

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 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 Mito Aviles
Commissioner Dan Faltz
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman

Absent: Commissioner Heather Allyn
Commissioner Martin Gantman

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 October 23, 2025 agenda was **motioned by Faltz, seconded by Lee, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

ACTION: Approval of the September 25, 2025 was **motioned by Lee, seconded by Faltz and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment

CHRISTOPHER MAIKISH, West Hollywood, spoke about Celebration Theatre.

II. ARTS MANAGER'S UPDATE

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann shared updates from the Arts Division, including staff participation in the CAPAA meeting and Code: Art Festival, the Arts for LA State of the

Arts Summit, and the upcoming LGBTQ+ Arts and Culture Coalition Funder Convening. *Before Picasso* by Karon Davis was installed at Melrose Gathering Place, and the AIDS Monument grand opening is November 16. The *Heart of WeHo* exhibition at the library, celebrating the City's 40th anniversary, will have a public reception on October 24. City Council approved 2026 Arts Grant funding, the Harvey Milk Day and WeHo Pride Arts Festival report and recommendations, and the City Playhouse relocation to the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Flores Street. Open arts opportunities include calls for Black History Month, West Hollywood Artists Roundtable, Three-Year Creative Plan, Free Theatre in the Parks, and Jewish American Heritage Month producers.

III. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion. Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Lee 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 October 2, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) The Commission approved directing staff to invite *En Passant* artist Barbara McCarren to the next Subcommittee meeting and approved an engagement fee of \$750. **Motioned by Lee, seconded by Gunther and approved unanimously.**
- 2) The Commission approved the deaccession for the urban artwork *Stairway Sculpture* by Paul Betouliere at 884 Palm Avenue. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Aviles and approved unanimously.**

B. **Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Vice Chair Lee on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held October 9, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Receive and file the Art on the Outside Current, Upcoming, and Potential Project Calendar. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

- 2) The Commission approved temporary public art exhibition proposals from Hedy Torres, Donna Sternberg, Halima Ibrahim, and Alicia Piller. Staff will inquire with the Communications team to see if Kira Xonorika can display digital art on the transit shelters; if not, the proposal submission from David Lampel will serve as the alternative. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 3) The Commission declined temporary public art exhibition proposals from Adrian Abela, Oluwatobi Adewumi (Otobi Art Studio), Teresea Barcleo (Toogie Barcelo & Joe Berry), Janine Centuori (June Street Architecture), Diego de Los Andes, Sara Dehghan, Andrea Derujinsky, Candace Fernandez, Edgar Fabian Frias, Moses Garcia (MADE Collective), Kevin Hees, Sakina Ibrahim, Nora Kovacs (The Journal Gallery), Helen Lessick, Kacie Lyn Martinez, Jose Trejo Maya, Devon Miller (FWD), Gwendolyn Moon, Clay Ngo (clenclen), Jennifer Rappaport, Laurence Reece, Jeronimo Schaefer, Daniel Stern, Lani Trock, Carmen Zella (NXT Art Foundation), and Carol Zou (Queer Spa Network). **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 4) The Commission approved artists Annie Hong, Brendon Monroe and Daisuke Okamoto as Semi-Finalists for consideration to create a temporary mural for the basketball courts in Plummer Park. **Motioned by Gunther, seconded by Aviles and approved unanimously.**

