

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



**PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING AGENDA PACKET
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 – 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, March 12, 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, March 12, 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 January 8, 2026 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.

B. **WeHo Reads 2025 Final Report** (Page. 7)

The Subcommittee will receive a final report on the 2025 WeHo Reads series.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file report on the 2025 WeHo Reads series.

C. **Drag Story Hour 2025 Mid-Program Report** (Page. 19)

The Subcommittee will receive a mid-program report on the 2025 Drag Story Hour series.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the mid-program report on the 2025 Drag Story Hour series.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Free Theatre In The Parks 2026** (Page. 23)

The Subcommittee will receive a presentation from staff and consider approving The Queen's Fools to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2026 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve The Queen's Fools to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2026 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

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 April 9, 2026 meeting agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee will adjourn to its meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 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, January 8, 2026, 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 Mito Aviles
Commissioner Sigourney Gunther
Subcommittee Chair Heather Allyn

Absent: None

Staff: Director of Economic Development Laura Biery
Arts Specialist/Acting Recording Secretary Joy Tribble
Arts Coordinator Michael Che

D. Approval of the Agenda – Move 3A to consent

Approval of the Agenda was motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Aviles and approved unanimously.

E. Approval of the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes

Approval of the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes was motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Aviles 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 Aviles 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. Arts Grant Program – 2027 Arts Grant Guidelines

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:

Recommended 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. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

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

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the proposals received for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage 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 Dance Resource Center for the 2026 Jewish American Heritage Month Arts Programming. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther seconded by Commissioner Aviles and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS None.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR None.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE

Commissioner Aviles and Subcommittee Chair Allyn requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Black and Brown communities impacted by ICE raids, and in memory of Renee Nicole Good.

Commissioner Aviles also requested that an item be agendized to explore increasing grant amounts.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Arts Coordinator Michael Che announced that City Poet Laureate Jen Cheng will read a poem at the Mayoral Installation on Monday, January 12, 2026, at the City Council Chambers; the event includes a reception which will take place inside the library where there are currently several art exhibits including Heart of WeHo and Angel of Compassion.

Acting Recording Secretary/Arts Specialist Joy Tribble announced that the Winter Sounds series will begin on January 24, 2026, at Live at The Sun Rose at the Sun Rose Hotel, followed by concerts on February 7, 2026, and concluding on February 21, 2026. She also shared that the Theatre in the Parks RFP closes on February 2, 2026.

Director of Economic Development Laura Biery announced that David Wilson has officially retired and that Jackie Rocco has been appointed as the new City Manager.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee adjourned in memory of Renee Nicole Good at 5:18 p.m. to its meeting scheduled Thursday, February 12, 2026 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 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

HEATHER ALLYN
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

ATTEST:

DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY

PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MARCH 12, 2026
CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT: **WEHO READS 2025 FINAL REPORT**

INITIATED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**

Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager

Michael Che, Arts Coordinator

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Subcommittee will receive a final report on the 2025 WeHo Reads series.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the final report on the 2025 WeHo Reads series.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

WeHo Reads is a literary series featuring noteworthy authors of interest to the West Hollywood community which has been presented by the City of West Hollywood's Arts Division since 2014.

In 2021, the City began working with an outside producer which has led to increased capacity to promote the events and engage with attendees, streamlined contracting and paying authors, smoother event management, and easier ability to experiment with new marketing strategies. BookSwell/Cody Sisco currently serves as the City's producer for WeHo Reads and has been a beneficial partner for the City of West Hollywood.

In 2025, the City presented 6 WeHo Reads events. Overall, online viewership post event remains consistently high, and participant and audience feedback is enthusiastic.

Some new changes implemented in 2025 include:

- Enabling the audience chat and engaging more with audience members who attend live. Most of the Audience 'Testimonials' in the Final Report are drawn from the live event chats.
- Utilizing local authors as micro-influencers to help promote the events, partnering with local book clubs, and retaining audience through additional reading lists and discussion guides.

BookSwell/Cody Sisco, in coordination with city staff, has prepared a final report, Attachment A, covering the events of the 2025 WeHo Reads season which includes:

- a summary of the programming and artwork for the events
- audience/viewership numbers for each event (as of January 7, 2026)
- testimonials from participants and attendees
- a summary of promotional efforts and press releases
 - this includes metrics on the new 'influencer' strategy
- budget notes

The 2026 WeHo Reads season began in February:

- February 18, 2026 – Telling Family Secrets - featuring Toni Ann Johnson, Aimee Liu, Juanita E. Mantz (JEM), and Hannah Sward – 767 event views as of 3/2/26.
- March 11, 2026 - Writing Together – Pomodoros, Marinara, and Friendship – featuring Jade Chang, Angela Flournoy, Aja Gabel, Jean Chen Ho, and Xuan Juliana Wang. As of the date of publication of this staff report, the event has not yet occurred.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A: 2025 WeHo Reads Final Report



BOOK SWELL

LITERARY EVENTS AND MEDIA

WeHo Reads 2025 “Imagination and Advocacy” Final Report

This report presents data and feedback on events in the 2025 WeHo Reads series.

THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

POWER AND PROGRESS

During Black History Month



ANGELA FRANKLIN JENISE MILLER PAM WARD ROMAINE WASHINGTON

FEB. 26 6:30-8:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

FEMINISM AND FEARLESSNESS

During Women's History Month



KATYA APEKINA OLGA GARCIA ECHEVERRIA ANGELINA SAENZ KATE STAYMAN-LONDON

MARCH 19 6:30-8:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

RICHARD BLANCO AND KIM DOWER

In Conversation During National Poetry Month



RICHARD BLANCO KIM DOWER

APRIL 16 6:30-8:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

VOICES OF TRANSFORMATION



CARLOS ALLENDE GINA RAE DURAN DAN LOPEZ MYRIAM BURBA

OCTOBER 8 6:30-8:00 PM
WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
825 N. SAN VICENTE BLVD. / WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

WILD AND POWERFUL IMAGINATIONS



CHARLIE JANE ANDERS TUCK WOODSTOCK M.M. OLIVAS

NOV. 12 6:30-8:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS:
WEHO READS 2025

GOING DARK TO BRING LIGHT



JENNIFER J. CHOW TORI ELDRIDGE NICHOLAS GEORGE GEORGIA JEFFRIES

DEC. 3 6:30-8:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE



@wehocity @wehoarts
weho.org/wehoreads



Programming

WeHo Reads: Power and Progress during Black History Month

Feb. 26 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PST (online)

The series opener for WeHo Reads 2025 featured **Angela M. Franklin**, whose poetry and essays confront topics often left unspoken and who recently won an Honorable Mention Award from the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Contest for her poem "Unbroken Habit"; **Jenise Miller**, a Pushcart-nominated poet and author of *The Blvd*, whose work explores intersectional history and geography; **Pam Ward**, a California Arts Council Literary Fellow and author of *Want Some Get Some*, *Bad Girls Burn Slow*, and *Between Good Men & No Man At All*; **Romaine Washington**, editor of *These Black Bodies Are... A Blacklandia Anthology* and author of the poetry mini-memoir *Purgatory Has an Address* and the activist collection *Sirens in Her Belly*, and special guest **Reggie Myles**, whose family was impacted by the fires and who is working with the Pasadena Black Equity Project, which is a community-based organization that organizes a network of resources for Black Pasadena residents through mutual aid funding, community archiving, and political education.

WeHo Reads: Feminism and Fearlessness During Women’s History Month

March 19 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PDT (online)

As part of Women’s History Month, this literary reading and panel discussion explored feminism and bold creative expression and featured **Katya Apekina**, an award-winning novelist, screenwriter, and translator, whose second novel, *Mother Doll*, was named a Best Book of 2024 by Vogue; **Olga García Echeverría**, a bilingual poet and cultural archivist whose work amplifies queer and feminist voices, including her stewardship of the literary legacy of lesbian Colombian writer Tatiana de la Tierra; **Angelina Sáenz**, an award-winning educator, poet, and author of *Waiting for Luna* and two poetry collections, *Edgecliff* and *Maestra*; and **Kate Stayman-London**, the bestselling author of *One to Watch* and *Fang Fiction*, a screenwriter, and a political strategist.

WeHo Reads: Richard Blanco and Kim Dower in Conversation

April 16 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PDT (online)

An inspiring National Poetry Month discussion between two celebrated poets whose work explores the intersection of identity, culture, and human connection. The event featured **Richard Blanco**, the fifth Presidential Inaugural Poet, selected by President Obama, a National Humanities Medal recipient, and a poet, memoirist, advocate, and author of *How To Love a Country* and *Homeland of My Body*, and **Kim Dower**, former City Poet Laureate of West Hollywood, and author of six acclaimed poetry collections—including her newest, *What She*

Wants, Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair, Euphoria as well as the bestselling *I Wore This Dress Today for You*.

WeHo Reads: Voices of Transformation

Oct. 8 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PDT (in person at the City of West Hollywood Library)

This event brought together poets and authors with queer and marginalized perspectives on the transformative power of literature and featured **Gina Rae Duran**, interdisciplinary artist, trauma-informed educator, and editor of *The White Picket Fence: Stories of Individuality as Rebelliousness* anthology, forthcoming from FlowerSong Press; **Carlos Allende**, educator and author of *Coffee, Shopping, Murder, Love and Love, or the Witches of Windward Circle*; **Myriam Gurba**, activist and author of several books including *Poppy State: A Labyrinth of Plants and a Story of Beginnings*; and **Dan López**, editor and author of *The Show House*, named a Best Book of 2016 by Chicago Review of Books, and *Part the Hawser, Limn the Sea*.

WeHo Reads: Wild and Powerful Imaginations

Nov. 12 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PST (online)

This event brought together three groundbreaking trans authors whose work expands the horizons of speculative fiction, journalism, and cultural commentary and featured **Charlie Jane Anders**, award-winning author of *Lessons in Magic and Disaster*, a new novel about a trans witch who teaches her mother magic; **M. M. Olivas**, a trans, Xicanxfuturist, author of *Sundown in San Ojuela*, and alumna of the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers’ Workshop and the Lambda Literary Workshop; and **Tuck Woodstock**, host of the celebrated Gender Reveal podcast and the editor of both the Lambda Literary Award-winning *2 Trans 2 Furious: An Extremely Serious Journal of Transgender Street Racing Studies* and the upcoming anthology *Sex Change and the City*.

WeHo Reads: Going Dark to Bring Light

Dec. 3 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm PST (online)

This event brought together four writers to explore dark themes in fiction and to shed light on humanity’s capacity for grace and terrible crimes and featured **Jennifer Chow**, Lefty-Award nominee and author of the Magical Fortune Cookie novels, L.A. Night Market Mysteries, and Sassy Cat series; **Tori Eldridge**, author of *Kaua’i Storm* and the Lily Wong Thrillers—nominated for the Anthony, Lefty, and Macavity Awards and winner of the 2021 Crimson Scribe for Best Book of the Year; **Nicholas George**, author of the A Walk Through England mystery series; and **Georgia Jeffries**, USC School of Cinematic Arts professor and award-winning author of *The Younger Girl*, a Midwest noir based on a true crime of family murder and betrayal that crosses three generations.

Audience

Event Name	Date	Eventbrite RSVPs	In-Person Audience	Live Online Audience*	YouTube Replays**	Total Audience
Power and Progress During Black History Month	2/26	84	N/A (online event)	72	9,922	9,994
Feminism and Fearlessness During Women’s History Month	3/19	46	N/A (online event)	34	4,013	4,047
Richard Blanco and Kim Dower in Conversation During National Poetry Month	4/16	72	N/A (online event)	54	9,912	9,966
Voices of Transformation	8/6	31	20	N/A (in-person event)	N/A (no video online)	20
Wild and Powerful Imaginations	11/12	39	(online event)	26	10,159	10,185
Going Dark to Bring Light	12/3	17	(online event)	15	9,228	9,243

* The live online audience number is calculated by adding unique viewers from Zoom and peak concurrent viewers on YouTube.

** The number of YouTube replays is as of Jan. 7, 2026.

Watch the recordings here:

- 2/26 WeHo Reads: Power and Progress During Black History Month
<https://www.youtube.com/live/vytRTGNzfzA?si=MItZM3gF4tTQAXC4>
- 3/19 WeHo Reads: Feminism and Fearlessness During Women’s History Month
<https://www.youtube.com/live/iPDq5iNSA34?si=ikk4ecfYtuaIcTef>
- 4/16 WeHo Reads: Richard Blanco and Kim Dower in Conversation During National Poetry Month
<https://www.youtube.com/live/Hl4WxKnpY0M?si=jrtXvHBZgPKrbsIP>
- 11/12 WeHo Reads: Wild and Powerful Imaginations
<https://www.youtube.com/live/7Mt4KAUwn0E?si=x84xJZ1wwF1Y9lOI>
- 12/3 WeHo Reads: Going Dark to Bring Light
https://www.youtube.com/live/2U2sn_64DAg?si=8kD78A3nvx5trzyL

Testimonials

The feedback on the series and each event has been overwhelmingly positive, with many comments thanking the City, the readers, and the producer during and after the events. Below is a selection of comments from writers who participated in the events:

Participating Writers

Hearing everyone's poems and experiences was a balm tonight. It was an honor to share this space with you. Would love to do it again :) —Jenise Miller

What a wonderful reading. I would love to read with you all again. That was really, really good. I really appreciated you holding space for all of us. —Pam Ward

It was a wonderful experience and I'm grateful for the opportunity. Each one of them brought their unique flavor and perspective. I'm grateful for the experience. Thanks again for the amazing opportunity. It was a pleasure participating with wonderful poets. —Angela M. Franklin

Thank you for inviting me. It means a lot to me. It was a wonderful experience. —Angelina Sáenz

Thank you so much for including me in yesterday's event and for asking such smart and thoughtful questions! What a fun night! —Katya

I think that was one of the best events ever! It felt so good doing it. I feel refreshed and charged, too!! It was so much fun!! —Kim Dower

Audience

Angela 🥰🥹👏 that poem “what did we do?” — resonates with my experience of my Latino grand folks. Stunning, Jenise. Poets, you are all amazing. Thank you so much for sharing your work with us. And thank you for making it! —Lorinda Toledo

❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️ —Leydi F

Beautiful and powerful 🙏 —Lupe

Loved, Jenise! I rejoiced in your poetry, Romaine. Thank you, Angela, Jenise, Romaine, Pam, Reggie, and Cody! —Dana Weekes

That brought back memories! —LC

Love it, Pam!!! —Lynne Thompson

Love it !!!!! Powerful Reggie so proud as always !!!!! —Lupe

Very powerful, loved your words and delivery ❤️🌹 You all's stories and words were very inspiring, thank you all for sharing! —AYANAH D SHABAZZ

AMAZING WORK!! —Sierra Moore

Thank you for sharing, Reggie 🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝 Thank you all for this bounty of love!
—Penelope

My heart is full with all these beautiful readings! Thank you, Angela, Jenise, Pam, Romaine, and Reggie. Damn, what a great night! 🤝🤝🤝🌹 —liz gonzález

Thanks to all of you for sharing your talent with us. Awesome! ❤️ —Bennie

Thank you all. Each one of your voices- the depth and beauty of your creativity, your generosity of spirit and the strength of your words. I also feel so full now. What a gift! —Brenda Marie Yeager

Thank you, thank you. This has been empowering and I love it... thank you. —Sarah aka Juba

🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹 —Amy Shimshon-Santo

Kim's poems always hit the spot! —Tom

👏 Thanks to both poets for the poems and the insights! —Randal Mason

It was a great evening. Thank you! —Diana Rosen

Press mentions & clippings

Publicity for the WeHo Reads series included:

- A City of West Hollywood press release for WeHo Reads series, issued on March 3, highlights the WeHo Reads: Feminism and Fearlessness during Women’s History Month event on March 19
- A City of West Hollywood press release, issued on March 26, highlights the WeHo Reads: Richard Blanco and Kim Dower in Conversation During National Poetry Month event on April 16.
- A City of West Hollywood press release, issued on Oct. 2, highlights the WeHo Reads: Voices of Transformation event on Oct. 8

Promotional efforts

Information about each event is shared with our media partners, Book Soup and Los Angeles Review of Books, as well as literary organizations and writers groups, who help spread the word via their email and social media channels. Book Soup is the local bookstore partner for the series, makes books available for sale during in-person

events, and lists books by participating authors and poets on their website. They also post promotional posts for WeHo Reads events on their social media.

Event listings appear on Eventbrite, BookSwell’s Events Navigator, and the Poets & Writers Literary Calendar and California discussion board. Digital event posters are displayed via the City of West Hollywood’s digital bus shelters when feasible. The Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities, an intellectual center in the University of Southern California’s Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, shares event information with its 150+ fellows. Local literature-focused Facebook groups are also informed of events.

In the Fall of 2025, the LA County Library agreed to add promotions for WeHo Reads to its website.

The total number of people reached across all promotions includes:

- 208,333 impressions via Google Ads
- 35,300 views and 376 interactions via organic and sponsored posts on Facebook and Instagram
- 405 recipients via BookSwell’s email newsletter
- 214 via WeHo Arts Division’s Eventbrite list
- Approximately 7,000 via WeHo Arts Division’s email newsletter

BookSwell’s “Read Local” Initiative

Read Local is an audience engagement campaign in the design and prototyping phase created by BookSwell in 2025. Its purpose is to reach a wider audience and inspire them to step outside their reading bubble and support their local community by discovering authors in their own backyard. There are three components:

- Book Club Partnerships - Building on the growing popularity of book clubs, we’re partnering with virtual and in-person book clubs to add WeHo Reads authors to their 2025 reading list, offering book recs and discussion guides.
- Micro Influencer Partnerships - We’re collaborating with influential local readers to recommend WeHo Reads authors’ books on social media. Micro Influencers are incentivized through an honorarium dedicated to social justice initiatives.
- BookSwell’s “Book Club” Audience Retention - Read Local will maintain our new and returning audience by increasing the impact of WeHo Reads events through Book Club resources, such as reading lists and discussion guides.

Success Metrics: BookSwell’s Read Local campaign supports WeHo Reads by driving traffic to events and building an audience that stays engaged in future events. We will measure growth and retention using both quantitative metrics and qualitative impressions.

