

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 – 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
Commissioner Heather Allyn
Commissioner Mito Aviles
Commissioner Dan Faltz
Commissioner Martin Gantman
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman

Absent: Commission Vice Chair Catherine Lee

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 January 22, 2026 agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes with amended comment.

ACTION: Approval of the November 20, 2025 was **motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Chair Gunther and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment None.

II. ARTS MANAGER'S UPDATE

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann provided several updates. She shared that City Council was presented with information regarding activities planned for the 2026 World Cup, including Disco Foot. City Council also received a presentation highlighting key events

from 2025 within the Economic Development Department, along with a look ahead to 2026. Rebecca also outlined upcoming Arts Division opportunities, including the following: the RFP for Free Theatre in the Parks 2026, with a submission deadline of February 2, 2026; three open Route 66 calls, including RFPs for a temporary public 3D artwork, a light pole vinyl installation, and a building façade vinyl installation, all with a deadline of February 23, 2026; the WeHo Sounds Musicians and Performers Roster, with a deadline of February 28, 2026; and the Muralist Roster, with a deadline of March 1, 2026. She concluded her report by sharing an overview of the three-year creative plan and a brief list of arts programs scheduled for the first half of 2026.

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 Moreno-Freedman 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. **Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a report from Commissioner Faltz on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held January 8, 2026 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 Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 2) Received and filed a final report regarding the *Art in Odd Places: VOICE* public and performance art festival which occurred from July 25-27, 2025 at Plummer Park, West Hollywood Park, and Sunset Boulevard. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**
- 3) The Commission approved the final artworks *Sunset Garden* by Alexandre Arrechea for exhibition 8497 Sunset Boulevard (The NOW) and *The True Story of Edges: Sunset Blvd.* by Jessica Wimbley for exhibition at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from February 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026. **Motioned by Commissioner Allyn, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 4) The Commission approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to conclude the exhibition *Los Cuidadores (The Caretakers)*, 2013, a mural by artist Jay Lynn Gomez and explore using the wall for a future art display location.

Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved noting the no vote from Commissioner Aviles.

B. 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 January 8, 2026 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) The Commission approved the 2027 Arts Grant Program grant guidelines for the following five categories: 1) 2027-2028 Special Arts Project; 2) Community Arts; 3) Filmmakers; 4) Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Art (TGI+); and 5) WeHo Artist Grants. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Chair Gunther and approved unanimously.**

- 2) The Commission approved the proposal from Dance Resource for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

V. NEW BUSINESS None.

VI. EXCLUDED CONSENT None.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Gunther inquired about maintenance for the *Parallel Perpendicular* urban art project at West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Allyn shared information about an upcoming Rogue Machine performance.

Commissioner Aviles inquired about City processes, expressed interest in increasing the minimum grant award, expressed interest in continuing a conversation related to artificial intelligence, and inquired about the internal use of the 8501 Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Faltz shared his experience hosting the California Creative Economy Town Hall at the Huntington Beach Arts Center and announced dates for upcoming arts-related events in Los Angeles.

Commissioner Gantman shared his recent experience visiting the Getty Museum.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman spoke about her arts experience at the Artist Tree.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Coordinator Michael Che shared data highlights from the Holiday Poetry Hotline, hosted by Poet Laureate Jen Cheng, noting that 248 participants called in to receive custom poems during the project. He shared information on upcoming events including Drag Story Hour on February 7, 2026. He shared that one of the artists, Michael Osbourne, in the Heart of WeHo library exhibit has a solo show opening at Circus of Books on February 11 which will feature paintings of traditionally queer spaces. He also reported that the 2025 WeHo Reads series has received approximately 40,000 views on YouTube and a final report will be presented at the next PACA meeting. The next WeHo Reads event is on February 18, 2026.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared that 12 grantees received City arts grants of more than \$9,000 last year and noted that grantee feedback consistently reflects that the City's process is notably easier compared to other municipalities. She also reported that the Arts Grant Guidelines will be presented to City Council in February for final approval and shared that the Artists Roundtable series will focus on professional development.

Arts Specialist Joy Tribble announced that the Winter Sounds concert series begins on Saturday January 24 at Live at the Sun Rose, starting at 7:00 PM.

Director of Economic Development Laura Biery responded to Commissioner Aviles' questions regarding City processes and the use of the 8501 Sunset Boulevard. She also announced that David Wilson has officially retired and that Jackie Rocco has been appointed as the new City Manager.

X. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Commissioner Gunther requested that an item be agendized for the Art on the Outside Subcommittee to discuss the addition of signage to the Rebecca Lowry *Regard* project. **Motioned by Chair Gunther, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**

Commissioner Aviles requested that an item be agendized for the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee to discuss artificial intelligence. **Motioned by Chair Gunther, seconded by Commissioner Allyn and approved unanimously.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of fashion designer Valentino at 6:02 p.m. to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, 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 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

DocuSigned by:
Sigourney Gunther
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SIGOURNEY GUNTHER
COMMISSION CHAIR

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

DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY