RENE SOTILE, LGBTQ+ COMMISSIONER, emailed public comment to announce information about the Rainbow Key Awards.

## II. ARTS MANAGER'S UPDATE

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann shared that Staff from the Arts Division, along with Human Services and Human Resources, are participating in a six-month Equity + Results program focused on advancing racial equity and inclusion within the City. Insights from this training may help shape future Arts Division initiatives, including artist calls, outreach, and data practices. The Melrose Gathering Place artwork is ready for installation and a City photographer is scheduled to document the process and a dedication event will follow. New artist opportunities have been announced, including calls for the 2026 Black History Month Arts Producer (due Oct. 27), Art Project Producer for the Three-Year Creative Plan (due Oct. 29), and Free Theatre in the Parks 2026 (due Feb. 2); a call for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Producer will open in November. Commissioners are also invited to The Holloway grand opening on Tuesday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m.

## III. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

## IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Commissioner Gantman on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held August 21, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

#### **ACTION:**

The Commission approved David Kim for the creation of a new urban artwork for the city-owned West Hollywood Recover Center project (WHRC Log Cabin).

**Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

### B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Commissioner Gantman on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held September 11, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) The Commission approved the artworks *Lost Mind* by Sara Silkin for exhibition at 8743 Sunset Boulevard (Invisible Frame), and *MORPH* by Nina McNeely for exhibition at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from

October 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

- 2) The Commission approved the artworks *Sundown* by Isabel Beavers for exhibition at 8497 Sunset Boulevard (The NOW) and *Various Untitled Works* (2022) by Diana Thater at 8501 Sunset Boulevard (SunCienega) from October 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 3) The Commission approved Brendan Monroe, Bonnie Turner, Charles Clear, Brooklyn Flowers, Ioannis Patelias, The art of chase, Inc., Ernie Nazarian, Mars Wright, Latoya Peoples, Kevin Johnson, Elliot Klein, Hannah Webb, and Angela Willcocks for the WeHo Muralist Roster. **Motioned by Vice Chair Lee, seconded by Chair Gunther and approved unanimously.**
- 4) The Commission declined applications from Hees Hees, Jane Lee, Sean Demalleville, Skeith Dewine, and Katie McGuire for the WeHo Muralist Roster. **Motioned by Vice Chair Lee, seconded by Chair Gunther and approved unanimously.**
- 5) The Commission approved the artist selection process and Plummer Park location for a temporary basketball court mural to be installed in February 2026. **Motioned by Chair Gunther, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

### **C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Vice Chair Gunther on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee for its meeting held September 11, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) The Commission approved the funding allocation recommendations for the 2026 Arts Project Grant category; including: West Coast Singers, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Greenway Arts Alliance, Beyond Baroque, One Institute, Banjee Ball Foundation, Helix Collective, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Heidi Duckler Dance, Prism Comics Inc., MashUp Contemporary Dance Company, and Southeast European Film Festival. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Chair Gunther and approved noting that Vice Chair Lee left the meeting during this time.**
- 2) The Commission approved the funding allocation recommendations for the 2026 Community Arts Grant, including: Ammunition Theatre Company, Women Who Submit, Jennifer Cheng, Leopold Nunan Soares, Jamison Riley Edgar, and Karin Tatsuoka. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Chair Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 3) The Commission approved the funding allocation recommendations for the 2026 TGI+ Arts, including: Wesleigh Gates, Socks Whitmore, Lovely Bouquet

of Flowers, Samara Goodman, Zo Shay, and LZ Love. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**

- 4) The Commission approved the funding allocation recommendations for the 2026 Filmmakers Grant, including: Little Heart Film, Anthony Meindl, Keith Glassman Dance & Performance, and Aaron Bear. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 5) The Commission approved the funding allocation recommendations for the 2026 WeHo Artist Grant, including: Kylie Vincent, James M. Hoffman, Marco Palou, Patricia Hautéa de Padua, Julia Stephens, and Omid Omidvar. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**