Figure 1: Read Local Initiative Metrics

Collaborator Tag	Views / Plays	Accounts Reached	Likes	Comments	Shares	Bookmarks / Saves	Interactions
https://www.instagram.com/bridgettebianca/	966	759	48	2	4	2	56
https://www.instagram.com/shondabuchanan/	222	176	10	2	0	1	13
https://www.facebook.com/shonda.buchanan/	268		30	5			
https://www.instagram.com/bottleandabook/	642	453	322	4	2	19	347
https://www.instagram.com/fromplanetrey/	209	170	13	2	2	1	18
https://www.instagram.com/writesinla/	339	253	25	1	0	1	27
https://www.instagram.com/lisbethcoiman/		50	5	2	2	0	9
https://www.instagram.com/losangelespoetsociety/	447	347	18	1	3	1	23
https://www.instagram.com/losangelespoetsociety/	215	145	9	1	3	0	13
https://www.instagram.com/losangelespoetsociety/	178	105	16	1	2	0	19
https://www.instagram.com/losangelespoetsociety/	838	406	37	5	7	2	51

Economic Impact

Honorariums

The total amount paid in honorariums to participating writers was \$6,050. Honorariums ranged from \$250 to \$400 per participant.

Charitable Contributions

Inspired by the advocacy work of participating writers, BookSwell made charitable contributions totaling \$1,671. Most of the charitable contributions were provided to non-profit organizations that primarily serve historically excluded and marginalized communities that focus on literature, accessibility, safety, and community building. A portion was also donated to the Eaton Fire recovery efforts. Recipients were selected by participating writers, following a nominating and vetting process run by BookSwell.

2025 Series Budget vs Total (12/31/25)

	Budgeted	Year-to-Date Actual
Revenue		
City of West Hollywood	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Poets & Writers	\$0	\$ 450
Total Revenue	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,450
Expenses		
Producer Payments ¹	\$ (17,000)	\$ (17,000)
Honorariums for Participants	\$ (6,150)	\$ (6,050)
Advertising ²	\$ (4,215)	\$ (1,601)
Publicity	\$ (2,000)	\$ (3,921)
Graphic Design	(2,000)	\$ (2,000)
Technical Costs	\$ (2,101)	\$ (1,171)
Insurance	\$ (1,600)	\$ (1,413)
Charitable Donations	-	\$ (1,670)
Food and Beverage	\$ (650)	\$ (806)
Total Expenses	\$ (35,716)	\$ (35,632)

Notes:

1. Producer payments are estimated and allocated on a per-event basis.
2. Estimated expenses for the Read Local initiative were budgeted under Advertising, whereas actual payments are classified as Charitable Contributions.

PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MARCH 12, 2026
CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT: **DRAG STORY HOUR 2025 MID-PROGRAM REPORT**

INITIATED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**

Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager

Michael Che, Arts Coordinator

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Subcommittee will receive a mid-program report on the 2025 Drag Story Hour series.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the mid-program report on the 2025 Drag Story Hour series.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Drag Story Hour is a series of story time readings by drag performers for children of all ages presented by the City of West Hollywood in partnership with the LA County Library's West Hollywood Library. The program aims to create a safe and welcoming space for children and their families to explore the beauty of diversity, acceptance, and self-expression. Drag Queen Story Hour was created by Michelle Tea and RADAR Productions in San Francisco in 2015.

In 2017, the city presented Drag Queen Story Hour at the LA County Public Library, West Hollywood branch. The program was the first Drag Queen Story Hour to take place in the LA County Library system. The city initially worked directly with Michelle Tea and Michael Roybal-Gonzales to produce the series.

In 2019, the city worked with Pickle the Drag Queen and Drag Arts Lab to produce the series. In 2022, the Drag Queen Story Hour was officially renamed Drag Story Hour and incorporated as a 501(c) non-profit organization. In 2024, at its October 24 meeting, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved the Library Cultural Programming Committee's recommendation to execute a 2-year contract with Drag Arts Lab to produce the series.

In 2025, the city, in partnership with Drag Arts Lab and the LA County Public Library, West Hollywood branch, presented 6 Drag Story Hours. Drag Arts Lab has prepared a

2025 Mid-Program Report for year one of its two-year contract, Attachment A. Attendance remains consistently high, from 47 to 101 people. And, all drag readers undergo background security screening, a requirement from the LA County Library.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A: 2025 Drag Story Hour Mid-Program Report

Mid-Program Report, Drag Story Hour 2025/2026

Introduction

Drag Story Hour is a program collaboration between the City of West Hollywood, Drag Arts Lab and the LA County Library. Drag Story Hour is a bi-monthly program that encourages youth and families to explore the joys of drag, self-expression and reading through an interactive storytime with a drag performer. This report represents data collected in 2025 for the first year of this two year contract.



Overview

The program has continued to receive positive feedback and a number of regular returnees. Participants have praised the interactive aspects of the program, as well as given individual positive feedback to the performers.

Notable Testimonial Highlights

A child was brought by his mother, who expressed to Tony Soto that he had been wanting to dress up but had been discouraged by his father. She wanted him to come and see that dress up can be fun and celebrated. He had a great time, took photos with Tony and got to ask questions and speak with Tony.

Children continue to enjoy the drag puppet craft following the performance.