C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Commissioner Allyn on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee for its meeting held October 9, 2025 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) The Commission approved the second year Arts Project Grant 2026 project proposals. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Lee and approved unanimously.**
- 2) The Commission approved the applications received from Antiqua Metropoli and Leticia Zepeda, Arin Ray, Billy Kent, BLOW Brass, Boston Mongolian Artsong Ensemble, Brainstory, Charles Emanuel, Dakota Dry, Diego Garcia, FRESCIA BELMAR AKA FRESHA, Ghost-Note, illan, Impulso Tenors, Jacque Hammond, Jake Knox, Julia Behbudov, Julian Forest, Justin chart, Kandace Lindsey, Katalyst Collective, Keila Myles, Kofi B., Kurt Kanazawa, LA Soundscape Orchestra, LED, Lennon X., Lyric Jones, Mark de Clive-Lowe, Mary Beth Abella, MYRANDAS, Nanna.B, Nicholas Galinaitis, Nikka Costa, Nina Nepa, Nora Germain, Phoenixx, Rochone, Rootful, Ryck Jane, Sara Melson, son.person, Sophia Galate, Syante, Tamara Jade, The Katy, The Messenger, The Soul Space featuring Tamara Jade & Orlando Dixon, Yari More Latin Band, YOCOYA, and Zulu Ali Group for the Musicians and Performers Roster. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Lee and approved unanimously.**

- 3) The Commission declined the applications received from Abiodun Koya, Abrakadabra, Andrew Egbuchiem (2 applications), Asuka Uchida (2 applications), Bird of Paradigm, Canto Zeznzero, Casey Germain, Cathy Segal-Garcia, Dean Ortega's Brotherhood Connection, Exploration Station, Grupo Aberto, Ina Buckner-Barnette - The Sunshine Storyteller, JstLszn (Pronounced "Just Listen"), KATRINAMURPHYENTERTAINMENT, Konstantin Jan, LA Cat, Lamayah, Orpheus's Voice: Hugo Vera tenor, ORRUH, Pat Posey, Rachel Mellman, Rohini, RUST_VISION, Sarah Kathryn Curtis (2 applications), Shacar, Shannon Delijani (2 applications), Souttree, Stone Soul, Syannah (3 applications), Ted Falcon & Forrozeiros, The Growth Eternal, The Jeffrey Gimble Group, The Moon Units, Tim Russ Crew, and Tori Nhieu for the Musicians and Performers Roster. **Motioned by Faltz, seconded by Lee and approved unanimously.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 Sacramento Legislative Action Day For Appointed Officials

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission appointed one delegate and one alternate to represent the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission during the Legislative Action Day in Sacramento to take place on Thursday, February 5, 2026 (Year 2 of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session).

ACTIONS:

- 1) The Commission appointed Moreno-Freedman to represent the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission during the Legislative Action Day in Sacramento to take place on February 5, 2026. **Motioned by Gunther, seconded by Lee and approved unanimously.**
- 2) The Commission appointed Aviles as the alternate to the appointed delegate in case they are unable to attend the Legislative Action Day in Sacramento. **Motioned by Gunther, seconded by Lee and approved unanimously.**

VI. EXCLUDED CONSENT None.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

MIKE FARREL, West Hollywood, spoke about children's music programming.

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Aviles shared that he provided public comment at the October 20, 2025, City Council meeting and inquired with staff regarding the Harvey Milk Day and WeHo Pride Arts Festival agenda item. He also requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of D'Angelo.

Commissioner Faltz shared that he attended the Arts for LA State of the Arts Summit and received a great deal of unsolicited positive feedback regarding the City's three-year Creative Plan. He also congratulated everyone on their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman expressed condolences on the loss of Robert Redford

and Diane Keaton.

Chair Gunther encouraged everyone to attend the pole dancing review at the Tropicana on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Coordinator Michael Che provided a recap of recent October events including Drag Story Hour, WeHo Reads, and several Poet Laureate events, and invited everyone to the public reception for *Heart of WeHo* on Friday, October 24 at 7 p.m.

Director of Economic Development Laura Biery responded to Commissioner Aviles' questions regarding the Harvey Milk Day and WeHo Pride Arts Festival item on the October 20 City Council agenda.

X. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of D'Angelo, Diane Keaton and Robert Redford at 5:57 p.m. to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 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 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025

DocuSigned by:
Sigourney Gunther
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SIGOURNEY GUNTHER
COMMISSION CHAIR

DocuSigned by:
ATTEST: *Dennice Ocegüera*
636EF18063704EA...

DENNIC ECEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY