

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission**



**PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING AGENDA PACKET
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION:
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM,
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM,
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

The West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check out at the meeting; If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting, (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting-related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, 323.GO.COMMUTE (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net.

STATEMENT OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPECT: During public meetings, community gatherings, interactions with the public, and with one another, the City endeavors for all participants and attendees to conduct City business and treat others with respect, a core value of the City. This includes being polite, professional, and thoughtful when interacting with others. Our collective commitment to West Hollywood requires intention, cooperation, courtesy, consideration, tolerance, forgiveness, acceptance, inclusiveness, kindness, compassion, and patience. Our respect is expressed not only in the words we choose, but also in our tone, our demeanor, and our actions toward one another.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING: To provide public comment, email or call the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Secretary at acacpubliccomment@weho.org or 323-848-6351 by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026, to be added to the Public Speaker List. If you want to speak by phone, you must also email a speaker request to the same address by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. For both in-person and phone comments, include your name, city, and the agenda item you want to speak about. Your comments will become part of the official record. To keep your address private, simply leave it out.

Written materials distributed to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee within 72 hours of the meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution in the Arts Division at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, during normal business hours. They will also be available for inspection during the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee meeting at the staff liaison's table. For a complete listing of arts and cultural programs, events and opportunities, please visit www.weho.org/arts, or follow @WeHoArts on social media.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. Land Acknowledgement**
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - C. Roll Call**
 - D. Approval of the Agenda**

E. Approval of the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes

F. Public Comment

The public is given the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on any item within its responsibility. At the discretion of the Subcommittee, speakers may be limited to three minutes each.

II. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matters can be acted upon by one motion. Individual items may be removed by the Subcommittee for separate discussion. Items removed for separate discussion will be heard following Unfinished Business Items.

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.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **Arts Grant Program – 2027 Arts Grant Guidelines** (Page 8)

The Subcommittee will review the proposed guidelines for the 2027 Arts Grant Program for five categories including 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Art (TGI+), and WeHo Artist Grant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve 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.

(Page 37)

B. **Review Of Proposals For 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming**

The Subcommittee will review and discuss the proposals received for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming Request for Proposals and make a recommendation for one proposal to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve one proposal for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month programming.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS** None.

V. **ITEMS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

VI. **ITEMS FROM STAFF**

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public is given the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on any item within its responsibility. At the discretion of the Subcommittee, speakers may be limited to three minutes each.

VIII. **DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Subcommittee will advise staff on the development of the February 12, 2026 meeting agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee will adjourn to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the West Hollywood City Hall, 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC)
PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM,
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Subcommittee Chair Allyn at 5:00 p.m.

A. Land Acknowledgement

Read by Subcommittee Chair Allyn

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Subcommittee Chair Allyn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Sigourney Gunther
Subcommittee Chair Heather Allyn

Absent: Commissioner Mito Aviles

Staff: Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann
Arts Specialist/Acting Recording Secretary Joy Tribble
Arts Coordinator Michael Che
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff

D. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda was motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Subcommittee Chair Allyn and approved unanimously.

E. Approval of the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes

Approval of the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Subcommittee Chair Allyn and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matters were acted upon by one motion. Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Subcommittee Chair Allyn 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:

The Consent Calendar was received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review Of Proposals for the Artists Roundtable Producer RFP

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed proposals received for the Artists Roundtable Producer Request for Proposals and made a recommendation for one proposal to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

ACTION:

Recommended the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve Emily Wanserski to support the design, development, and management of the Artists Roundtable. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Subcommittee Chair Allyn and approved unanimously.**

B. Review Of Proposals for 2026 Black History Month

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposals received for the 2026 Black History Month Arts Programming Request for Proposals and made a recommendation for one proposal to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

ACTION:

Recommended the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve JazzAntiqua for the 2026 Black History Month Arts Programming initiative and referred Stéphen "Swizz" Banks proposal to the Art on the Outside Subcommittee. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Subcommittee Chair Allyn approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arts Grant Program – 2027 Arts Grant Guidelines Review

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed guidelines for the 2027 Arts Grant Program for five categories including 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Art (TGI+), and WeHo Artist Grant.

ACTION:

The Commissioners provided feedback to staff on 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.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR None.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE None.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Arts Coordinator Mike Che shared information about the upcoming WeHo Reads event, *Wild and Powerful Imaginations*, taking place online on November 12, 2025 and Poet Laureate led event, *Celebrating Essential Poems of Pat Parker*, on November 15, 2025.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff thanked the Commissioners for the meeting and invited them to Grantee Umi Hsu's event, *Fruiting Bodies: A Multisensory Worldbuilding Workshop*, taking place on November 9, 2025, at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room.

Arts Specialist Joy Tribble also thanked the Commissioners for a great meeting and shared her enthusiasm for the upcoming Black History Month event. Additionally, she noted that the deadline to apply for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming Producer opportunity is December 15, 2025.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Subcommittee advised staff on the development of the December 4, 2025 meeting agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee adjourned at 6:08 p.m. to its meeting scheduled Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., to be held at the West Hollywood City Hall, 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON THIS 4th DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

HEATHER ALLYN
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

ATTEST:

DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY

SUBJECT: **ARTS GRANT PROGRAM – 2027 ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES**

PREPARED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**

Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager

Eva Angeloff, Grants Coordinator

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Subcommittee will review the proposed guidelines for the 2027 Arts Grant Program for five categories including 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Art (TGI+), and WeHo Artist Grant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve 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.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

The Arts Grant Program grant guidelines are reviewed each year by the Subcommittee and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and approved by City Council.

At the November 6, 2025 meeting, the Subcommittee provided feedback for the proposed guidelines. Specifically, the top 4 criteria for the review of the Special Arts Project category; and the weight of each of the other categories in terms of review criteria.

Staff recommends one addition – earmarking \$15,000 of the 2027-2028 Special Arts Project category budget for self-selecting disabled applicants, or non-profits who serve disabled artists. In alignment with the City’s commitment to equity and inclusion in the arts, this specific allocation of \$15,000 is designated to support disabled artists and

nonprofit organizations that serve disabled creatives. This funding is within the substantial 2027-2028 Special Arts Project category line item and aims to amplify disability visibility within the City’s cultural programming by ensuring inclusion of projects that reflect the experiences, perspectives, and artistic contributions of disabled individuals.

The attached guidelines include these recommendations [ATTACHMENT A].

2027 ARTS GRANT PROGRAM BUDGET:

This chart shows the funding allowances for each category for 2027:

Grant Category	Total Funding Allocation	Committed Funding (Year 2 Arts Project Grant)	Available funding
2027-2028 Special Arts Project	\$239,000	\$79,700	\$159,300
Community Arts	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
TGI+ Arts	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
WeHo Artist	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Filmmakers	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Panels	\$8,000		
TOTAL	\$347,000	\$79,700	\$259,300

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – 2027 Arts Grant Program Guidelines

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Years 2027 and 2028

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT (2-YEARS)

The City of West Hollywood is pleased to offer the Special Arts Project Grant to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of large-scale art projects that will take place in West Hollywood and serve the local community between March and September 2028.

This special grant category responds to the *West Hollywood's Bronze Silver Gold Creative Plan (Creative Plan)*, which outlines an authentic and bespoke vision for citywide cultural programming that centers artistic excellence and community engagement in order to create immersive experiences and cultural activities which center the City of West Hollywood as a cultural hub during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This one time, two-year grant replaces the Arts Project Grant category to align with the anticipated increase in audiences during the 2028 Games. Applicants should plan for audiences of 100 or more.

Applicants will apply for 2 years of funding for 1 proposed project. The proposed project should have 2 phases: development/engagement and implementation. The proposed public facing project must occur between March and September 2028.

The City will curate the 2028 programming schedule, with key opportunities to present during the two-week period between the Games.

If you are a current grantee, you understand that you must forfeit existing funding if selected for this grant.

Please Note:

- Applicants may only apply to *one* Arts Grant category per year.
- An allocation of \$15,000 will be reserved for applicants who self-identify as disabled, as well as nonprofit organizations that support and serve disabled artists.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City's website: weho.org/arts

What We're Looking For

Through visual art experiences, performances, and participatory projects, West Hollywood invites artists to examine how traditions are formed, reshaped, and redefined. Whether born from necessity, celebration, or resistance, artists will be invited to consider how global events can inspire new ways of understanding identity, community, and cultural legacy. As a hub of creative experimentation and cultural activism, the city will engage artists in questioning which traditions we carry forward, which we alter, and which we leave behind. This theme serves as both a reflection and a call to action, affirming West Hollywood's commitment to equity, inclusion, and cultural innovation by celebrating tradition as a dynamic, living process. **The City is proud to spotlight the creative contributions of disabled artists through dedicated funding and outreach. This initiative places a special emphasis on elevating the voices and artistic practices of disabled artists. By prioritizing support for disabled artists, the City aims to amplify their work and ensure their representation in the cultural landscape.**

Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative, participatory projects that bring energy, relevance, and global resonance to this initiative. Selected grantees will have the opportunity to present bold, forward-thinking artistic work that captures the spirit of the moment while reflecting West Hollywood's unique cultural identity and reflect the theme of *Inventing Traditions*.

Two-Year Grant Structure

Applicants may apply for two years of funding with one application:

- Year One (2027): Planning and development + Community Engagement
(January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027)

Grantees will use this year to develop their project concept, build partnerships, and prepare for implementation. As part of this phase, grantees are expected to engage the community in their creative process – this could include workshops, open studios, listening sessions, or other participatory activities that inform or shape the final project.

- Year Two (2028): Project implementation
(March 1, 2028 – September 30, 2028)

This is the public presentation phase, when the fully realized project is produced and shared with the community. Projects should be designed to accommodate audiences of 100 or more and align with the City's curated programming schedule between March-September 2028.

\$159,300 Total amount of available funding in this category per year

\$12,000 Maximum award per organization per calendar year

\$15,000 Designated to promote disability visibility in the arts

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT CATEGORY PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

The City of West Hollywood and Grantees in the 2028 Special Arts Project Grant category can expect to:

- Engage residents and visitors with the arts; expand arts audiences.
- Recognize and champion local cultural resources; discover and explore new places for artmaking.

- Provide a variety of quality arts programming that is financially and geographically accessible for the residents of West Hollywood; increase access to arts experiences.
- Increase revenues for local businesses; support arts-business partnerships.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT THEME – *Inventing Traditions*

Proposed projects should respond to the 2028 creative plan's, *Inventing Traditions*, by exploring ideas such as:

- How communities create, redefine, and sustain cultural rituals.
- How new cultural practices can feel deeply rooted in tradition.
- The intersection of history and contemporary expression, especially through marginalized voices.
- Artistic invention as a tool for shaping identity, place, and community.
- The creation of new symbols, practices, and cultural expressions.

The proposed project should demonstrate 1 year of development and engagement related to the theme: *Inventing Traditions*. Upon successful completion of this project component (2027) and submittal of the year one final report, the organization will be required to submit an update for its year two project for review and approval by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. The second year should be the implementation of the proposed project in full. To receive its year two grant, the organization must be in compliance with all eligibility requirements and have submitted its Final Report for the year one component within the 30 days of completing its grant project.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, organizations must satisfy all the following requirements:

Applicant Profile

- I am the presenting party for the proposed project (no fiscal sponsorship or pass-through funding).
- I am an individual artist, artist collective, or non-profit arts organization.
- I can demonstrate artistic experience in my field and an understanding of West Hollywood's cultural diversity.
- I am based in Los Angeles County.
- If you are a **current Arts Project grantee**, you understand that you must **forfeit existing funding** if selected for this grant.

Restrictions

- I am **not** a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- The project **does not include**: Fundraisers, Capital campaigns, Murals, Religious-based programs or events.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm **not** receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.

Project Proposal

- The project is **one** presentation during March-Sept 2028 (not a series).
- The project proposal includes a plan for development or community engagement to occur during 2027.
- The project will take place within a 5 block radius of the City of West Hollywood.
- The project explores the creative plan of *Inventing Traditions*.
- I've clearly described the goals, timeline, and intended impact of the project.

Budget

- I've included a simple, realistic budget showing how grant funds will be used.
- The project budget aligns with the scope of the project and includes any additional funding sources (if applicable).

Work Samples

- I've included recent work samples that reflect my artistic practice.
- My work samples are clearly labeled and easy to access (e.g., links, images, or files).

Community Engagement

- I've included a robust plan to engage the community, such as outreach, audience development, or public participation for year 1 of my project (2027).
- My project includes meaningful partnerships with artists, organizations, or communities.

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.
- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Criteria	Description	Points
Thematic Alignment	Project reflects the theme of <i>"Inventing Traditions"</i> and resonates with West Hollywood's unique character.	0–10
Innovation & Inclusion	Project pushes artistic boundaries, contributes to a range of artistic styles, and offers original, site-responsive work tailored to West Hollywood. Demonstrates inclusion of historically marginalized communities, and considers accessibility for all ages and abilities.	0–10

Criteria	Description	Points
Project Design & Feasibility	Clear, cohesive project with a realistic timeline including marketing or outreach plan. Budget is well-documented, realistic, and aligned with project goals.	0–10
Organizational Capacity	Applicant demonstrates artistic excellence, strong leadership, and a history of successful programming.	0–10
Connection to West Hollywood	Strong connection to West Hollywood through theme, site specificity, or applicant’s residence.	0–5

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

NOTE: Organizations whose business location is within the City of West Hollywood will receive a bonus of 1 point to their total score.

WEHO ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of West Hollywood, through its Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, provides inclusive arts and cultural programming for all residents. The Commission promotes and nurtures the City’s cultural life by supporting arts organizations, advising City Council on arts policy, and encouraging community engagement through the arts.

The City offers a variety of grants to support:

- Community-based programs, projects, and events
- Increased visibility for marginalized artists
- Career development for individual artists
- Increased support for filmmakers

Arts grants are available to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of projects that take place in and serve the West Hollywood community. 2027 Grant categories include: 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, TGI+ Arts, and WeHo Artist.

We strongly encourage applications from artists and organizations representing diverse populations and artistic disciplines. As outlined in our Cultural Equity Statement, diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, religion, language, and more. We are committed to cultural equity in all our arts programs and policies. Read our full Cultural Equity Statement at weho.org/arts.

All applications must be submitted online through the City’s website: weho.org/arts

ARTS GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Review & Approval Process

The City of West Hollywood uses a peer panel review process, which is a standard best practice for publicly funded arts grants. Each panel includes seven qualified arts professionals with experience in various disciplines and a strong background in the arts.

The panel scores applications based on criteria set by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. These scores are then reviewed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, which recommends funding amounts. Final decisions are approved by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and finalized by the City Council.

Important Notes:

- All information submitted in a grant application becomes public record.
- Organizations that receive funding may be audited to ensure proper use of grant funds.
- Failure to provide accurate documentation may result in ineligibility for future funding.

EXPECTATIONS DURING FUNDED PERIOD

Once awarded, grantees must:

- Provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting.
- Use no more than 10 hours of in-kind City facility time, limited to one day per grant year.
- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 1, 2026	Application deadline
August 2026	Peer review of grant applications
September 2026	Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee make funding recommendations
September 2026	Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission consider approval of funding recommendations
October 2026	City Council considers approval of funding recommendations
October 2026	Grant recipient notifications
November 2026	Grantee Orientation (in person at Plummer Park)
February 2027	Earliest award of grant funds* <i>*Award of funds depend on grantee’s compliance with contracting requirements, such as insurance.</i>

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The City will conduct virtual and in-person Arts Grant Program Workshops scheduled between May and June (dates TBD):

SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application DEADLINE is 3 p.m. July 1, 2026.

For more information please call: Eva Angeloff at (323) 848-6354 or email eangeloff@weho.org.

You can also find more information at www.weho.org/arts

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Year 2027

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT (1-YEAR)

The City of West Hollywood is proud to offer the **WeHo Community Arts Grant**, designed to support non-profit arts organizations, individual artists, and artist collectives that have a demonstrated commitment to uplifting LGBTQ, BIPOC, and/or female artists and audiences. For arts projects that center members of the Transgender, Gender-Diverse, Intersex + artists and audiences, check out the TGI+ Arts Grant.

Eligibility: Open to individual artists, artist collectives, or non-profit organizations who identify as LGBTQ, BIPOC, and/or female, or whose projects are led by or deeply engage LGBTQ, BIPOC, and/or female communities.

Key Considerations

- Projects should be public-facing in some way (e.g., a performance, exhibition, workshop, screening, or panel discussion).
- The grant prioritizes authentic representation, community engagement, and artistic merit.
- Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their project will benefit or engage the West Hollywood community.

Please Note:

- Applicants may apply to only *one* Arts Grant category.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City's website: weho.org/arts

\$30,000 **Total amount of available funding in this category**
\$6,000 **Maximum award per grantee**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT CATEGORY PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

The Community Arts Grant is designed to fund art presentations and workshops that advance community goals through cultural equity, with a focus on access and education for specific communities. Its outcomes emphasize:

1. Broadening public engagement by attracting diverse audiences, including both residents and visitors.

2. Celebrating local cultural assets by highlighting existing resources and discovering new creative spaces.
3. Ensuring accessibility and quality by making arts programming financially and geographically accessible.
4. Supporting the local economy by encouraging partnerships between arts and business sectors.
5. Promoting arts education and participation, especially for underserved or targeted communities.
6. Reflecting diverse identities and cultures by using art to amplify voices and celebrate heritage and identity.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply, make sure you meet all of the following requirements:

Applicant Profile

- I identify as BIPOC, female, and/or LGBTQ, or my project is led by and centers BIPOC, female, and/or LGBTQ voices.
- I am an individual artist, artist collective, or non-profit arts organization
- I am based in Los Angeles County.

Restrictions

- I am **not** a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- The project **does not include**: Fundraisers, Capital campaigns, Murals, Religious-based programs or events.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm **not** receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.

Project Proposal

- The project is arts-focused and includes a public component (e.g., performance, exhibition, screening, workshop, etc.).
- The project will take place within a 5 block radius of the City of West Hollywood.
- The project reflects or explores BIPOC, female, or LGBTQ identity, culture, or lived experience.
- I've clearly described the goals, timeline, and intended impact of the project.

Budget

- I've included a realistic budget showing how grant funds will be used.
- The project budget aligns with the scope of the project and includes any additional funding sources (if applicable).

Work Samples

- I've included recent work samples that reflect my artistic practice.

- My work samples are clearly labeled and easy to access (e.g., links, images, or files).

Community Engagement

- I've included a plan to engage the community, such as outreach, audience development, or public participation.

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.
- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

Criteria	Description	Points
Project Proposal	The proposal is cohesive, well thought out, and achievable.	0–10
Budget & Timeline	The proposal plan is realistic, organized, and financially sound.	0–10
Representation	The proposed project meaningfully includes or serve LGBTQ, BIPOC, and/or female artists or audiences.	0–10
Work Samples	Applicant demonstrates a strong track record of arts presentations and provides compelling examples.	0–10

Bonus Point

- Applicants with a business location within the City of West Hollywood will receive 1 bonus point added to their total score, per City policy.

WEHO ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

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The City offers a variety of grants to support:

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- Increased visibility for marginalized artists
- Career development for individual artists
- Increased support for filmmakers

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Review & Approval Process

The City of West Hollywood uses a peer panel review process, which is a standard best practice for publicly funded arts grants. Each panel includes seven qualified arts professionals with experience in various disciplines and a strong background in the arts.

The panel scores applications based on criteria set by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. These scores are then reviewed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, which recommends funding amounts. Final decisions are approved by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and finalized by the City Council.

Important Notes:

- All information submitted in a grant application becomes public record.
- Organizations that receive funding may be audited to ensure proper use of grant funds.
- Failure to provide accurate documentation may result in ineligibility for future funding.

EXPECTATIONS DURING FUNDED PERIOD

Once awarded, grantees must:

- Provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting.
- Use no more than 10 hours of in-kind City facility time, limited to one day during the grant funded year.
- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 1, 2026	Application deadline
August 2026	Peer review of grant applications
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September 2026	Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission consider approval of funding recommendations
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October 2026	Grant recipient notifications
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February 2027	Earliest award of grant funds* <i>*Award of funds depend on grantee's compliance with contracting requirements, such as insurance.</i>

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

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[Arts Grant Program | City of West Hollywood](#)

ARTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application DEADLINE is 3 p.m. July 1, 2026.

For more information please call: Eva Angeloff at (323) 848-6354 or email eangeloff@weho.org. You can also find more information at www.weho.org/arts

FILMMAKERS GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Year 2027

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS GRANT

The City of West Hollywood is excited to continue the Filmmakers Grant (Year 2 of 3) to support local film artists with the exhibition and distribution of their completed film projects.

Grant funds may be used for costs related to sharing your finished film with the public, including:

- Hiring a distribution or impact consultant
- Film festival submission fees
- Marketing materials (posters, trailers, press kits, etc.)
- Other distribution-related expenses

Please note:

- Applicants may only apply to *one* Arts Grant category.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City’s website: weho.org/arts

\$10,000 Total amount of available funding

\$10,000 Maximum award per grant

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

FILMMAKERS GRANT CATEGORY PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

This grant is designed to help filmmakers share their completed work with wider audiences and contribute to the cultural life of West Hollywood. Through this program, the City aims to:

- Celebrate local creative talent and uncover new spaces for artistic expression
- Support the local economy by encouraging partnerships between artists and businesses
- Amplify diverse voices and explore identity, culture, and lived experience through film

FILMMAKERS GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, organizations must satisfy the following requirements:

Applicant Profile

- I am the director or producer of the completed film project.
- I am an individual artist, artist collective, or non-profit arts organization.
- I am based in Los Angeles County.

Restrictions

- I am **not** a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- The project **does not include**: Fundraisers, Capital campaigns, Murals, Religious-based programs or events.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm **not** receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.

Project Proposal

- The film is complete and ready for exhibition and distribution (this grant does not fund development or production).
- Any proposed screenings or exhibitions funded by this grant will take place in West Hollywood or within 5 blocks of its border.
- I have a marketing and outreach strategy that targets West Hollywood residents and constituents.
- I will credit the City of West Hollywood in the marketing materials as defined in the grant agreement.

Budget

- I've included a simple, realistic budget showing how grant funds will be used.
- The project budget aligns with the scope of the project and includes any additional funding sources (if applicable).

Work Samples

- I've included a link to the completed film.
- My work samples are clearly labeled and easy to access (e.g., links, images, or files).
- I've included my marketing and distribution plan.

Community Engagement

- I've included a plan to engage the community, such as outreach, audience development, or public participation.

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.
- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

FILMMAKERS GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

The Peer Review Panel will evaluate and score grant applications using the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Points
Project Proposal	The proposal is cohesive, well thought out, and achievable.	0–10
Goals & Timeline	Clear goals and a realistic timeline of screening / exhibition.	0–10
Work Samples	Quality and relevance of the two submitted work samples.	0–10
Submission Materials	Quality of the required submission (trailer, scene samples, or script).	0–10

WEHO ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of West Hollywood, through its Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, provides inclusive arts and cultural programming for all residents. The Commission promotes and nurtures the City’s cultural life by supporting arts organizations, advising City Council on arts policy, and encouraging community engagement through the arts.

The City offers a variety of grants to support:

- Community-based programs, projects, and events
- Increased visibility for marginalized artists
- Career development for individual artists
- Increased support for filmmakers

Arts grants are available to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of projects that take place in and serve the West Hollywood community. 2027 Grant categories include: 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, TGI+ Arts, and WeHo Artist.

We strongly encourage applications from artists and organizations representing diverse populations and artistic disciplines. As outlined in our Cultural Equity Statement, diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, religion, language, and more. We are committed to cultural equity in all our arts programs and policies. Read our full Cultural Equity Statement at weho.org/arts.

All applications must be submitted online through the City’s website: weho.org/arts.

ARTS GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Review & Approval Process

The City of West Hollywood uses a peer panel review process, which is a standard best practice for publicly funded arts grants. Each panel includes seven qualified arts professionals with experience in various disciplines and a strong background in the arts.

The panel scores applications based on criteria set by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. These scores are then reviewed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, which recommends funding amounts. Final decisions are approved by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and finalized by the City Council.

Important Notes:

- All information submitted in a grant application becomes public record.
- Organizations that receive funding may be audited to ensure proper use of grant funds.
- Failure to provide accurate documentation may result in ineligibility for future funding.

EXPECTATIONS DURING FUNDED PERIOD

Once awarded, grantees must:

- Provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting.
- Use no more than 10 hours of in-kind City facility time, limited to one day during the grant funded year.
- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.
- Grantee Filmmakers are responsible for obtaining all licenses and clearances in order to legally distribute the film.

FILMMAKERS GRANT TIMELINE

July 1, 2026	Application deadline
August 2026	Peer review of grant applications
September 2026	Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee make funding recommendations
September 2026	Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission consider approval of funding recommendations
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October 2026	Grant recipient notifications
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February 2027	Earliest award of grant funds* <i>*Award of funds depend on grantee’s compliance with contracting requirements, such as insurance.</i>
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ARTS GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The City will conduct virtual and in-person Arts Grant Program Workshops scheduled between May and June (dates TBD):

[Arts Grant Program | City of West Hollywood](#)

ARTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application DEADLINE is 3 p.m. July 1, 2026.

For more information please call: Eva Angeloff at (323) 848-6354 or email eangeloff@weho.org.

You can also find more information at www.weho.org/arts

TRANSGENDER, GENDER DIVERSE, INTERSEX, + ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Year 2027

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE TGI+ ARTS GRANT (1-YEAR)

The **TGI+ Arts Grant** (Trans, Gender Diverse, Intersex+) is a City of West Hollywood grant category designed to support artists and artist-led projects that center the experiences, voices, and creative expression of the TGI+ community. It reflects the City's commitment to equity, inclusion, and the celebration of diverse identities through the arts.

Eligibility: Open to individual artists, artist collectives, or non-profit organizations who identify as TGI+, or whose projects are led by or deeply engage the TGI+ community.

Key Considerations

- Projects should be public-facing in some way (e.g., a performance, exhibition, screening, or publication).
- The grant prioritizes authentic representation, community engagement, and artistic merit.
- Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their project will benefit or engage the West Hollywood community.

Please note:

- Applicants may only apply to *one* Arts Grant category.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City's website: weho.org/arts

\$30,000 Total amount of available funding in this category

\$ 6,500 Maximum award per grantee

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

TGI+ ARTS GRANT CATEGORY PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

This grant is designed to uplift and empower transgender, gender-diverse, and intersex artists. Its outcomes include:

1. Engaging the community through arts experiences
2. Celebrating local culture and creative spaces, with an emphasis on TGI+ contributions.

3. Providing accessible, high-quality programming, especially for and by the TGI+ community.
4. Boosting the local economy through artist-business partnerships.
5. Encouraging bold, creative TGI+ projects through supporting innovation and risk-taking in artistic expression.
6. Supporting professional development by helping TGI+ artists grow their careers and networks.
7. Amplifying TGI+ voices and lived experiences by centering identity, culture, and personal storytelling.

Key distinction: This arts grant category reinforces empowerment and visibility for TGI+ artists, with a strong emphasis on identity, voice, and professional growth.

TGI+ ARTS GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Profile

- I identify as transgender, gender-diverse, and/or intersex (TGI+), or my project is led by and centers TGI+ voices.
- I am an individual artist, artist collective, or non-profit arts organization
- I am based in Los Angeles County.

Restrictions

- I am **not** a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- The project **does not include:** Fundraisers, Capital campaigns, Murals, Religious-based programs or events.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm **not** receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.

Project Proposal

- My project is arts-focused and includes a public component (e.g., performance, exhibition, screening, workshop, etc.).
- My project will take place within a 5 block radius of the City of West Hollywood.
- The project reflects or explores TGI+ identity, culture, or lived experience.
- I've clearly described the goals, timeline, and intended impact of the project.

Budget

- I've included a simple, realistic budget showing how grant funds will be used.
- My budget aligns with the scope of the project and includes any additional funding sources (if applicable).

Work Samples

- I've included recent work samples that reflect my artistic practice.

- My work samples are clearly labeled and easy to access (e.g., links, images, or files).

Community Engagement

- I've included a plan to engage the community, such as outreach, audience development, or public participation.

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.
- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

TGI+ ARTS GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

Criteria	Description	Points
Project Proposal	The proposal is cohesive, well thought out, and achievable.	0–10
Budget & Timeline	The proposal plan is realistic, organized, and financially sound.	0–10
Community Commitment	Demonstrated involvement with the transgender, non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming community.	0–10
TGI+ Representation	Transgender, non-binary, intersex, or gender non-conforming individuals represented among the artists or audience.	0–10

Bonus Point:

- Applicants with a business location in West Hollywood will receive 1 bonus point added to their total score, per City policy.

WEHO ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of West Hollywood, through its Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, provides inclusive arts and cultural programming for all residents. The Commission promotes and nurtures the City’s cultural life by supporting arts organizations, advising City Council on arts policy, and encouraging community engagement through the arts.

The City offers a variety of grants to support:

- Community-based programs, projects, and events
- Increased visibility for Transgender artists
- Career development for individual artists
- Increased support for filmmakers

Arts grants are available to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of projects that take place in and serve the West Hollywood community. 2027 Grant categories include: 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, TGI+ Arts, and WeHo Artist.

We strongly encourage applications from artists and organizations representing diverse populations and artistic disciplines. As outlined in our Cultural Equity Statement, diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, religion, language, and more. We are committed to cultural equity in all our arts programs and policies. Read our full Cultural Equity Statement at weho.org/arts.

All applications must be submitted online through the City’s website: weho.org/arts

ARTS GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Review & Approval Process

The City of West Hollywood uses a peer panel review process, which is a standard best practice for publicly funded arts grants. Each panel includes seven qualified arts professionals with experience in various disciplines and a strong background in the arts.

The panel scores applications based on criteria set by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. These scores are then reviewed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, which recommends funding amounts. Final decisions are approved by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and finalized by the City Council.

Important Notes:

- All information submitted in a grant application becomes public record.
- Organizations that receive funding may be audited to ensure proper use of grant funds.
- Failure to provide accurate documentation may result in ineligibility for future funding.

EXPECTATIONS DURING FUNDED PERIOD

Once awarded, grantees must:

- Provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting.
- Use no more than 10 hours of in-kind City facility time, limited to one day during the grant funded year.
- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 1, 2026	Application deadline
August 2026	Peer panel review of grant applications
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ARTS GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The City will conduct virtual and in-person Arts Grant Program Workshops scheduled between May and June (dates TBD):

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ARTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application DEADLINE is 3 p.m. July 1, 2026.

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WEHO ARTIST GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Year 2027

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE WEHO ARTIST GRANT (1-YEAR)

The **WeHo Artist Grant** provides direct funding to individual artists who live in the City of West Hollywood. Applicants **MUST** be current residents of the City of West Hollywood who can demonstrate a consistent and active art practice. This grant is designed to recognize and support local artists across disciplines, helping them sustain their practice and engage with the community. Allocated grant funds may be used in any way that meaningfully supports the applicant's career development.

By investing directly in artists, the City of West Hollywood aims to:

- Support artists who live in the City,
- Provide direct support to artists to help sustain and grow their creative work;
- Increase public awareness of the artistic contributions of West Hollywood residents;
- Encourage artists to share their work with the community through presentations, exhibitions, or other public-facing activities;
- Contribute to the cultural vibrancy of West Hollywood by supporting diverse voices and creative expression;
- Offer opportunities for artists to build their portfolios, networks, and visibility;
- Attract new creative talent, and
- Strengthen the City's cultural and economic vitality.

Please Note:

- Applicants may only apply to *one* Arts Grant category per year.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City's website: weho.org/arts

\$30,000 Total amount of available funding in this category

\$ 6,000 Total award per artist

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR WEHO ARTIST GRANTEES

Grantees and the City of West Hollywood can expect the following outcomes:

Share Your Story

Grantees will create a 3–5 minute video that:

- Describes how the grant supported their artistic development

- Reflects on the impact of the grant on their creative process
- Highlights their connection to the West Hollywood community

Public Presentation

Grantees will present their work and video at a public event in November 2027 at City Hall.

WEHO ARTIST GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply, you must meet **all** of the following:

Applicant Profile

- I am registered on the West Hollywood Artists Registry.
- My current legal address is in the City of West Hollywood. *(No exceptions. Your W9 information will serve as proof. View street list.)*

Restrictions

- I am not a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm not receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.
- I have not received the WeHo Artist Grant in the past.
- I am not currently enrolled in an academic program in the same artistic discipline for which I'm applying. (Example: I'm not getting my masters in pottery and applying to do a pottery exhibit.)

Application Focus

Artistic Practice & Vision

Provide a clear and compelling artist statement that describes:

- The nature of your work
- Your creative process
- Themes or ideas you explore
- Your artistic goals or vision

Work Samples

Provide recent examples of your work that demonstrate:

- Artistic quality and originality
- Technical skill and consistency
- Relevance to your stated practice

Professional Commitment

Provide evidence of an active and ongoing artistic practice, such as:

- Exhibitions, performances, publications, or other public presentations
- Collaborations, residencies, or community involvement
- A résumé or CV that reflects your experience and growth as an artist

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.

- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

WEHO ARTIST REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

Evaluation Criteria	Description	Points Available
Vision and Clarity	The proposal clearly communicates the artist's goals and creative direction.	0–10
Impact	The grant's potential to support the artist's professional growth and contribute to the cultural life of West Hollywood.	0–10
Artistic Portfolio	The quality and originality of the artist's previous work, as demonstrated through submitted samples.	0–10
Professional Experience	The artist's background, training, and commitment to their practice, as reflected in their resume.	0–10

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- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

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You can also find more information at www.weho.org/arts

SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR 2026 JEWISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH ARTS PROGRAMMING**

PREPARED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**
Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager
Joy Tribble, Arts Specialist

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Subcommittee will review and discuss the proposals received for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming Request for Proposals and make a recommendation for one proposal to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve one proposal for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month programming.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Jewish American Heritage Month, observed nationally each May, is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and honor the rich, diverse, and enduring history, contributions, and achievements of the Jewish community. The City of West Hollywood has previously adopted a resolution recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month, reaffirming its commitment to honoring the cultural heritage of its diverse community. Through public programming that highlights Jewish culture and creativity, the City aims to foster greater awareness, connection, and appreciation—celebrating the Jewish American legacy that continues to enrich the cultural, civic, and artistic life of West Hollywood.

On April 21, 2025, City Council directed the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to develop arts programming for Jewish American Heritage Month in May 2026 to highlight

and support Jewish artists, determine eligible project types, and establish a process for selecting and implementing programming in alignment with current practices. On July 24, 2025, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved a method of artist selection to include an RFP for art organizations and event producers with experience in food festivals, entertainment, community gatherings, and Jewish playwright readings.

In August 2025, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved the Request for Proposals. The call was opened on November 1, 2025, and closed on December 15, 2025. The City received a total of seven (7) proposals.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Producer Proposals



2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming Producer

Akili Warren



Los Angeles, CA 90045

akili@ampfamily.com

December 10th, 2025

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant:

Akili Warren Jr.

AMP LLC

[REDACTED]
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Office:

[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Email: akili@ampfamily.com

Phone: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ampfamily.com

Instagram: @amp.mentalhealth

2. LETTER OF INTEREST

Dear Selection Committee,

AMP is pleased to submit this proposal to partner with the City of West Hollywood in presenting an arts-based program for Jewish American Heritage Month in May 2026. AMP is a community-based organization dedicated to building resilience, cultural connection, and community wellness through creative expression, movement, mentorship, and the arts. Our work spans Los Angeles County and beyond, with a consistent focus on uplifting underserved communities through culturally relevant, accessible programming.

AMP has delivered numerous arts-integrated wellness workshops, mental health seminars, and culturally grounded community events. Our programming emphasizes storytelling, identity, intergenerational healing, and creative expression—elements that deeply align with the goals of Jewish American Heritage Month. We are particularly motivated to collaborate on this project because of the City of West Hollywood’s longstanding leadership in cultural equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and arts access. We believe this initiative offers an opportunity to elevate Jewish American voices, celebrate cultural heritage, and foster communal belonging through participatory arts experiences.

For this initiative, AMP proposes “**Strength in Heritage: A Jewish American Arts & Cultural Wellness Workshop**,” an in-person program co-created with Jewish American artists and cultural educators. The event will combine visual art-making, cultural storytelling, movement- or music-based participation, and guided reflection rooted in heritage and resilience. The program is

designed to be inclusive, educational, and community-centered, engaging participants in hands-on artistic expression while honoring Jewish traditions, identity, and contributions to American arts and culture.

AMP looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with City staff, partner artists, and the West Hollywood community to deliver a meaningful and impactful cultural arts experience.

Sincerely,

Akili Warren Jr.

Founder & CEO, Athletic Mentorship Partners (AMP)

3. RESUME / ORGANIZATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Organizational Overview

Athletic Mentorship Partners (AMP) is a California-based community arts and wellness organization specializing in mental health, creative expression, and community engagement through sports, storytelling, and culturally driven arts experiences. AMP has produced large-scale flag football summits, arts-integrated mental health seminars, community workshops, and cultural wellness events across Los Angeles, Tulare, and Sonoma Counties. Our programming merges visual arts, movement, narrative work, and therapeutic practices to create culturally responsive, high-impact experiences for diverse communities.

Core Qualifications

- More than 4 years of experience planning, developing, and executing community arts and wellness programs.
- Proven record producing culturally grounded events for underserved and multicultural communities.
- Strong partnerships with visual artists, musicians, cultural educators, mental health professionals, fitness instructors, and community-based creatives.
- Demonstrated capability managing budgets up to \$150,000 across county agencies and municipal contracts.
- Expertise in curriculum development, arts-based education, cultural programming, and community engagement strategies.

- Deep organizational commitment to cultural equity, representation, accessibility, and intergenerational inclusion.

Key Personnel

Akili Warren Jr. – Lead Producer & Program Director

Contact:

Email: akili@ampfamily.com | Phone: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ampfamily.com

Education:

BA, Political Science – EMU, Los Angeles

Professional Summary

Akili Warren Jr. is an innovative leader with over four years of experience in community programming, arts-based engagement, public relations, and sports mentorship. As Founder and CEO of AMP LLC, he leads a team full of innovators and program initiatives that empower athletes and individuals through culturally grounded mentorship, mental health advocacy, and creative arts programming. His work spans county-funded initiatives, large-scale community events, and multidisciplinary wellness activations that advance mental health awareness and equitable access to the arts.

Experience Highlights

- Designed and implemented public engagement, arts programming, and marketing campaigns for county capacity-building initiatives funded by LACDMH, CalMHSA, and the Mental Health Authority.
- Lead consultant for public-sector projects specializing in compliance, outreach coordination, event production, curriculum development, and culturally informed communications.
- Developed and executed community engagement programs integrating art-making, storytelling, movement, nutrition education, fitness training, and mental health support.
- Oversaw partnerships with organizations, clinicians, artists, and wellness professionals to build robust, culturally relevant service offerings.
- Produced and marketed community workshops designed to destigmatize mental health, promote wellness, and strengthen community solidarity.

Subcontracted Jewish Artist Partner(s)

(To be finalized upon award)

Prospective roles include:

- Jewish American visual artist to facilitate the heritage-based art workshop
- Jewish cultural educator to lead storytelling and cultural framing
- Jewish American musician or movement artist for participatory arts engagement

Resumes, bios, and portfolios for selected collaborators will be submitted immediately upon confirmation.

Notable Projects (Comparable Experience)

Black & African Heritage UsCC Wellness Outreach Project (2025)

Contracted by LACDMH to produce three large-scale culturally responsive events featuring mental health seminars, art-based wellness activities, community engagement booths, and culturally competent facilitation. AMP increased awareness, reduced stigma, and connected community members to resources across Los Angeles.

Mental Health Seminar + Flag Football Summit (2023–2025)

Designed a multidisciplinary program combining mental health education, creative expression, movement-based arts activities, and community dialogue. Served athletes and families through interactive arts components and wellness-focused engagement.

Mental Health Event in Partnership with A Yummy Future (Pepperdine University, 2024)

Hosted a family-focused seminar integrating mental health advocacy, storytelling, and athletic wellness activities. Led the sports and movement portion of the event, providing accessible tools for stress management and resilience building.

Community Impact

- Outreach: Expanded access to arts, wellness, and mental health resources across diverse communities.
- Advocacy: Led stigma reduction efforts through culturally grounded arts and engagement strategies.
- Partnership Development: Built collaborations with local organizations, cultural leaders, mental health professionals, and community artists to enhance program scope and impact.

Skills & Certifications

- Community Engagement & Outreach
 - Cross-Cultural Event Planning & Coordination
 - Arts-Based Education & Curriculum Development
 - Sports Mentorship & Movement-Based Wellness
 - Mental Health Advocacy
 - **Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT)** – Behavior Analyst Certification Board
-

4. REFERENCES

1. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) – Capacity Building Contract (UsCC Subcommittee)

Contact: Chiyah Lawrence, UsCC Subcommittee Liaison

Email: CLawrence@dmh.lacounty.gov

Dates: Fall 2024 - Summer 2025

AMP provided multi-month capacity building, workforce development, and community engagement services for the Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee. The scope included coordinating meetings, event planning and production, wellness events, facilitating stakeholder outreach, supporting culturally relevant program planning, developing outreach materials, and producing deliverables focused on expanding community-based workforce pipelines and improving DMH program accessibility.

2. Tulare County – Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Community Grant Program (CalMHSA)

Contact: Candice Medina, Senior Program Coordinator

Email: Candice.medina@calmhsa.org

Dates: Fall 2025 - Summer 2026

AMP will design and implement a PEI community wellness project blending mental health education, fitness engagement, art-based healing, and youth/family-centered workshops. Responsibilities included curriculum development, outreach, event coordination, stakeholder communication, virtual and in-person workshop delivery, data collection, and reporting. AMP collaborated with Tulare County partners to support stigma reduction and mental wellness for underserved populations.

3. CalMHSA – Take Action LA Community Wellness Program

Contact: Brittany Ganguly, Senior Program Manager

Email: brittany.ganguly@calmhsa.org

Dates: Summer 2023

AMP delivered a large-scale 300+ audience mental health and community wellness activation under the Take Action LA initiative. This included planning and hosting Changing the Score: A Football Summit on Mental Health & Resilience, combining athletic engagement with mental health awareness, resource distribution, community outreach, and culturally responsive wellness activities. AMP coordinated partners, managed onsite operations, facilitated youth engagement, and produced all required reporting and data outcomes.

5. PROPOSED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“Strength in Heritage: A Jewish American Arts & Cultural Wellness Workshop”

Format: In-person, 90–120 minutes

Location: City of West Hollywood facility (to be assigned)

Program Objectives

- Honor Jewish American heritage through participatory art
- Create space for community connection, dialogue, and shared learning
- Celebrate resilience, identity, and cultural expression through the arts
- Deliver an inclusive public arts experience aligned with West Hollywood’s cultural equity commitments

Program Components

1. **Welcome & Cultural Framing**
Led by Jewish American cultural educator introducing themes of identity, heritage, and arts traditions.
2. **Participatory Visual Arts Workshop**
Facilitated by Jewish American visual artist.
Participants create artwork reflecting themes of family, tradition, identity, and memory.
3. **Music or Movement-Based Engagement**
Live musician or facilitator leads rhythm, song, or gentle movement activity rooted in cultural expression.
4. **Community Reflection Circle**
AMP facilitator leads guided reflection on heritage, resilience, and shared artistic experience.

Target Audience

General public, intergenerational community members, arts participants, and West Hollywood residents.

Deliverables Provided by AMP

- Program design, curriculum, and facilitation
 - Artistic materials and supplies
 - Partner artist coordination
 - Full production plan and onsite staffing
 - Full marketing material development & distribution
 - Event documentation (photos, recap, metrics)
 - Insurance coverage and compliance
-

6. BUDGET (All-Inclusive – \$20,000)

A detailed budget can be provided, but here is a compliant summary:

Category	Estimated Cost
Lead Producer / Program Director	\$5,500
Jewish American Visual Artist Fees	\$4,000
Cultural Educator / Facilitator Fees	\$2,500
Musician / Movement Artist	\$1,500
Production Staff & Support	\$2,000
Marketing Material Design & Distribution	\$1,200
Art Supplies & Materials	\$1,000
Insurance & Admin Costs	\$1,300
Contingency	\$1,000
Total	\$20,000

7. INSURANCE

AMP maintains full liability coverage and will meet all insurance requirements identified in Attachment A upon award.

8. CULTURAL EQUITY ALIGNMENT STATEMENT

AMP fully aligns with and supports the City of West Hollywood's Cultural Equity Statement. AMP's mission centers on providing accessible, inclusive, culturally informed arts and wellness programs. We prioritize representation, cultural dignity, and identity-affirming experiences for all communities, including Jewish American artists and audiences. Our programming model reflects the belief that creative expression and cultural storytelling strengthen community belonging and advance equity across civic life.

<https://l choreographersanddancers.org>



LOS ANGELES CHOREOGRAPHERS & DANCERS

Contact: Louise Reichlin, Artistic Director



Los Angeles, CA 90020

Telephone: 

Email: louisehr@lachoreographersanddancers.org

Website: <https://lachoreographersanddancers.org>

Social Media: [@lachoreographersanddancers](#)

LETTER OF INTEREST

My name is Louise Reichlin, and I am applying to both produce and perform in the May 2026 celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month with the City of West Hollywood, on behalf of Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers, our 46-year-old non-profit organization.

My background in Jewish culture includes an immersive year in the Inquiry Fellowship at the American Jewish University, created to bring artists back into their religious and cultural history through their art. During that same year, I received the Bruce Geller Memorial Prize (2016) from the Institute for Jewish Creativity to develop a new work exploring language, spirituality, and movement through text. This commission resulted in my dance/multimedia piece *A Jewish Child's Story – PART I: The Roses on My Wallpaper, a Dream and PART II: Yellow Star*, later supported through grants from LA Stage Advance and the National Endowment for the Arts.