Date	Performer	Total Attendees	Kids	Teens	Adults
February 8, 2025	Miss Barbie-Q	94	44	0	50
April 5, 2025	Queen Angelina	75	34	0	41
June 14th, 2025	Pickle	59	26	1	32
August 2, 2025	Odious Ari	77	34	0	43
October 4, 2025	Tony Soto	101	44	0	57
December 6, 2025	Ally Meda	47	19	0	28

Data Summary Analysis

Slight decline in total average event attendance in 2025, but interestingly average child attendance remained almost exactly the same.

Avg **adults: 69 → 41** (decline) Children per event: **34 → 33** (stable)

Given that we have many regulars, this could actually reflect that families are coming as one parent with children as opposed to both parents.

Key takeaways

The program is consistent, but there is room for a little growth in attendance.

The program continues to be high-impact for youth. Children are excited to engage and are not tired of returning.

PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MARCH 12, 2026
NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: **FREE THEATRE IN THE PARKS 2026**

PREPARED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**

Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager

Joy Tribble, Arts Specialist

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Subcommittee will receive a presentation from staff and consider approving The Queen's Fools to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2026 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve The Queen's Fools to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2026 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for Free Theatre in the Parks was released on September 5, 2025 and the deadline to apply was February 2, 2026. The city received fourteen (14) proposals from fourteen (14) organizations. Staff conducted an initial review of the proposals taking into consideration the selection criteria defined in the RFP. The Queen's Fools submitted an outstanding proposal, demonstrating strong artistic merit, a qualified production team, and a budget aligned with program guidelines for the 2026 season of Free Theatre in the Parks to be presented in September 2026 in Kings Road Park, Attachment A. All fourteen applications are included as Attachment B.

HISTORY OF FREE THEATRE IN THE PARKS PROGRAM

The Free Theatre in the Parks program was originally presented as a free Shakespeare in the Parks program from 2006-2012. In 2013, the City initiated an open call, request for

proposals, for free theatre in the parks and presented three (3) productions, including one indoor production as a pilot. Upon conclusion of the 2013 Season, the Subcommittee, upon staff's recommendation, agreed that indoor productions were not appropriate for the Free Theatre program due to the fact that the city did not have a proper theatre facility.

In 2014, the program was renamed Free Theatre in the Parks. During the 2014 and 2015 seasons the City presented three (3) productions by three different theatre companies. Upon conclusion of the 2015 season, the Subcommittee, upon staff's recommendation, agreed that providing support for multiple projects at multiple venues was not sustainable and it was not recommended to continue with this strategy. For the 2016 season, the City presented one (1) production of the Free Theatre in the Parks Program from September to October.

In 2017 and 2018, in lieu of the traditional Free Theatre in the Parks, the Commission approved a one-time project Señor Plummer's Final Fiesta, a site specific, multidisciplinary production. The production was workshopped in 2017 and performed in a full production in Great Hall in Plummer Park from October to November 2018. The production was also supported with an NEA Grant.

In 2019, the City presented one (1) production of the Free Theatre in the Parks Program from July to August.

In 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency, staff redirected the in-person theatre program to virtual presentations. The City presented two (2) virtual theatre productions each year. In 2022, the City returned to in-person programming and presented one (1) production of the Free Theatre in the Parks Program in September 2022 - 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – The Queen's Fools Application for the 2026 Free Theatre in the Parks

Attachment B – 2026 Free Theatre in the Parks Applications

Monday, February 2, 2026



2026 Free Theatre in the Parks

(Application Deadline is February 2, 2026, at 5 p.m., PT)

The City of West Hollywood, through its Arts Division, is seeking proposals from arts organizations to present Free Theatre in the Parks in September 2026 at Kings Road Park (1000 Kings Road, West Hollywood, CA 90069). [Google Map](#)

A minimum of six (6) weekend performances will be presented outdoors in the park, in the late afternoon or early evening, and will feature material suitable for all audiences. The city will provide a green room for day-of use by the performers and two days of space at a city facility (up to 10 hours) for rehearsal, and one on-location tech rehearsal (up to 5 hours).

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend the Free Theatre in the Parks presentation of Pericles by Coeourage Ensemble, at Kings Road Park, at 4pm on weekends in September through September 21st to view the site.

The performance must be original material and/or the presenter must secure licensing. We are open to new productions or remounts of previous productions. The performances must be presented at no cost to the viewer, although donations may be accepted. Ideal performances for this program will not require intermission.

Performances with minimal stage settings, props, and costumes are encouraged. Applicants that require lighting, sound, and/or a stage should be prepared to provide their own equipment. The city does not have a secure location for overnight storage of costumes, lighting, or other production equipment in the park.

It is anticipated that all performances will take place in-person, outdoors, at a city park. If the City determines that outdoor events are not possible, all performances will move to an indoor venue at a city facility.