#### **D. Library Cultural Programming Committee Report**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received the report from the Library Cultural Programming Committee (LCPC) members Commissioner Faltz and Mike Che and made recommendations for three artists to receive exhibition awards for the Heart of WeHo open call group exhibition, a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cityhood exhibition.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) The Commission approved the revised LCPC Guidelines and Application. **Motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Vice Chair Gunther and approved unanimously.**
- 2) Received and filed the LCPC report including:
  - a. Authorized City's Arts Division to promote the West Hollywood Library's event on October 28, 2025, LGBTQ+ Book Club Discussing Outliving Michael by Steven Reigns through the Arts Division's promotional channels.
  - b. Approved 33 artwork selections for the Heart of WeHo Open Call Group Exhibition, a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cityhood exhibition celebrating places in West Hollywood, by Benjamin Marker, Christina Yi, Eryn Parker-Ross aka LP Ækili Ross, Frank Rozasy (2), Gregg Shore (2), Hao Jing, Hera Anderson, Jeff McMullen and David McCullough, Joanne Chase-Mattillo, Kayte Deioma (3), Kieran Wright aka Small Scale LA, Mary Roth, Michael Osborne aka MisterOsborne (2), Miggie Wong, Nathan Becker, Pascaline/ Bruno Doucin Dahlke, Pascaline Doucin Dahlke, Rachel Finkelstein, Richard Tucci aka Ricardo Tomasz, Ricky Sencion aka Little Ricky, Robert Heavrin (3), Robert Landau, Rupert Lyon, Scott Lewallen aka Sküt, Shelley Heffler, and Zoe Balsam Biggs.
  - c. Declined 20 artworks for the Heart of WeHo Open Call Group Exhibition, on the basis of the LCPC Review Criteria Guidelines of Aesthetics, Diversity, and Intended Audience, by Armani Freeman, Bumdog Torres, David Lampel, Francesco Brunetti, Gregg Shore (2), Joanne Chase-Mattillo (2),

Kayte Deioma (6), Nathan Becker, Richard Tucci, and Robert Heavrin (4).  
**Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously**

- 3) Selected artists Keiran Wright as 1st place (\$350), Rupert Leon as 2nd place (\$250), and Hao Jing as 3rd place (\$150) for the Heart of WeHo exhibition to receive monetary prizes based on their artwork's artistry, aesthetics and adherence to the exhibition theme. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously**

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Subcommittee Structures and Appointments

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission considered approval of its Subcommittee's structures (Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, Urban Art Subcommittee, and Art on the Outside Subcommittee) for FY2026 as proposed by the Chair and consider appointing a commissioner to serve on the Library Cultural Programming Committee.

#### **ACTION:**

The Commission approved the Subcommittee structures for FY2026 for the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, Urban Art Subcommittee, and Art on the Outside Subcommittee, and appointment of a Commissioner to serve on the Library Cultural Programming Committee. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**

### B. 2025 Harvey Milk Day and WeHo Pride Arts Festival Final Reports and 2026-28 Recommendations

The Commission received final reports on the City's 2025 Harvey Milk Day event and WeHo Pride Arts Festival program and considered recommendations for 2026-2028.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed a final report on the City's 2025 Harvey Milk Day event and the City's 2025 WeHo Pride Arts Festival.
- 2) Provided recommendations for the City's 2026 Harvey Milk Day event.  
**Motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Provided recommendations for the 2026-2028 WeHo Pride Arts Festival including dates. **Motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Recommended the City Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate a three-year agreement with the Los Angeles LGBT Center to host and produce the WeHo Pride Arts Festival for the next 3 years, 2026, 2027, and 2028, with annual reviews to make sure that performance expectations are met.

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

- 5) Recommended that Staff explore increasing the budget of the WeHo Pride Arts Festival from \$85,000 to \$160,000. **Motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Directed Staff explore the feasibility of adding a shuttle to the WeHo Pride Arts Festival. **Motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

**VI. EXCLUDED CONSENT** None.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Gunther inquired about urban art project *Regard* by Rebecca Lowry, scheduled for installation in front of the Plummer Park Community Center, and suggested removing the Farmers Market sign currently obstructing the artwork site.

Commissioner Allyn expressed appreciation for the Free Theatre program and gratitude for the City's continued support of the arts.

Commissioner Aviles asked about the dedication ceremony for Karon Davis's sculpture, the payment status for artist Nina McNeely, social media promotion for the Black History Month Art Programming Producer RFP, and the status of *En Passant* by Barbara McCarren.

Commissioner Faltz noted that Arts for LA highlighted the City's Three-Year Creative Plan at a recent Wende Museum event, shared attending Drag Story Hour at the Getty Museum, and requested the meeting adjourn in memory of his mother, Judy Faltz.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman requested a future discussion on the Arts Division budget.

**IX. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell shared highlights and personal experiences from the Art in Odd Places Festival.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che provided an overview of upcoming October events, including *Drag Story Hour* featuring Tony Soto on Sat., October 4 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room; *Voices of Transformation* on Wed., October 8 at the West Hollywood Library; *Voices of the Ancestors: A Poetry Reading* presented by Poet Laureate Jen Cheng on Sun., October 12 at Fan Girl Café; and *Writing with the Poetry of Queer Ancestors* on Sat., October 18 at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. He also announced the *Heart of WeHo: 40th Anniversary of Cityhood Exhibit Opening Reception* taking place Friday, October 24 at 7 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library and mentioned the *CIRCA Festival* sponsored by ONE Institute.

**X. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:44 p.m. to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 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 23<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2025

Signed by:

*Sigourney Gunther*  
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SIGOURNEY GUNTHER  
COMMISSION CHAIR

DocuSigned by:

ATTEST:

*Dennice Ocegüera*  
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DENNICE OCEGUERA,  
RECORDING SECRETARY