A Jewish Child's Story is an autobiographical dance/multimedia work drawn from early dreams of a granddaughter of Jewish immigrants, combined with research into Holocaust histories of family members never known. The work performed as a whole, or with the parts separated has received excellent reviews and is a moving dance multimedia piece.

(<https://vimeo.com/285900988>) 2:28 demo, and (<https://vimeo.com/202591422>) 22:33 longer version from first full performance, different than now when the dreamer/narrator joins the others in a more positive ending)

The work has been performed in Los Angeles, Culver City, Santa Barbara, Las Vegas, and New York City, and was revived last year at the Culver City Senior Center and the TAXCO Theatre in Canoga Park.

My broader experience in Jewish cultural work also includes touring with the first national company of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Luther Adler, as well as extensive multicultural dance programming in schools, where we regularly teach and include the Kol Dodi in residencies. (<https://vimeo.com/260004369>) teaching at the Culver City Senior Center.

Besides our own concerts, I bring a long history of producing and directing, including:

- New Works Dance Festivals (1980–1988) – Producer/director of festivals featuring eighteen guest choreographers collaborating with company dancers.
- Glendale Brand Library & Art Center Performance Series – Producer/Curator (4 years).
- Western Arts Alliance Showcases (2010–2013) – Producer of independent and collaborative showcases.
- TriArt Festival – Dance Director (2009–2025); Producer/Director (2012).
- San Pedro ♥ Festival of the Arts (2013–2024) – Executive Producer; a major annual event featuring music, crafts, and 18–25 dance acts each year.

Proposed Project

For Jewish American Heritage Month 2026, I propose public performances of *A Jewish Child's Story* (full work), including audience participation through our multicultural folk dance segment at Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park, also including a West Hollywood school residency performing Part I and teaching them the Kol Dodi, and at least one additional West Hollywood program featuring a different group presenting Jewish music.

As a long-established Los Angeles-based nonprofit, Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers is deeply aligned with West Hollywood's commitment to cultural equity, inclusion, and meaningful access to the arts. Our company has a 46-year history of bringing high-quality, community-centered performances and educational programs to diverse audiences across Southern California, with a particular focus on programs that affirm cultural identity and create belonging. Our multicultural residencies, school programs, and accessible public performances directly support West Hollywood's vision of fostering participation in the cultural life of the community as a basic human right. Because our Jewish-centered work is created to be both historically grounded and universally relatable, we are uniquely positioned to produce a Jewish American Heritage Month program that honors tradition, uplifts Jewish voices, and welcomes audiences of all backgrounds—perfectly reflecting the values outlined in the City's Cultural Equity Statement.

This project aligns closely with the City's call for programming that uplifts Jewish American artists, histories, and cultural practices. With a decades-long record of producing educational cultural events and creating Jewish-centered dance works that are accessible to diverse audiences, if selected, I would be honored to partner with the City of West Hollywood on this meaningful celebration.

Review of *A Jewish Child's Story*, Part 1, October 2019

"In A Jewish Child's Story, again the theme of dream meets reality resurfaces, as the little girl falls asleep to visions of K'tonton, the thumb-sized boy; the Biblical heroines, Rebecca, Miriam, the Hanukkah hero Judah; and Wonder Woman. The theme of living water (mayim chayim) is ever present too, with both Rebecca at the well and Miriam's timbrels of water, immediately inviting dance and celebration to the festive scene. Reichlin's use of props and costumes (Linda Borough) is of memorable note as well. K'tonton is draped in a jacket reminiscent of Joseph's coat of many colors; while Miriam's basket is an excellent prop. This show is the perfect blend of tradition meets assimilation. A true mix of all characters from biblical heroes to superheroes performing interpretive stories through dance of the wondrous miracle of survival."

—Bonnie Prieuer-Curtain Up

Resume

ABOUT LOUISE REICHLIN

Producer, Director, and Choreographer Louise Reichlin began her career in New York in concerts and Broadway before relocating to Los Angeles in 1972. Her professional credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, and *Coco* with Katharine Hepburn. Reichlin's choreography has been presented across the U.S. and internationally, including China, Mexico, Sweden, and Guatemala. During her career, she was also invited by the Guatemalan government to teach, choreograph, and perform with *Ballet Folklorico De Guatemala y Grupo de Danza Moderna*, contributing to the development of their national company.

Since founding Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers in 1979, she has created more than 127 original works, integrating dance, video, spoken word, and multimedia. Her company has received major support from the California Arts Council, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, the City of Los Angeles, and numerous private foundations. She is also the longtime producer of the annual San Pedro ♥ Festival of the Arts.

As an educator, Reichlin taught for over 30 years at the University of Southern California (USC), where she influenced generations of dancers with her belief in the transformative power of movement. She also has a Professional Arts Designation in Arts Education degree from the Los Angeles County Training Program and degrees from Bennington College (BFA) and UC Irvine (MFA). Her background in both performance and education informs her ongoing commitment to accessibility, innovation, and community engagement through dance.

Currently

- Choreographer, Dancer, Director, Multimedia Artist, Writer, Producer
- **Founder&Artistic/Managing Director** – Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers (Non-profit name) (est. 1979)

Festival & Event Leadership

- **Dance Director** – TriArt Festival (2009–2025)
- **Producer/Director** – TriArt Festival (2012)
- **Executive Producer** – San Pedro ♥ Festival of the Arts (2013–2024, Live & Virtual Editions)
- Produced showcases at **Western Arts Alliance (WAA)** & collaborative showcases (2010–2013)
- **Producer/Curator** – Glendale Brand Library & Art Center Performance Series (4 Years)
- **Producer/Director** – New Works Dance Festivals (1980–1988) Produced and directed a series of festivals featuring eighteen guest choreographers collaborating with company dancers.

Notable Creative Projects & Commissions

- **Official Entertainer—1984Olympics**
Both on-site and creating and performing a special summer dance series of 22 performances at the Los Angeles Zoo, highlighting 11 endangered animals through innovative choreography and storytelling.

- **Commission by kinetic artist Elfi Chester (1984)**
Created an experimental work for an 11-foot-high monofilament kinetic sculpture and dancers illustrating angular momentum. First performed at the Laguna Beach Arts In Motion Festival.
- **Reader's Theater Project / Frankenbean and the Monster Carrots (1996–1997)**
Commissioned by the LA Children's Museum to choreograph both the Reader's Theater Project (A Special House, and Charlie about jazz musician Charlie Parker) and an original musical, Frankenbean and the Monster Carrots.

Performed in Los Angeles and toured nationally, concluding with performances at the Smithsonian Institute in 1997.
- **Shakespeare Festival / LA & Free Shakespeare Festival** Choreographer for
Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare Festival/LA) and (Free Shakespeare *Romeo and Juliet* Festival), both performed at the Anson Ford Theatre.
- **DreamScapes / Bamboo Forest (2000–2005)**
A multimedia collaboration written and composed by Steve Reid (*Bamboo Forest*), featuring five Cirque du Soleil performers, Reid's band, and members of Reichlin's company. The first version was created for a video shoot in Los Angeles, premiered in Orlando, FL (2000), revised in July 2002 at El Portal Theatre (CA), and continued touring nationally through 2005.
- **Pasadena Pops Orchestra at Descanso Gardens (2003)**
Commissioned for a second time to create new dances for performance with the Pasadena Pops Orchestra at Descanso Gardens.
- **“MOVING AT THE MADRID!” (2022)**
Film commissioned by the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Dance Worker Coalition. Celebrates the power of live performance and community through dance and multimedia. Premiered September 2022.
- **Tap Dance Initiative / Alfred Desio Legacy Project (2022–2023)**
A research, education, and performance project honoring Alfred Desio, creator of electronic tap and co-founder of the company, funded through the Tap Dance Initiative. Developed interactive presentations exploring the intersection of history, technology, and rhythm.
- **Home Grown — Dance Resource Center (2024)**
Featured choreographer in the Dance Resource Center's *Home Grown* series, spotlighting Southern California artists creating new works that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Los Angeles' dance landscape.
- **Featured National Artist — Dance/USA Annual Conference (2012)**
Selected as one of seven national artists to present *Tap Dance Widows Club / The Baggage Project*, a 50-minute multimedia work exploring memory and transformation.
- **Choreographer — CBS' *The Amazing Race* (2011)**
Created Renaissance-inspired dance sequences for the televised competition series.
- **Bruce Geller Memorial Prize (2016)**
A national prize awarded by the American Jewish University's Institute for Jewish Creativity to create a new work exploring language, spirituality, and movement.

- **Producer / Director—San Pedro ♥Festival of the Arts (2013–2025)**

Executive Producer and Dance Director for one of Los Angeles’ leading multidisciplinary arts festivals, presenting 18–28 professional dance, music, and theater companies and schools annually, both virtually and live.

- **Educational and Touring Partnerships (Ongoing)**

Touring productions such as *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*, *The Better To Bite You With*, *A Jewish Child’s Story*, *Invasion*, and *Tap Dance Widows Club* continue to reach schools and audiences across California, including LAUSD, Santa Barbara County, as well as 15 Los Angeles County districts and 15 states!

Grants & Honors (Reichlin- Selected)

- *Bruce Geller Memorial Prize – 2016*
- *Inquiry Fellowship – Institute for Jewish Creativity (2016) Pennington Dance Group*
- *SPACE Grant @ ARC Pasadena Milestone Dance Co. Horton Award – 2007 Gary*
- *Bates Award – Horton Awards Committee for Innovation & Community Impact*
- *National Performance Network Artist EZ TV / EZ Media Grant for “The Email Dances / Sections” (Premiered 1996)*
-

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Since 1979, Louise Reichlin & Dancers (Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers) has created innovative and accessible works described as “wildly theatrical and fun” and “wonderfully spirited with a zest for life.” Our productions explore themes of humanity, technology, and transformation, combining modern dance, multimedia, and storytelling.

The company’s works include multimedia narratives such as *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*, *The Better to Bite You With*, *Tap Dance Widows Club*, *Invasion*, *A Jewish Child’s Story*, and the *Baggage Project* series. Recent creations include the *Re-imagined Urban and Tribal Dances 2020–2022*, *Reboot! Reboot!*, *Gotta Get Up!*, and *HEART* (premiered 2025).

Press Quotes / Testimonials

“The professionalism of your organization... truly made hosting you in our community a joy... The unique, talented, and energetic performance really engaged the audience...”

—City of Fontana Cultural Arts

HEART (2025): “Dancers moved through arcing pathways and orbiting formations, reflecting the ebb and flow of a pulsing heart. Reichlin’s timeless storytelling reveals deep human currents rather than fleeting trends.”

— LA Dance Review

“Very imaginative and delightfully inventive... fun for the whole family!”

— Beverly Hills Outlook

“Wildly theatrical and fun.”

— LA Daily News

"A Jewish Child's Story" - "A Jewish Child's Story, Part I "The Roses on my Wallpaper-ADream- and Part II "Yellow Star.



Reichlin in A Jewish Child's Story: The Roses on my Wallpaper, A Dream, with the characters in her dreams.

(Photo George Simian)

Part I – The Roses on My Wallpaper, a Dream

“Do you have dreams when you sleep? Have you had a dream, and when you wake up it has been so real that you think you are still dreaming, or that maybe your wake up time is the dream?”

This section explores the blurred line between dream and waking life, inspired by childhood moments when the author would wake from adventures and see the pink roses on her lamp and wallpaper and wonder if this was really awake, or was this asleep, marking the daytime and waiting to go back to a much more exciting world. Performed to music with both Spanish and Hebrew lyrics, the work investigates why the creator feels at home using languages she may not speak, and incorporates heroic figures from Jewish and broader cultural narratives—ranging from K'ton Ton and Rebecca at the Well to Wonder Woman.

Part II – Yellow Star

This portion addresses the Holocaust and relatives never known. Originally filmed from an overhead camera, the dancers form a yellow and then a blue star, accompanied by projected media designed by Michael Masucci. As described in The Los Angeles Times: *“Memory also enriched Louise Reichlin’s and Michael Masucci’s ... intense YellowStar, which asked projected imagery to provide a conceptual overview—literally the larger picture of what the live dancers evoked: the horrifying history of Polish Jews in the 20th century.”*

My broader experience in Jewish cultural work also includes touring with the first national company of Fiddler on the Roof with Luther Adler, as well as extensive multicultural dance programming in schools, where we regularly teach the Kol Dodi in residencies. My family was Jewish, and I learned many cultural songs and dances as a child.

WEST HOLLYWOOD JEWISH PROJECT REFERENCES

PROJECT 1

San Pedro Festival of the Arts 2025

Location: Peck Park, 560 N. Western Avenue, San Pedro, CA 90732

Year: 2025

a) Brief description of the project (include images and links to video if available)

Although we have produced this event for many years, 2025 was especially challenging because the City of LA was hesitant to rent its parks due to raids that began in May and June. I attended a cohort through the LA Cultural Affairs Department for festival producers, which proved valuable in learning how others approached similar challenges.

This is an outdoor festival with companies selected by a committee from open applications. The program focused on dance, featuring 18 companies in a free family festival. Styles included Modern, Ballet, Contemporary, East and South Indian, Jazz, Flamenco, Middle Eastern (Traditional into Contemporary), and Tap/Stomp. Both professional and pre-professional companies shared their artistry with the community.

Link: <https://conta.cc/46Hi4aA>

b) Project start date and end date

Work officially began on July 1, 2025. Due to city-wide park cancellations, we did not receive our permit until September. The event took place on September 20, 2025. All stage and sound were onsite, with companies spacing 7 a.m.–1 p.m. and performances from 1–5 p.m.

c) Client project manager name, telephone number, and email

Michael P. Signorelli

Recreation Facility Director, Pacific Region, Harbor District

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: michael.signorelli@lacity.org

PROJECT 2

LIVE ENCORE / San Pedro Festival of the Arts 2024

Location: AltaSea, Berth 60 (Waterfront), 2451 Signal Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Year: 2024

a) Brief description of the project (include images and links to video if available)

We received an additional grant from the Port of Los Angeles for a preview of the 18th Festival. When LA City delayed clearance of the location for the developers, it was agreed that we would instead

produce a LIVE ENCORE. The regular San Pedro Festival of the Arts took place in September at Peck Park, and we continued working toward this ENCORE culminating on December 15.

The indoor stage was set to our specifications for an earlier event, and through AltaSea, we hired that event company to also provide sound. The ENCORE was by invitation to companies selected for the main festival. Of the 9 invited companies, 3 were able to participate after not being able to perform previously. Companies spaced that morning, and the event ran from 1–3 p.m. Styles included Modern, Contemporary, East and South Indian, Jazz, Flamenco, and Middle Eastern (Traditional into Contemporary), featuring both professional and pre-professional artists.

Links: <https://conta.cc/3OSBVtH> | <https://vimeo.com/1036251516>

b) Project start date and end date

Development began July 1, 2024, alongside the September festival. When the preview changed to the ENCORE in August, work continued through December 15, 2024. Additional paperwork continued with Alvas (who donates our stage flooring) and dancer payments.

c) Client project manager name, telephone number, and email

Stacie Ellis

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: stacie.ellis@thelarsongroup.com

She contracted the venue and staging through Skyline. (Stage Manager: Camille Imperial.)

PROJECT 3

San Pedro Festival of the Arts 2019 (Transition Year)

Location: Anderson Park / Anderson Memorial Center, San Pedro, CA 90732

Year: 2019

a) Brief description of the project (include images and links to video if available)

2019 was a transition year as we moved to a new home at Anderson Memorial Center. A Health/Wellness and Visual Art/Community Event produced by LA City Recreation and Parks took place on both days alongside our festival. The outdoor festival also included live music, crafts, and a food truck.

Links: <https://conta.cc/3Ewqx1C> | <https://vimeo.com/593522583/665fb790df>

b) Project start date and end date

The grant period began July 1, 2019, during which we visited the new location and met the Parks & Rec team. We presented a free preview at Alva's Showroom on September 14. The San Pedro Festival of the Arts took place September 21–22, 2019, and included a virtual division.

c) Client project manager name, telephone number, and email

Leslie Perez

Director, Pacific/Harbor District

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: Leslie.perez@lacity.org



HANDMADE TRADITIONS, CONTEMPORARY JEWISH ART

A Participatory Art Program for Jewish American Heritage Month

Proposed by Rachel Berkowitz

1. Contact Information

Name: Rachel Berkowitz

Business Name: Rachel Berkowitz Art / *æsthetíque* studio

Email: info@rachelberkowitzart.com

Phone: [REDACTED]

Website: www.rachelberkowitzart.com

Main Instagram: [@rachelberkowitzart](https://www.instagram.com/rachelberkowitzart) // Teaching Instagram : [@artwithrachyb](https://www.instagram.com/artwithrachyb)

2. Letter of Interest

Dear Arts Division Review Committee,

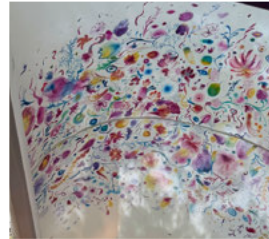
I am writing to submit a proposal for *Handmade Traditions, Contemporary Jewish Art*, a participatory visual arts program designed to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month through hands-on creative workshops rooted in Jewish cultural practice.

My artistic practice centers on the creation of contemporary visual work grounded in Jewish ritual and domestic life. In addition to my studio painting practice, I regularly design hand-painted ketubahs, chuppahs, challah covers, and holiday-based print work that function as both fine art and living ritual objects. I have over ten years of experience leading community-centered art workshops for adults and families, and I am deeply interested in creating accessible spaces where cultural traditions are continued through the act of making.

This proposed program invites community members of all backgrounds to engage with Jewish culture through the creation of handmade ritual objects. *Handmade Traditions* will consist of a series of participatory workshops focused on painting and printmaking techniques that participants can use to create personal Jewish ritual items. The program emphasizes creativity, continuity and shared experience, offering an entry point into Jewish cultural practices through visual art.

The proposed workshops include:

- Hand-Painted Challah Covers, exploring challah as a ritual of gathering, rest and communal life



- Jewish Linocut Card-Making, introducing relief printmaking methods inspired by Jewish holidays and storytelling traditions



- Watercolor Painting for Jewish Greeting Cards and Blessings, a beginner-friendly session focused on color, symbolism and personal



expression

I am excited about the opportunity to partner with the City of West Hollywood on this program. West Hollywood's commitment to inclusive, culturally rich arts programming aligns closely with my own practice, which prioritizes community engagement, accessibility and thoughtful cultural representation. I have led many workshops for children and adults through the city of LA and I have also designed public murals and painted many electric boxes for the city. I truly love LA because of its diversity and I'd be honored to run these Jewish workshops, with subject matter so dear to my heart. I am closely connected to a number of Jewish communities here in LA, many who live in West Hollywood. From photography to Wedding art commissions, I am constantly trying to serve my immediate Los Angeles Jewish community in every way that I can. I work closely with adult and student programming at the UCLA Hillel, and as an alumni, I think it is so important to remain connected to this community of Jews. My partner Greg Berman produces a podcast for the Jewish community called "Show and Teller" and thus I am very connected to the Jewish businesses here in LA. I'd love to be able to outreach and promote other Jewish businesses as well, perhaps getting food from a local Jewish business etc. I am confident that this program would resonate with local audiences and provide a meaningful, hands-on way to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to collaborate with the City to bring this program to life.

Sincerely,

Rachel Berkowitz



3. Artist Resumé: Rachel Berkowitz

Born in Columbus, Ohio, (1993) and raised in London, England.
Currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Education

2016 BA in Fine Art, University of California at Los Angeles, School of Art and Architecture
2014 University of California Study Abroad Program, Florence, Italy: Italian language, art history
2012 UK A-Level Qualifications: English Literature, Fine Art, Mathematics and Biology

Exhibited Works: Painting, Prints, Photography and Video Installation

Solo exhibitions

2026 "Life is Soirée" at *Gallery 612* (Jan-Feb)
2025 "Exposing Pasithea" at *Gallery 612*, Los Angeles, May-June
2024 *Artist-In-Residence Solo Showcase* (2 Events) at *The Pendry*, Los Angeles, August- December
2023 "Eternal Bouquets", *Great Art Space*, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, August-October
2023 "Biophilic Harmonies", *San Diego Library, Pacific Beach Branch Gallery*, February - April
2020 "Playing with Fate", *Whitney Library Gallery*, Las Vegas, NV, November -February 2021
2019 "Illusions of Risk", *Budman Studio*, Los Angeles
2018 *House of G&C*, Los Angeles
2017 "Fairfax Royalty", *Daniel Raphael Gallery*, London, UK
2017 "Fairfax Royalty", *The Argyle*, Los Angeles
2017 "Nightlife", *The Argyle*, Los Angeles
2016 "Cultural Journeys", *Buckwild Gallery*, Venice, Los Angeles
2016 "Cultural Journeys", *Dortort Center of the Arts*, UCLA, Los Angeles
2015 "Spacial Meditations", *The Invisible Line Gallery*, London, UK

Group Exhibitions and Art Fairs

2026 "Perceive Me" & "Call & Response" with Shoebox at the Startup Art Fair
2025 "The Places we call Home" selected for group showcase, Women in Arts Network
2025 "In the Abstract", honorable mention, juried showcase, *San Fernando Valley Arts*
2025 "The Framer's Archive", *Artbug Gallery*, LA May-July
2025 "Summer Salon 2025", *Art Share LA*, June-August
2024 *Base Gallery*, DTLA Art Night - artist spotlights, Los Angeles
2024 "Sacred Realm" group show at *Echo Park Art Gallery*, Los Angeles
2024 *Art Of Wax*, *Location 1980 Gallery*, Costa Mesa, CA
2024 Juried Award Show "Nature's Palette", *Town Hall Gallery*, City of Santa Clarita, CA
2024 Juried Showcase "Illuminate", *Sasse Museum of Art*, Pomona, CA, "Honorable Mention"
2024 *Pershing Square Art Show*, Selected for summer artist series, Los Angeles
2024 *The Alley Gallery* group show at the Founder's Building, Pomona, CA
2024 "Summer Solstice", *Laguna Art Gallery*
2024 "SYZYGY" Abstract art show, *Echo Park Art Gallery*, Los Angeles
2024 "Perceive Me" showcase, *The Other Art Fair*, Barker Hanger, Santa Monica
2023 "Recover Me" Art Auction for women's mental health charity, Los Angeles
2023 *Hold You Foundation*, Art auction at *Tag Gallery*, Los Angeles
2023 "Retrospect: Decommissioned Work", *Lodger Gallery*, Los Angeles
2023 "Hiding the Unnecessary", *The Makery*, Los Angeles
2023 "Palette & Poetry", *Mid City Arts Center*, Los Angeles
2023 *Pershing Square Art Show*, 1 of 10 selected artists, Los Angeles
2023 *Grafiti Library Art Gallery*, Los Angeles
2022 "Unholy Sanity", painting show with Perola Navarro at *The Blank White Box*, Los Angeles
2022 National Council on Aging, Juried Photography Exhibition, *NCOA Gallery*, "Staff Pick" award

2022 “The Order of Chaos”, painting show with Stuart Mason, *The Fellow*, Los Angeles
 2021 “Fluff”, *Helios Fine Art*, six paintings, Las Vegas
 2021 “LA Basel” at *New Vibe Studio*, Group show, Los Angeles
 2021 *Helios Fine Art* Grand Opening Exhibition, Las Vegas
 2020 “Dairies” International Photography Exhibition, *Millepiani Gallery*, Rome, Italy
 2020 “The Next Generation: Emerging Artists Award Show”, *Healdsburg Center for the Arts*, CA
 2020 “Her Story: Contemporary Female Artists Worldwide”, *Gallery 1202, Hamptons Art Fair*
 2020 “What to Wear”, *Gestalt Projects*, bG Gallery, Los Angeles [Gallery Link](#)
 2020 La Napoule Art Foundation, France, Performance piece with Artists Ana Maria Hernando, Christopher Kozjar, Alessandro Sciaraffa, Tadeo Muliero: [Video Link](#)
 2020 LA Art Show, “Fairfax Royalty” Photography series, represented by *Gallery 1202*, Los Angeles
 2020 “Presto!” Art Show, *City of Santa Clarita Center for the Arts*, Santa Clarita, CA
 2019 “Show Me Your Neon” group show at *Gallery 1202*, Gilroy, CA
 2019 *Fujifilm Printlife Juried Photo Exhibition*, displayed at Grand Central Terminal, New York, NY
 2019 *London Summer Intensive* - “Work in Progress”, *Camden Arts Centre*, London, UK
 2018 *Gamble* series, Art&Music exhibit, *The Rose Room*, Venice, Los Angeles
 2017 *Gloria* photography series, *Gallery Serendip*, Kobe University, Japan
 2015 Student Fine Art Show and Student Photography Exhibit, Dortort Center for the Arts, UCLA
 2013 *Dreams*, UCLA White Art Gallery, Los Angeles

Artist Residencies

2026 Upcoming (Jan-Feb) Artist-in-Residence, La Napoule Art Foundation, France
 2024 Artist-in-residence, *Pendry Hotel*, West Hollywood
 2021 *Lassen Volcanic National Park* Artist Residency, California
 2021 *Montezuma Castle National Monument* Artist Residency, Arizona
 2020 Artist Resident, *Zensai*, fashion and art boutique in Beverly Hills, CA
 2020 *La Napoule Art Foundation*, Artist Residency, Mandelieu-La Napoule, France
 2019 *London Summer Intensive*, Slade School of Art and Camden Arts Center, London, UK
 2017 *Guest Projects*, Shonibare Studio, London, UK
 2016 Artist-in-Residence, *Fulton Market Kitchen*, Chicago, IL

Selected Publications, Interviews and Media Coverage

2025 LA Style Magazine feature: [LA STYLE link](#)
 2025 Art & Style, International Magazine feature [link](#)
 2025 Artsquat Magazine interview, full article: [Art Squat Interview](#)
 2025 [Billboard of artwork](#) shown in Times Square, winner of TFI Art competition
 2024 Art & Cake, Artist Feature Spotlight: [Link](#)
 2024 *Artist worth Knowing*, “Art Loving Official” magazine, Print & digital version [Link](#), p.82
 2024 Artist video interview with [“Living in Beverly Hills”](#)
 2024 “Jaamzin” Art Magazine Feature [Link](#)
 2023 Artwork featured in San Francisco Fall Art Show magazine, sponsored by *Robertson Stevens*
 2023 Ranch & Coast Luxury Magazine interview, [Ranch and Coast Link](#)
 2023 Suboart Magazine article and feature, [Suboart Link](#)
 2023 Shoutout Socal, interview, [ShoutoutSocal Link](#)
 2023 Canvas Rebel Interview: [Canvas Rebel Link](#)
 2023 UCLA alumni newsletter artist feature: [UCLA alumni Link](#)
 2023 Global Art Times, full artist feature (6 page article), August issue, pp.98-103
 2023 *Levitate Magazine* artist feature, Issue 7, physical copy
 2023 *Artistonish Magazine* 30th Issue, Artist feature - January 2023
 2023 *Miniskirt Magazine*, cover art and featured artist. [Miniskirt Mag](#)
 2023 *Ignatian Literary Magazine*, & *Levitate Magazine* in print artist feature
 2023 Artist feature, [Passengers Journal Link](#)
 2022 Artist interview feature, *LA NOTE*, [Link](#)
 2022. *KPBS* for upcoming solo show “Biophilic Harmonies”, [KPBS link](#)

2022 *Artist Close Up* - Contemporary Art Magazine, featured artist: [Artists Close up Link](#)
2022 A Heroine's Journey Artist Interview [Heroine's Journey Link](#)
2022 Voyage LA Interview [Rising Stars Link](#)
2022 Artist Podcast Interview, LOUD, [Podcast Interview Link](#)
2020 *Las Vegas Weekly*: [Las Vegas Weekly Link](#)
2020 Las Vegas Clark Council Article Solo Exhibition intro, [Article LV Link](#)
2020 *Art News Magazine*, Full Page spread for *The LA Art Show*, Fairfax Royalty
2018 Gamble painting series, *The Rose Room*, Venice, Los Angeles: [Video Link](#)
2016 Ha'am newspaper feature: [Haam Newspaper Link](#)
2015 The Daily Bruin: [Daily Bruin Link](#)

Awards and Commissions

2025 Representation from Art Consults Monet-Michel
2025 Painting placed in the Prince of Monaco's Royal Art Collection, Monaco
2025 Mural commission awarded 20ft x 9ft of LA, *Century City*, Consulting office on *Ave of the stars*
2025 Award of gallery space and guest curatorship (1 year), *Happening in DTLA*, Los Angeles
2025 Winner, *The Frog Initiative Art Competition*, Paintings shown on Times Square Billboard, NY
2024 *bG Gallery* Artist Talk, selected for the gallery's "live nights", Bergamot Station
2024 Sasse Museum of Art Juried showcase, "Honorable Mention" award
2024 *SideDoor Magazine*, winner, photography contest, publication of series "Isolation Portraits"
2024 *Soho Home*, Featured artist, Los Angeles
2024 Paintings, selected by Interior Designer *Francesca Grace Home*, "Selling Sunset", Netflix
2024 *Marquis* "Who's Who" Honored Listee Award
2023 City of Los Angeles, Awarded Commission, painting of electricity box (2)
2023 City of Los Angeles, Commission of grant to host family art events, South Central LA
2023 *Artorful Magazine*, "Artist's Choice Award", "Top Ten Certificate of Achievement Award"
2023 *Costa Mesa Art Museum*, Finalist, *Art Venture Awards 2023*
2022 *National Council on Aging*, Staff Pick Award, Annual Photography Exhibition, [Blurb Link](#)
2022 Illustrator for children's book on heart disease: "Henry the Hypoplastic Hippo" — [Henry Link](#)
2022 Mural commissions, featured in home appearing on "Selling Sunset", Netflix
2022 Staff pick award - Shoe design for Alive Shoes, [Shoe Link](#)
2020 "The Edition" Hotel Penthouse Suite, Commission of 15 Paintings, West Hollywood, CA
2020 *Artists' Fellowship Grant Award*, New York, NY
2020 Featured Artist of the Month award (August), *Call 4 Entries*
2020 ArtList Editors, "Artist of the Month" Competition, awarded 2nd place
2019 *Palm Springs Modernism Week*, Commission of 11 Minimalist Paintings, Palm Springs, CA
2019 STWD artists digital drawing competition, Prize winner, First Place
2016 Student Fine Art Show, First place prize, Dortort Center for the Arts, UCLA
2015 Mural for "Bill Nye, the Science Guy" video series, *The Planetary Society*, [Bill Nye Link](#)
2014 Illustrator, "Tadeo's Golaco", children's book by Tadeo, Brazilian soccer player
2012 Egon Schiele award trophy for "Creative Flair", Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls

Art Photography Books

2021 *Intimate Geometry*
2020 *Modern Mystics* - Psychics of Los Angeles
2017 *Fairfax Royalty*
2017 *Gloria*
2016 *Los Angeles*

Performance Pieces

2025 Live painting performance with musician Xtina Del Valle at *æsthetique studio*, *The Pendry Hotel*, *Bar Floretin* - Los Angeles and 2 performances during PARIS FASHION WEEK at *Maison Delano*, [Art Performance Piece](#)
2024 Live painting at *The Grateful Giraffe*, Summer Solstice event, *Skybar The Mondrian*, Valentine's

Day Event, *The Stowaway* for DTLA art night, Los Angeles ...to name a few.
2023 Live painting at Afrobeats Artist Kobi Jonz event "Heartbreak Hotel", *Apotheke*, Los Angeles,
2020 "Pas Pour Nous", La Napoule Art Foundation Performance piece with Ana Maria Hernando,
Christopher Kozjar, Alessandro Sciaraffa, Tadeo Muliero: [Video Link](#)
2019 "Desirable Outcomes", London Summer Intensive - Open Studios and Exhibition, Slade
School of Art, London: [Video Link](#)
2018 "Fairfax Royalty" [Video Link](#)

Work Experience: Art Instruction, Commercial Photography, Murals and Art Events

2025 - present **Painting instructor (adults)**, botanical watercolor classes, *Virginia Robinson Gardens*, Beverly Hills, CA
2024 - present **Painting instructor (adults)**, private and public lessons in oil painting and drawing
2022 - present **Art teacher (children)**, ArtBox, Los Angeles public schools, [ArtBox Link](#)
2015 - present **Freelance commercial photographer** for Musicians, fashion, headshots, events etc.
2020 **Chief of Staff**, Palm Springs Photography Festival
2019 **Line Editor** for celebrity book project "The Bandit Queen"
2019 (6 months) **Writing assistant and archivist**, Michael Todd, sculptor, Los Angeles
2019 - 2022 **Product Design, Fashion Photography**, *House of Sussex*, Los Angeles
2018 - 2019 **Art Studio Coordinator/Chief of Staff**, *Budman Studio*, Los Angeles
2018 - 2019 **Product Photographer**, *Karen Callan Designs (Jewelry)*, Los Angeles
2017 - present **Painting and Mural Commissions**: Malibu, Hollywood Hills, Beverly Hills, Honolulu, Hawaii

4. References:

1. Andrea Gillie Harris

Director of Faculty and Community Relations
Hillel at UCLA
andrea@uclahillel.org
[REDACTED]

Art Programming - hires me to come and lead art workshops for students and faculty at Hillel.

2. Diana Barillas

Director of Operations and Creative Strategy
Happening In DTLA | DTLA ArtNight
[REDACTED]

Diana@happeningindtla.com | happeningindtla.com

Assigned by Diana to host Adult and children Art programming workshops at my studio. I host DTLA Art night the first Thursday of every month and I produce shows and events for the DTLA Art Night and Happening in DTLA Platform.

3. Brittany Levenson

Art Manager/ Creative Strategy

[REDACTED] britt@lifestylelove.co

Brittany works with me hosting workshops, selling my artwork to clients and marketing my programming.

2026 JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ARTS PROGRAMMING PRODUCER
With the City of West Hollywood Arts Division

1. Contact Information

Rivkah Nehorai
rivka.nehorai@gmail.com
Los Angeles, CA
Website: www.rivkagallery.com

2. Letter of Interest

At a time in which Judaism is too often associated with the politics in the Middle East and its reverberations throughout the world, we wanted to take a deeper look at Judaism itself, separate from those discussions.

We want to ask: what is distinct about Jewish rhythm and movement ? How can we invite those unfamiliar with these rhythms to experience it intimately themselves ?

This proposal presents a day-long, sequential arts and cultural program in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month. The program explores Judaism through the lens of rhythm and movement, intellectual, emotional, sonic, and communal. Judaism is a tradition shaped not only by belief, but by motion: questioning, learning, chanting, laughing, and gathering.

The event centers plural Jewish voices, including Sephardi, Ashkenazi, Black, and queer Jewish perspectives, reflecting the reality of Jewish American life today. Programming is intentionally non-partisan and non-political, focusing instead on inspiration, resilience, creativity, and the ways Jewish traditions encourage engagement with complexity and possibility.

The proposed program is produced by Rivka Nehorai, former Program Director for Hevria in Brooklyn, and Cinthya Silverstein, Director of Cultural Programs at Sovern LA. Together, they bring extensive experience in producing community centered arts and cultural programming that foregrounds pluralistic Jewish identity, creative inquiry, and public engagement.

Nehorai brings experience from her tenure at Hevria, a Brooklyn based Jewish arts and culture organization known for elevating diverse Jewish voices through literary and educational programming. As Program Director, she curated and managed initiatives that defied communal norms—bringing Jews from across the religious spectrum

together to share and collaborate through expressive arts. These novel initiatives included salons, variety shows, writing and painting classes, retreats, and open mic nights that were attended over the course of five years by thousands of participants.

Silverstein serves as Director of Cultural Programs at Sovern LA, where she oversees more than 200 arts, wellness, and cultural events annually, serving approximately 3,000 participants through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and youth programming. Her work centers interdisciplinary, culturally relevant programming grounded in relationship building and inclusive access.

Together, Nehorai and Silverstein are well positioned to deliver a cohesive, high quality program aligned with the City of West Hollywood's Arts Division goals. Their combined experience supports thoughtful production, strong artist collaboration, and a meaningful public experience.

3. Proposed Program Structure

This is a one day event, from 11 a.m to 5 p.m. Each stage directly follows the other and builds upon it.

Stage One: Jewish Thinkers: Intellectual Movement & Chutzpah

A one-hour conversation featuring Jewish thinkers whose work exemplifies intellectual courage, imagination, and inquiry. Speakers reflect on the ideas and experiences that shape how they think about life and the future.

Stage Two: Jewish Comedy: Humor as Cultural Motion

An hour-long comedy program highlighting Jewish humor as a mechanism for coping, reframing difficulty, and shifting perspective.

Stage Three: Torah Lishma: The Rhythm of Jewish Learning

An immersive learning installation recreating the experience of a Jewish study space. Participants observe and engage with the rhythm of Jewish learning as an end in itself.

This stage takes the form of an immersive learning installation that recreates the atmosphere of a Jewish study space. Tables, texts, and facilitators invite participants into the physical and sonic rhythms of Jewish learning, including reading aloud, questioning, debate, repetition, and shared inquiry.

Rather than presenting Torah study as a lecture or performance, this installation centers learning as a lived, relational practice. Participants are encouraged to be a part of the discussion, , experiencing how meaning emerges through dialogue, curiosity, and collective attention. Voices rise and fall, pages turn, and ideas are tested aloud, creating a dynamic environment shaped by movement, sound, and exchange.

Torah lishma, learning for its own sake, is presented here not as an academic exercise, but as a cultural rhythm that values process over conclusion. This stage offers participants a window into how Jewish learning functions as an embodied practice that strengthens connection, sharpens ethical imagination, and holds space for complexity without requiring resolution.

Stage Four: Jewish Soundbath: Cantillation & Nervous System Rest

A guided soundbath weaving Ashkenazi and Sephardi chant with breath awareness, allowing participants to experience Jewish rhythm somatically.

Stage Five: Nigun Circle: Collective Voice

A closing communal circle led by a rabbinical student, where participants learn and repeat a wordless melody together, filling the space with shared sound.

4. Resumes

Rivka Nehorai: Rivka Nehorai is a contemporary abstract figurative painter, writer, art educator, and community activist known for her work that explores the intersection of art, spirituality, and social commentary. She previously served as the Program Director for the Jewish arts and culture organization Hevria Brooklyn from 2015 to 2020. After moving to California in 2020, Rivka received several grants from the Long Beach Arts Council and presented her work at the UCLA Dorot Center For Creativity In The Arts in 2022. Rivka currently works as an independent social curator to produce communal gatherings that build bridges and challenge systemic issues within society. Rivka's work can be found at rivkagallery.com.

Cinthya Silverstein: Cinthya Silverstein is the Director of Cultural Programs at Sovern LA, an intersectional arts and wellness organization based in West Adams. Her work centers culturally relevant, community led programming that prioritizes access, relationship building, and interdisciplinary creative practice. Silverstein is also a visual

artist and cultural producer whose work explores storytelling, care, and representation through collaborative and community based frameworks. Across her programming and creative practice, she is committed to creating spaces that honor complexity, lived experience, and collective learning.

Through her leadership at Sovern LA and her work as an independent producer, Silverstein brings a relational and intentional approach to cultural production, with an emphasis on building inclusive public experiences that invite participation, reflection, and connection.

Zack Binder: Zack Binder (he/him) is a trans masculine ventriloquist comedian and actor. Originally from Toronto, Zack began his performance career in Canada as Drag King ZackKey Lime. There, he produced House of Kings, a popular bi-monthly drag show highlighting drag kings in Toronto. A closet ventriloquist for over a decade, Zack finally found the gumption to share his puppets with the world. In July 2023, Zack performed in his first comedy show...and the rest is history. In his first year he performed in over 80 comedy shows around Los Angeles, including comedy clubs like The Crow and The Hollywood Improv. His comedy has garnered over 13 million views online and got him accepted into Big Pine Comedy Festival in 2024.

Zack recently debuted his "one man" show Once Upon a Breadcrumb to a sold-out audience at the Lyric Hyperion and Elysian where he co-stars alongside his puppets Ticklemuff and Jill. He hopes to take the show to Edinburgh Fringe with this production company, Poppy Seed Productions.

Elad Nehorai: Elad Nehorai is a writer, activist, and social and political commentator who specializes in antisemitism, extremism, and their intersection. His writing can be found in the Daily Beast, The Forward, *MSNBC*, *The Guardian*, and *HuffPost*, and his popular newsletter. He is the organizer of XOutHate, a campaign of Jewish leaders calling for major advertisers to drop ads on X. Nehorai also works as a digital media strategist and is the founder of a marketing agency called Justice Marketing, which consults with organizations on messaging regarding antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian racism.

Joshua Silverstein: Joshua Silverstein is an event producer with more than 20 years of experience producing live performances, cultural events, and community based programming. He is the Executive Director of Cazadero Performing Arts Family Camp, a nonprofit intergenerational arts organization dedicated to accessible, high quality arts education through music, theater, dance, and visual arts.

In addition to his leadership at Cazadero, Silverstein has worked with The Braid as both an actor, storyteller, and consultant, contributing to theatrical storytelling and program development. Across his work, he brings a collaborative, artist centered approach to production that emphasizes care, clarity, and meaningful audience engagement.

Yehudah Webster: Yehudah Webster is a prominent spiritual activist, community organizer, and anti-oppression trainer focused on racial justice and Jewish communal life. He is a leading voice in the Jews of Color (JOC) community, working to build bridges and advocate for equity within Jewish and wider society. Yehudah currently works for Kirva and the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project, where he helps integrate anti-racist behaviors and culture into communities using Jewish spiritual tools. He founded Teshuvah Across the Waters, an initiative to organize trips for Black Jews to explore Jewish communities in the African diaspora.

Rabbi David Kasher: Rabbi David Kasher is a rabbi, writer, and prominent figure in American Jewish education. Previously Associate Rabbi for the IKAR synagogue, Rabbi Kasher currently serves as the Director of Hadar West Coast in Los Angeles, an organization that promotes vibrant, egalitarian Jewish communities rooted in rigorous Torah study. His dynamic teaching style integrates both secular and religious knowledge, and he is the author of the book *ParshaNut: 54 Journeys into the World of Torah Commentary*.

Tuli Skaist: Tuli Skaist is the Executive Director of the Happy Minyan, a modern Hasidic synagogue in West Los Angeles. A warm and deeply knowledgeable musician and educator, Tuli is a sought after teacher in the Jewish LA community.

Liana Wertman: Liana Wertman is a Jewish educator and the Founder and Executive Director of The Torah Studio, a unique, online, non-hierarchical, inclusive space for adult learners to engage deeply with Jewish texts. Liana is known for her work in making traditional Jewish texts and learning methods, such as *hevruta* (partnered learning), accessible and inclusive to a wider audience.

Lily Gross: Lily Gross is a rabbinical student at the American Jewish University (AJU) Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, California. Lily has a background in Jewish communal work in the Denver, Colorado area, where she worked as Campus Director for the Hillel of Colorado from 2020-2024. Lily also worked there as a Music Specialist at JEWISHcolorado, helping kids connect to Judaism through song. Currently, Lily is studying at the Hadar Rising Song Institute to facilitate communal spaces for

Jewish song. She is passionate about bringing people together in breath and harmony for joyous occasions.

Sophia Morgan: Sophia Morgan is a Chinese-Ashkenazi Jew from Los Angeles, trained Authentic Relating practitioner, mover and feeler with over twenty-five years of dance experience, and passionate advocate for accessibility and disability rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, racial justice, and intersectionality. Sophia believes in the transformative and healing power of embodiment and authentic relating at the nexus of connection to self, interpersonal relationships, and systemic contexts.

Sophia founded Correlate to equip marginalized communities with tools for embodied connection and belonging. In the past year, Sophia has hosted events in Los Angeles, Bay Area, and Costa Rica impacting participants across queer, Asian Jewish, Jewish, and BIPOC communities. She is committed to bringing possibility to every interaction through presence, curiosity, and connection.

5. References

Caz Family Dance Annual Fundraiser

- a. Joshua Silverstein
- b. Description: a day long fundraiser and concert for Caz Family Camp. Event included art stations, food, and live band.
- c. Duration: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
- d. Contact: Joshua Silverstein [REDACTED] joshua@cazfamilycamp.org

Da Vinci Schools

- a. Da Vinci Schools, 201 N Douglas, El Segundo, CA 90245 - 2025
- b. Description: High school students participated in the Summer Career Training Clinic – Art Workshop, where they explored color theory, storytelling through still life, texture techniques, portrait painting, and more using water-mixable oil paints. From warm-up sketches to final gallery-style pieces, students learned how to express themselves through visual art while building technical skills and creative confidence. Link to social media:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DMgLNKqvt-B/?igsh=NTc4MTlwNjQ2YQ==>
- c. Duration: July 21st to July 25th, 2025
- d. Contact: Crissel Rodriguez, [REDACTED], crodriguez@davincischools.org

Dominique Gallery

- a. Dominique Gallery
- b. Description: Sovern partnered with Dominique Gallery to present a group show, Mapping Resiliency and Care, which featured tunmi da silva, Francesca Lalanne, and K'era Morgan. The show highlights each artists' different medicines that they believe are necessary to resource ourselves, reminding us for the need for rest, lightness and humor, and to release perfectionism and trust our intuition. Link to catalog: <https://www.sovern.la/mappingresiliencyandcarecatalog.html>
- c. Duration: February 20th to May 8th, 2025
- d. Contact: Dominique Clayton, [REDACTED], dom@dominiquegallery.com

Item Line	Description	Cost
Artist Fees (Subcontractors)	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$700 each to Stage 1 speakers (\$2,800) - \$400 to sound bath practitioner - \$250 to chanters - \$800 to (1) curation/host comedy hour - \$500 each comedian - \$800 to rabbinical student/nigun facilitator 	\$6,800
Materials & Supplies	Covers the cost of creating an immersive learning installation recreating the experience of a Jewish study space.	\$2,000
Materials & Supplies	Set-up for speakers and comedy night.	\$600
Refreshments	Light Refreshments for throughout the event	\$400
PA/Sound	Covers the cost of sound systems rental and set up.	\$600
Marketing	This includes content creation, post boosting, and community outreach.	\$2,500
Administration & Production	Managing budget, contracts and staffing, registration and communication, scheduling and coordination, documentation, and invoices and payments.	\$5,000
Day of Event Coordinator & Assistant	Coordinator to liaise with facilitators to ensure smooth run of show. Assistant supports coordinator in tasks such as set up, event management, and break down.	\$700
Insurance	Covers the limits and requirements as specified in the City's standard contract.	\$500

Contingency Funds	For unexpected costs that come up before or day of event	\$900
		\$20,000



2026 JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ARTS PROGRAMMING PROPOSAL

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:

Peretz Foundation known as The 8 Project

Primary Contact:

Name: Tomer Peretz

Email: info@the8project.org

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

Tarzana, CA, 91356

Website:

www.the8project.org

www.tomerperetz.com

Instagram:

@the.8.project

@tomerperetzart



2. LETTER OF INTEREST

Dear City of West Hollywood Arts Division,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for the West Hollywood Arts Workshops. The 8 Project is a Los Angeles–based **creative-healing initiative** founded by artist **Tomer Peretz**, dedicated to using art as a **form of healing** and as a **bridge for connection, resilience, and cultural understanding**. Our programs have engaged **hundreds of participants** through workshops and community-based art experiences across cultural organizations, **museums**, and in our own Los Angeles studio. In addition, we have worked with **more than 1,000 October 7 survivors**, developing trauma-aware, community-centered creative practices that honor identity while fostering shared understanding.

We are deeply interested in partnering with the City of West Hollywood because the City’s commitment to creativity, diversity, wellness, and inclusive community-building aligns closely with our mission. West Hollywood is a place where individuality is celebrated and where the arts act as both cultural expression and community glue. Our workshop brings Jewish cultural storytelling into an open, welcoming environment – inviting people of all backgrounds to participate, reflect, and create together.

Our proposed program, **Unity Mosaic: A Collective Art Experience**, invites participants to design individual painted tiles inspired by Jewish mosaic traditions and universal themes of belonging, identity, and community pride. These tiles are assembled into a single large mosaic artwork unveiled the same day. The workshop is hands-on, accessible to all skill levels, and designed to demonstrate how **artmaking can foster emotional wellbeing, shared understanding, and meaningful community connection**.

We believe this experience will contribute meaningfully to West Hollywood’s vibrant arts ecosystem by offering a healing-centered, culturally grounded, and collaboratively created artwork. We would be honored to partner with the City to bring this program to residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Tomer Peretz

Artist & Founder - The 8 Project



UNITY MOSAIC: A Collective Art Experience

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Unity Mosaic is an **all-ages, hands-on community art workshop** that brings people together through creativity, cultural storytelling, and shared expression. Inspired by Jewish mosaic traditions and West Hollywood's values of diversity and inclusion, participants of all backgrounds are invited to paint individual "tiles" that come together to form a single, large-scale mosaic artwork revealed later the same day.

The workshop is welcoming, accessible, and designed for **children, teens, adults, and families** – no art experience required.

CONCEPT & EXPERIENCE

Participants begin with simple creative prompts centered on:

- Identity
- Resilience
- Community connection
- Cultural pride
- Personal symbol-making

Visual options include Jewish motifs - including mosaic patterns, Hebrew letters, pomegranates, and symbols of hope - but always in a **universal, open, inclusive way** that resonates across cultures and ages.

Each participant paints a 6x6 inch tile using paint markers, acrylics, and collage materials. These tiles are then assembled into a **large unified mosaic**, representing how unique individuals contribute to the strength and beauty of a shared community.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS TAKE AWAY

- A meaningful creative experience
- A sense of connection and belonging
- Exposure to Jewish cultural storytelling in an inclusive environment
- A shared artwork that embodies unity
- Emotional grounding and creative expression



The final mosaic becomes a moment of collective pride - photographable, sharable, and visually impactful.

WHY IT FITS WEST HOLLYWOOD

West Hollywood celebrates diversity, inclusion, and creative expression.

This workshop aligns perfectly with the City's cultural values:

- **All-ages participation**
- **Community-building through art**
- **Representation of Jewish culture in an open, welcoming format**
- **Accessible, uplifting creativity**
- **Public-facing installation moment**

LED BY

Tomer Peretz - Founder, The 8 Project

Artist • Creative Director • Community Arts Facilitator

With over 20 years of artistic practice and a deep commitment to community-based, healing-centered artmaking, Tomer guides participants through an experience that is reflective, expressive, and rooted in connection.

LOGISTICS & FORMAT

- **Duration:** 2-3 hours (flexible)
- **Audience:** All ages (children, teens, adults, families)
- **Participants:** 30-40 per session
- **Materials:** All provided by The 8 Project
- **Outcome:** A completed collaborative mosaic installation

CORE MESSAGES

When we create together, we heal together.

When we build art piece by piece, we build community piece by piece.



These images are AI-generated and provided for visual reference only. The final artwork and installation may vary.



3. RESUME / QUALIFICATIONS

THE 8 PROJECT - ORGANIZATIONAL RESUME

The 8 Project (Peretz Foundation dba The 8 Project) is a Los Angeles-based creative-healing arts initiative founded by Israeli-American artist Tomer Peretz. The organization is dedicated to using art as a form of healing and as a bridge for connection, resilience, and cultural understanding. Through its work in both the United States and Israel, The 8 Project creates spaces where individuals and communities can express themselves, process complex experiences, and build meaningful connections through artmaking.

The 8 Project actively facilitates workshops with diverse groups including local communities, cultural institutions, museums, and survivor networks. The organization has worked with more than 1,000 October 7 survivors in both Israel and the U.S., integrating trauma-aware creative practices into collaborative artmaking and installation work.

In addition to workshops and public programming, The 8 Project operates an ongoing Artist Residency Program in Los Angeles, supporting artists with mentorship, studio access, creative development, and opportunities to participate in community-facing projects. Residents engage in healing-centered creative work and contribute to the project's mission of transforming personal and collective experience into art.

The 8 Project produces large-scale collaborative installations that bring together survivors, volunteers, students, and community members. Its work spans murals, public sculptures, participatory activations, and site-specific art that encourages dialogue, reflection, and unity



TOMER PERETZ - ARTIST RESUME

Founder - The 8 Project

Artist | Creative Director | Community Arts Facilitator

Website: www.tomerperetz.com

Instagram: [@tomerperetzart](https://www.instagram.com/tomerperetzart)

Tomer Peretz is an Israeli-American multidisciplinary artist with more than twenty years of experience in painting, mixed media, public art, and community-driven installation work. His exhibitions and projects have appeared internationally, including in Los Angeles, Milan, Miami, Mexico, Tokyo, Chicago, and across Israel. His work has been featured in Forbes, Los Angeles Magazine, the Associated Press, OK Magazine, Beverly Press, and multiple arts publications.

Peretz's practice blends visual storytelling with cultural identity, social awareness, and emotional expression. Since October 7, he has created some of the most widely recognized contemporary projects responding to the events in Israel - working directly with survivors, families, volunteers, and global audiences to transform trauma into art, presence, and community engagement.

He continues to lead The 8 Project's workshops, public programs, and residency mentorship, guiding participants and residents through healing-centered creative processes.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Museum Exhibition

- **Art Will Set You Free - Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles, CA** - March–September 2025. Major multi-room exhibition and interactive installation featuring original works, a collaborative canvas, and multimedia created with October 7th survivors and first responders.

Solo Exhibitions

- **Fabbrica Eos Gallery**, Milan, Italy (2022)
- **Gonna Make Some Bad Choices Tonight**, Ouro Gallery, Los Angeles (2022)
- **Welcome to America**, Ouro Gallery, Los Angeles (2021)
- **Incomplete**, Los Angeles (2020)
- **Double Exposure**, Ouro Studio, Los Angeles (2019)
- **Unbreakable**, Bruce Lurie Gallery, Culver City (2012)



Group Exhibitions & International Art Fairs

- **Art Miami**, Peimbert Art Gallery, Mexico (2020)
- **Instituto Marangoni Miami**, Miami, Florida (2021)
- **Fabbrica Eos Gallery**, Milan, Italy (2021)
- **Los Angeles Art Show**, Bruce Lurie Gallery (2013)
- Additional group shows in Tokyo, Mexico, and Southern California (2006–2009)

LARGE-SCALE COLLABORATIVE WORKS

Peretz has created an extensive body of public art installations that combine large-scale visual work with community participation. These include murals, sculptures, banners, billboards, and site-specific activations across Los Angeles, Chicago, and Israel. Many works were developed collaboratively with survivors of October 7, volunteers, and participants from The 8 Project.

Major works include **The Strength Mural** in West Hollywood, the **Hersh, Itay, Omer, and Keith** murals, the **Sagui** 50-foot billboard, the **Free Our Hostages** 40-foot installation, the traveling **They Took Her** sculpture, and the **Resilience Sweatpants** created with more than 60 survivors. Peretz also created the widely recognized **When The Music Stopped** installation in Los Angeles and at Art Basel Miami, produced with over 1,400 volunteers.

These works merge artistic expression with activism, communal storytelling, and healing – positioning Peretz at the intersection of public art, cultural narrative, and emotional recovery.

ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM (Active)

The 8 Project's Artist Residency Program is an ongoing healing-centered residency designed for artists who wish to create work rooted in identity, personal narrative, and community impact. Residents receive studio access, mentorship from Tomer Peretz, and opportunities to participate in workshops, exhibitions, and collaborative public art projects. The program continues to expand and now includes artists from both the U.S. and Israel.

CORE SKILLS

- Large-scale collaborative installations
- Public art production
- Community engagement
- Museum-level storytelling and exhibition design
- Painting, muralism, and mixed media
- Creative-healing facilitation and trauma-aware creative practices
- Cross-cultural artistic collaboration (U.S. & Israel)

4. REFERENCES

Reference 1

Museum of Tolerance - “Art Will Set You Free”

Client: Museum of Tolerance

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Year of Completion: 2025

Project Description:

Art Will Set You Free was a landmark exhibition created by artist **Tomer Peretz** and presented at the Museum of Tolerance from **March through September 2025**. This major project featured a series of **interactive installations, multimedia environments, and large-scale artworks** developed in direct collaboration with **October 7 survivors, former hostages, first responders, bereaved families, and other impacted communities**.

The exhibition brought together painting, sculpture, video, photography, and public-participation art to create an immersive and emotionally resonant experience. Many works were co-created in The 8 Project’s studio through healing-centered art sessions, where participants contributed imagery, writing, gestures, and symbolic elements reflecting their personal stories.

The installation included:

- **A large collaborative canvas** painted with survivors, families, and community members over several months
 - **Multimedia storytelling**, including photography and video documenting frontline emergency workers and survivor narratives
 - **Interactive stations** where visitors added marks, messages, and symbols contributing to the ongoing evolution of the work
 - **Public art activations**, facilitated by The 8 Project, engaging student groups and visitors in creating satellite pieces connected to the exhibition
- A reflective environment** honoring the stories, memories, and resilience of those directly affected

Throughout its six-month run, *Art Will Set You Free* engaged thousands of visitors and became one of the most widely recognized artistic responses to October 7 – positioning art as a force for healing, remembrance, and community connection.

Project Duration:

October 2024 - September 2025

(development, collaborative creation sessions, installation, and exhibition period)

Press:

[Forbes](#), [Aish](#), [KTLA5](#), [Jewish Journal](#)

Client Contact:

Name: Mark Katrikh

Title: Deputy Director, MOT

Email: mkatrikh@museumoftolerance.com







Reference 2

“When The Music Stopped” - Public Installation & Community Activation

Client: Independent Project (Produced by Tomer Peretz)

Location: Los Angeles, CA + Art Basel Miami

Year of Completion: 2023

Project Description:

When The Music Stopped is a large-scale public installation created by Tomer Peretz in response to the October 7 attacks. The project engaged **approximately 1,400 volunteers**, including survivors and community members, who came together to form a powerful **live tableau** capturing the moment life and music suddenly stopped. The installation served as both a healing-centered artistic expression and a public awareness project. It premiered in Los Angeles and was later brought to **Art Basel Miami**, where it reached international audiences and received significant media attention.

Project Duration:

October 2023 - December 2023

Media and Press:

[Youtube](#), [Los Angeles Magazine](#), [ABC7](#)

Client Contact:

Name: **Adee Drori**

Title: Production manager

Contact: + 



Reference 3

Welcome To America - Art Exhibit

Client: Independent Project (Produced by Tomer Peretz)

Location: DTLA, CA

Year of Completion: 2021

Project Description:

“*Welcome to America*” was an immersive art exhibition by Tomer Peretz that invited viewers into his bold and provocative perspective on contemporary society. Featuring original artworks, installations, and live performances, the exhibition transformed a large downtown Los Angeles space into a visual journey shaped by Tomer’s years of living and creating in America. Through powerful imagery and experiential environments, the show challenged perceptions of culture and identity, offering visitors a striking reflection on the world we inhabit.

Project Duration:

July - September 2021

Media: [Youtube](#), [Trailer](#)

Client Contact:

Name: __ **Linor Hazut** __

Title: __ Production manager __

Contact: 

Raëlle Dorfan
The Dance Resource Center of Greater Los Angeles
[REDACTED], Los Angeles CA 90016

rdorfan@dancerresourcecenter.org

www.dancerresourcecenter.org

To Whom It May Concern,

The Dance Resource Center (DRC) is a service organization promoting the visibility and viability of Los Angeles and Southern California dance on local, state, and national levels. Acting as the hub and voice for dance in Los Angeles, DRC provides information, resources, technical assistance, presenting and production opportunities, infrastructure support and programs. DRC believes in the empowerment of art and culture and is committed to responding to the needs of its constituency to help the community thrive in the art of business as well as in the art of movement creation and practice.

DRC formed in 1987 to offer much needed, all encompassing, equitable resources & programming to the Greater LA dance community. DRC's constituency live and work across LA and Southern California's sprawling geographic area. Encompassing all of LA County's 88 municipalities, nearly 10,000 small/medium/large dance companies, individual artists, performers, choreographers, teachers, presenters, studios, pre-professionals, administrators, agencies, other art organizations and dance enthusiasts engage with DRC weekly. DRC strives towards offering and maintaining quality, sustainable practices which involve providing financial support, emergency relief and subsidies for programs; ensuring the accessibility of its programs for constituents with varying abilities; and offering translation services upon request.

DRC has curated community gatherings, events and residencies that empower Angeleno creatives from historically marginalized and often underfunded communities together, including but not limited to seniors, veterans, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and all ability dancers. DRC is unique in its capacity to support individual artists and creative companies in addition to partnering with local businesses and nonprofits thus bolstering small and mid-sized institutions' alongside general programming.

DRC produced and facilitated, Shine A Light, an affinity space for Jewish dancers, choreographers, educators, administrators, Artistic Directors and allies, to gather and share, in a safe space, and navigate the extreme increase in antisemitism and Jew hatred across the county and country. The event brought creatives together to explore heritage, identify and understand present and future challenges, and discuss how these experiences shape LA's art and cultural ecosystem.

DRC is interested in producing an event during Jewish American Heritage month, in the effervescent and bold City of West Hollywood, as a continuation of the work we have already begun and to offer multi-disciplinary and dance artists, whom we are closely affiliated with, the opportunity to share their stories via art; visual, music, performance and beyond...

Additionally, DRC's Executive Director has both vast and deep connections to varying branches within the Los Angeles Jewish community, including but not limited to; Ethiopian, Sephardi, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jewry. From Jewish Mizrahi drag queens to Sephardi cooking comedians, DRC staff has insight and access to LA's Jewish Gems and would love and deeply appreciate the opportunity to share a multifaceted event that celebrates the tapestry that makes Jewish art so colorful and uniquely LA!

For this particular event, DRC will engage and invite Mizrahi Jew and drag queen [Matthew Nouriel aka The Empress](#), visual Jewish and BIPOC artist, [BournRich](#), and site specific dance choreographers from the Ashkenazi Jewish community, including [Donna Sternberg and Dancers](#) and [Psychopomp Dance Theater](#). DRC will have Ethiopian and/or Israeli Jewish DJ's on deck (pun intended!), and align Jewish nosh favorites with craftsmen and children book authors tabling at the event. If awarded, DRC will seek to increase funding from alternate sources to further encompass and expose the multiple layers of LA's Jewish American culture and heritage.

DRC has curated works for The Music Center's; Love of LA project, On The Record, and most recently Grand Avenue Arts All Access, which encompassed performances and engagement activities for all ages. Events have included collaborations that stretch the imagination and creative spirit of attendees, and offered warm and welcoming spaces to LA's diverse and vibrant communities.

Throughout DRC's ten year history of producing performances, events and residencies we have facilitated HomeGrown at The Music Center, Bootleg, Lula Washington Dance Theater, Mimoda, UCLA and more, as well as Day of Dancer Health - a program DRC initiated and launched and is now offered in 8 cities across the county. This speaks to the creativity, ambition and productivity of the organization, its mission, its staff, Board and exceptional partners and collaborators.

Beyond DRC's artistic and curation abilities, the organization has the capacity to promote events widely across SoCal via DRC's promotional platforms which include digital newsletters, community calendars and social media platforms, and via partners, which include but are not limited to Arts for LA, LA County Department of Arts and Culture and LA Commons.

The breath of our skillset and devotion to LA arts and culture can be seen via a few examples below.

We look forward to continuing the conversation and providing you with references and referrals should you want them.

GRAND AVE ARTS
ALL ACCESS

FREE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
GRANDAVEARTS.ORG



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Activations on Jerry Moss Plaza and at Gloria Molina Grand Park

LA Commons and Dance Resource Center Presents *Procession: Community Movement Through Time and Place*, in partnership with The Music Center

Art Exhibition: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Ribbon Art Activity: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Communal Procession and Dance Party: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Experience a celebration in Los Angeles with an outdoor exhibition at The Music Center, featuring vibrant artwork by L.A.-based artists paired with a dance performance by *Tropicaleiza*. Participants are also invited to a free ribbon wand-making activity, a community procession and dance party.

Presented by [Dance Resource Center](#) and [LA Commons](#), in partnership with The Music Center.

[VIEW FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS](#)



The Music Center's

ON THE RECORD VINYL FAIR



MAY 17 JERRY MOSS PLAZA
4-8 P.M. AT THE MUSIC CENTER

Featuring: Record Vendors, Art Making,
Live DJs, a Sound Bath and More!

OUR PARTNERS:



Arts
Education
Branch





Shine A Light

Date: December 20, 2022 12:00 pm

Location: Virtual

What we create, perform and teach stems from the essence of who we are and what we experience.

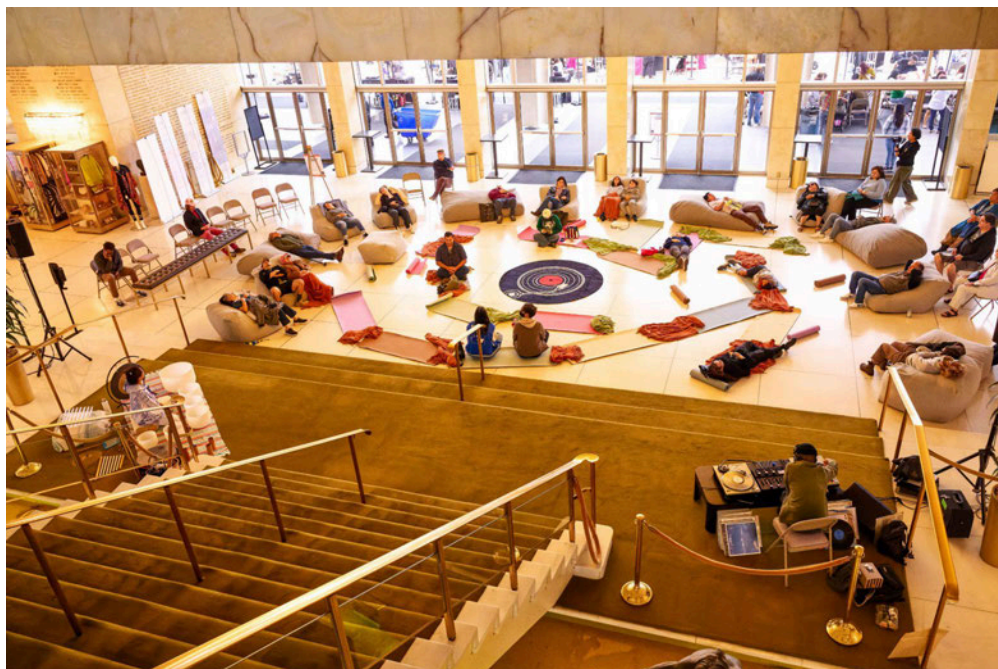
For many of us our neshama – our soul – guides us on our journey. Our ancient to modern day story, and our Jewish identity, so often intertwined in our art and/or our actions.

Let us reflect, share, connect, celebrate, and strengthen community and our resilience.

Join DRC in creating an affinity space for Jewish dancers, dance makers, educators, administrators and allies.

Let's nosh (nashn) virtually together on the second day of Channukah!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Zetz Klezmer Ensemble

Letter of Interest

Arts Programming in May 2026 in Celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month

December 14, 2025

Dear City of West Hollywood Arts Division,

Zetz Klezmer Ensemble is interested in presenting a fun and engaging **Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Workshop & Performance** that would bring the West Hollywood community together in a shared music and dance experience to create stronger connections, cultural understanding, unity and trust for all members of this community. We will explore Jewish American music that roots to Central and Eastern European klezmer repertoire with a focus in music for festivities, as well as various other styles such as Yiddish folk, swing and vaudeville songs and original songs. This project will be led by clarinetist and educator, Christin Hablewitz, along with Diane Demetras, (violin & vocals), Larry Garf (accordion & piano), Andrew Lipow (mandolin & guitar), Marc Doten (bass), and Dave Boesch (drums & percussion). The overall budget for a one day event of this scope is \$5500.

At the pre-show 2 hour **music workshop and dance component** participants will learn what klezmer music is, in its historical and cultural context. Participants will learn concepts of Jewish culture and history through music and dance and gain an appreciation for the cultural context of the music. The instrumentalists will learn to play three klezmer songs that will be performed at the concert with Zetz Klezmer Ensemble. The dance component will include an invited Jewish dance instructor to lead those interested (including the musicians in the workshop), to learn Jewish dance traditions while Zetz Klezmer plays the danceable tunes. No prior dance training required. This multigenerational workshop will be open to people of all ages, nationalities, genders, and religious affiliations - all are welcomed. Our approach is non-religious and non-political. We want to provide a new musical perspective, create artistic awareness and appreciation, and share the enjoyment of playing and dancing to klezmer music for a global, mixed-gender, ageless community! West Hollywood is a particularly attractive place for us to present this music because of the rich diversity of cultures that converge there - the Russian community, the LGBTQ community, singles and families, young and old, all living within 1.9 square miles of each other!

The **performance component** will be open to the public. Zetz Klezmer Ensemble will present a 90 minute show which weaves together stories, jokes and cultural elements along with our original and traditional songs including, *Odessa Bulgar*, *Yiddish 101*, *Laments & Zetz*, *A Maydele Fun Poltava* and *Rozhinkes Mit Mandeln*. We also will incorporate the participants of the workshop into the performance by collectively performing the songs they learned during the workshop all together in special moments in the performance. Zetz Klezmer Ensemble has been performing concerts across California for over ten years and recently has branched off to do workshops along with their concerts that help engage, educate and build community. On November 9, 2025 we successfully completed our first workshop and concert program through the City of Burbank Community Arts Grant Program. We would love to bring this program to West Hollywood! We had an amazing time performing in the City of West Hollywood Winter

Sounds program to a full audience (STO) in 2018 and we would love to bring our music back to West Hollywood.

We believe klezmer is an important musical style that opens the door to music rich with energy and emotion that is truly universal. It captures the poignancy and fragility of life while, at the same time, emphasizes its joys and triumphs through evolving storytelling with historical context. A klezmer 'revival' began in the USA in the 1970s with musicians such as Andy Statman, the Klezmer Conservatory Band and Brave Old World and has since grown into a vibrant global scene. It surprises us that in every performance we do there are people who have never heard or experienced klezmer music and we would love to change that and continue to share this beautiful and important music with all of the citizens of West Hollywood.

Sincerely,

Diane Demetras
Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Member

www.zetzklezmer.com

Insurance:

If we are awarded a grant for the May 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month, we will procure insurance for the group at that time.

About Zetz Klezmer Ensemble:

Zetz, which means to jab or poke (physically or verbally) in Yiddish, is an energetic, entertaining ensemble that charms audiences across all age groups. Their music is firmly based in klezmer traditions of Eastern European Jews, but also draws inspiration from across the world. These creative musicians weave the intimacy of European chamber music together with the infectious fun and entertainment of a dance band. They perform music ranging from originals composed by their own band members to Arabic and Turkish folk songs from the 15th century, to Jewish wedding standards to popular Yiddish vaudeville music of the 1920s and '30s. They have performed throughout Southern California including Skirball Cultural Center, Brand Library Concert Series, West Hollywood Summer Sounds Series, Beverly Hills Concerts on Cañon and BH Farmer's markets and more!

Zetz Klezmer Members & Contractors:

Christin Hablewitz (clarinet/composer/arranger/educator) is passionate in her efforts to expand the repertoire to meet our ever-evolving global society and America's hybridization of it all. Christin is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts with a M.F.A. in clarinet performance, along with a M.A. in Creativity & Arts Education from San Francisco State University and B.A. in Music Education from Northern Illinois University. Music education is a constant in Christin's life and she has taught students from beginners to advanced players. For the Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Workshop & Performance, Christin serves as the lead artist which includes grant management, project planning and facilitation, marketing, music preparation and evaluation.

Diane Demetras (violin/vocal) has a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from USC and has soloed with LA Master Chorale, LAMC Opera and has had leading roles at small regional companies throughout California (Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Riverside, San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival). She has also been a violinist for most of her life, playing mostly chamber music in and around Los Angeles. Making music with Zetz Klezmer offers the wonderful opportunity to both sing and play traditional melodies and original compositions rooted in old-world traditions. For this project, Diane will help teach any violin and vocal participants in the workshop and perform on violin and vocals for the performance.

Larry Garf (accordion/piano/composer/educator) is a lifelong student—and ardent fan—of klezmer music. His paternal grandparents, Eastern European immigrants, were klezmer musicians who taught him to appreciate the zest and beauty of this art form. In addition to playing the classic klezmer repertoire, he composes original klezmer pieces for Zetz. Larry is also a jazz pianist, specializing in ragtime, early blues, and vintage jazz. A classic cinema fan, he accompanies silent movies, specializing in the movies of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. For this project Larry will teach piano or accordion participants in the workshop and he serves as Zetz Klezmer main MC, accordionist and storyteller during the performance.

Andrew Lipow (mandolin/guitar/composer) is a film and television composer based in Los Angeles, California. Andrew is an accomplished musician, songwriter, arranger and producer. Andrew's television credits include Emmy Award winning shows on MTV, VH1, and CNBC as well as movies and TV shows on Hallmark, Discovery ID, TLC, HLN and the BBC. Andrew performs jazz guitar with his one trio and klezmer music with Zetz. For this project Andrew will teach any mandolin and guitar participants and perform with Zetz in the performance component.

Marc Doten (bass/keyboards)

Los Angeles native Marc Doten is a multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, and producer. He's worked with folk greats Chris Darrow and Stuart Brotman, was a member of Avaz Folk Ensemble, and co-founded the eclectic combos Hollow Log and Double Naught Spy Car. He is a working Los Angeles area musician who plays upright bass and keyboards for Zetz Klezmer. He brings a deep love and expertise of folk and acoustic music to the klezmer genre.

Dave Boesch (drums and percussion), a professional percussionist with over 40 years of experience in live and recording performance. David has played many styles of music which include celtic , American rudimental, rock, jazz, klezmer, and middle eastern music. David enjoys performing, recording many styles of music with hopes of enhancing people's lives through music!

Other Members and contractors include:

Denise Leitner (dance leader)

Denise has had a long career as a prominent dance teacher and performer. She has had the honor to be a faculty member at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles High School for the Arts, Edge Performing Arts Center, Santa Monica College, UCLA and most recently as Director of Dance at Mayfield Senior School. She also had the opportunity to teach Israeli folk dance at Temple Beth Hillel and choreograph for Milken Community Schools. Denise has traveled to Europe, Japan and across the US conducting master classes. She is now preparing for a concert that will be presented in Los Angeles in summer 2026.

Marcel Indik, Photography and Video

Joel Lipton, Photography and Video

Zetz Klezmer Ensemble References

(1) **Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Workshop & Performance**

- A. City of Burbank Community Arts Cultural Grant Program
Salit Conservatory of Music, 1001 W Riverside Dr, Burbank, CA 91506
- B. November 9, 2025 - Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Workshop & Performance explored music that roots to Central and Eastern European Jewish klezmer traditions. In the multigenerational workshop participants learned to play and sing 3 klezmer tunes and performed with the Zetz Klezmer Ensemble in the culminating free public concert.
- C. One day event: Workshop 1.5 hour, 2-3:430 and Performance 1.5 hour - 4-5:30pm
- D. Erin Barrows
Recreation Services Manager City of Burbank | Parks and Recreation
[REDACTED] | EBarrows@BurbankCa.gov

(2) **Zetz Klezmer Ensemble Performance**

- A. Villa Gardens Senior Center
- B. Performance with audience participation including Jewish stories and history
- C. Three separate concerts - November 7, 2024, June 2024, December 4, 2025 - 7:15-8:15pm concert combining Jewish stories in with the music.
- D. Katherine Custodio, Life Enrichment Director
KCUSTODIO@frontporch.net
Tel: [REDACTED]

(3) **City of Beverly Hills**

- A. Performances for the Jewish American Heritage month celebration. Zetz played during customer shopping at the BH Farmer's Market from 9am-12pm and then helped to give comments on the winning kugel!
- B. Two events - May 5, 2024, and May 14, 2023 - 9am-12pm each day
- C. *Paul Paolone* | Senior Recreation Supervisor City of Beverly Hills
Direct line: [REDACTED] | Main office: [REDACTED] | ppaolone@beverlyhills.org

Pictures from events:

<https://www.zetzklezmer.com/photos-1>