The City views this as a partnership with the producing arts organization. The selected organization will be primarily responsible for marketing and publicizing the performances through their networks. The arts organization will be responsible for the design of marketing materials, review and approval from the City, and distribution of all collateral and promotional materials. The city will promote the program through a press release, the Arts monthly newsletter, and social media.

The selected applicant is expected to maintain the insurance requirements listed in the agreement, attached as [ATTACHMENT A](#).

CULTURAL EQUITY STATEMENT: The City of West Hollywood's Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission believe that all people in the City of West Hollywood have the right to celebrate and engage in meaningful and relevant arts and cultural experiences. Each member of the community should have access to the arts which reflect and nurture individual identities, affirm personal value, and foster belonging in the community. Arts and culture are foundational to quality of life and vibrant and resilient communities. Arts and culture have the power to enhance inclusion, engagement, and diversity, and contribute to positive outcomes across civic life. The right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community is recognized as a basic human right.

The Division and Commission's definition of diversity includes all ways in which people differ, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, education, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, geography, citizenship status, religion, language, physical appearance, and the intersection of these various identities.

The City of West Hollywood's Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adopted the Cultural Equity Statement in 2021. Read the full statement here: <https://www.weho.org/community/arts-and-culture/cultural-equity-statement>

ELIGIBILITY: Qualified arts organizations will have at least three (3) years of professional experience producing theatre performances. Applicants who live in West Hollywood and are performers of color, women, performers with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ performers are encouraged to apply. The City of West Hollywood elected and appointed officials, its employees, and their immediate family members are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION CRITERIA: The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of proposals submitted:

- **Artist Qualifications and Experience** including – the experience, body of work, and recognition of the arts organization, and the consistency of the qualifications with the proposed project. To the extent applicable, the arts organization's previous proven successful experience in creating, producing, or otherwise implementing projects like the one proposed.
- **Aesthetics** – Proposals will be evaluated on the design quality, potential visual enjoyment, innovation/risk in concept and technical approach, and prospective social interaction.
- **Diversity** – The Commission is committed to providing opportunities to artists who have not yet exhibited with the city. All ranges of artistic styles, and diversity of artists (gender, race and culture) are encouraged to ensure a balanced and interesting program.
- **Proposed Budget** – Proven successful experience working within a given budget. The requested budget should be approximately \$950-\$2,500 per performance based upon cast size and/or other artist-related costs. Applicants are welcome to seek additional funding resources to support the production.

SELECTION PROCESS: All applications will be evaluated on the completeness and quality of the content. Only those applications that provide complete information before the deadline will be considered for evaluation.

Each of the evaluation criteria listed above is critical. They are not of equal weight for evaluation and are not listed in order of priority.

The City may require additional information, and proposers agree to furnish such information. The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to award the contract to applicants who will best serve the interest of the city. The City reserves the right to recommend changes to any proposed project in an effort to maintain the highest quality and integrity.

The Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee of the City of West Hollywood's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will convene on February 12, 2026 to review applications and make recommendations. The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will convene on February 26, 2026 to review applications and consider recommendations. All applicants will be notified on March 2, 2026. The City will

issue a contract for services to the selected presenter with a defined scope of work.

Questions and related answers:

Is there an age requirement?

Our programs should be suitable for all ages. Does not have to be for children.

How detailed do the proposed programs have to be?

It is up to the applicant. Your proposal should be thorough, but concise.

Is there a preference in type of production?

No, we are open to all types of productions. However, because the setting will be outdoors in the park and must be suitable for all audiences, we tend to lean towards productions that are more lighthearted. Does not need to be for children specifically.

How much do you pay and when will we get payment?

The requested budget should be approximately \$950 - 2,500 per performance based upon cast size and/or other artist-related costs. The applicant will receive two payments. First payment (less \$2000) will be paid once all paperwork has been completed and insurance requirement has been fulfilled. And the second and final payment will be paid once we receive the final report.

What is the selection process? Are there any guidelines about this?

The Arts Commission will select the producer based on our selection criteria (listed above).

Please read the entire application before completion.

Please note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required responses.

Organization Information

Please answer the following questions about your organization.

Theatre Organization

The Queen's Fools

Organization Website

<https://www.thequeensfools.com/>

Organization Background: Provide a brief background summary of the organization, including mission and past projects or programs. (350 words max)

Founded in 2022 and debuting at Hollywood Fringe Festival with "Not Another Midsummer", The Queen's Fools is an award-winning theatre company specializing in irreverent comedies & metatheatrical mayhem. We blend classic storytelling with modern absurdity, inviting the audience into every disaster, secret, and delight. From Shakespearean breakdowns to puppet-fueled breakthroughs, no two nights are ever the same – and that's the point. We believe theatre should be alive, unpredictable, and a little unhinged.

Revered for our unique ability to step into any space and make it our own and to flip expectations right on their heads, we were awarded for 'Subverting Expectations' in 2024 and 'Best Use of Space' in 2025 at the Los Angeles Immersive Invitational. The Queen's Fools show 'HAG' was also chosen as No Proscenium's "Favorite Show of the Year", which ran in the fall of 2025 to a sold-out crowd.

Has your organization performed in West Hollywood before?

No

Applicant Information

Contact Person

Kristin Childers

Title

Executive Creative Producer/Co-Founder

E-mail

thequeensfools@gmail.com

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Proposed Performance Information

Please address the following questions. This section is vital for the City to understand your organization so please be thorough in your descriptions.

Title of Proposed Production:

Not Another Midsummer

Author of Proposed Production:

Mason Conrad & Morgan Taylor

Director of Proposed Production:

Mason Conrad

Full Production Description (Please be thorough in your description):

Blending "The Play That Goes Wrong" with "A Midsummer Night's Dream", this play is about a chaotic travelling theatre troupe called The Queens Fools that comes to Kings Road Park to perform A Midsummer Night's Dream. Unfortunately, one of their tour buses got stuck in Yermo, CA - leaving the troupe without their set, their props, and half of their cast! Can you help them save the show?

Once the audience enters the park and gets seated, they will be greeted by a rather flustered park manager, who comes out to explain that the actors will not be able to make it to the park for the show, and that they are "so sorry for the inconvenience" when suddenly, the crowd hears a yell from afar. A group of actors dragging multiple trunks appears in the distance and they come running towards the crowd. The director of the company apologizes and tells the audience to give them 15 minutes to set up. What follows is a 15-minute INTERACTIVE moment where the actors will ask the audience to help them set up.

(organize props, hang flowers, and run lines) A few audience members will even be cast in the show as small parts with one line! During this time the actors will also be gossiping about the drama within the theatre company. Just like in "Midsummer" there are romantic tensions all over the cast. There is a real love triangle between the actors who play the lovers, the actors playing Hermia and Helena hate each other, the actors playing Titania and Oberon are married IRL and things are not going well; the actor playing Puck keeps trying to make an extra buck off of stolen goods, and the actor playing Bottom recently got kicked off a Broadway show, and he is NOT ok. Everything is set up to lead to disaster and then... the show starts. What follows is a delightful, farcical, and abbreviated production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Full of puppets, shoestring sets, and silly mistakes. An audience member plays Snug, the lion. The audience will pick up on little tensions rising amongst the cast until the lovers' brawl where the actors begin to actually fight, and the show breaks down to a full stop. Just when it seems like the show will not go on, the actor playing Bottom gives the group a rousing speech about the love of being an actor and the show finishes with the hilarious mechanical play within a play. (Or in our version, the play within the play within the play). The final moment of the show is a celebratory dance party (with the audience) to Cher's

"Believe".

The play is a love letter to the messy, yet rewarding process of making a play. Its goal is to create community with our audience and celebrate the art that we made together. We hope the audience feels that they were truly a part of our process as well. Our show could not exist without them.

Brief Production Description (Will be used in promotional materials) (350 words max):

The play follows a fictional troupe of actors who arrive disastrously late to their own performance, missing half their cast, most of their costumes, and nearly all of their dignity. As the audience becomes part of the action, the players scramble to assign roles, share backstage gossip, & pull together the performance in real time. When the troupe finally begins *Midsummer*, the lines between play and reality blur, off-stage drama invades the stage, and the audience finds themselves inside both the story and the spectacle. Will the show go on? Or will it break into pieces?

Have you ever produced an online production before?

Yes (If yes, please complete next question below)

Please list all and describe at least three performance experience within the last 5 years.

NOT ANOTHER MIDSUMMER (The Three Clubs in Hollywood, 2022; Thyme Arts, 2023)

*Nominated Best Immersive Show, Hollywood Fringe, 2022
Two Broadwayworld nominations, including Best Play, 2023

HAG (at New Musicals Inc., 2025)

In our Halloween show, HAG, our audiences fully stepped into the modern lives of the world's most (in)famous witches from "the scottish play" for this 35-minute show. The audience received an emailed "Craig's List" job to remove some squatters from an old theatre. After meeting with the clueless landlord in a dark alley, the audience found themselves in a tiny attic with the squatters, who turned out to be the weird sisters from *Macbeth*. The sisters refuse to leave the attic because they have something far sillier and more sinister in mind. This show was a blend of hilarious, scary, and heartwarming. An intimate show that not only sold out, but had an extensive waitlist.

*Nominated 14 times including Best Play & Favorite Theatre Company, Broadwayworld, 2025

"HAG is the best thing I've seen all year and the kind of piece that reminds me of WHY I started NoPro in the first place...HAG is perfect." – Noah Nelson, No Proscenium

DEVIL ON MY SHOULDER (Los Angeles Immersive Invitational, 2025)

Devil On My Shoulder follows the journey of a brooding singer-songwriter, Dingo Pocock. He has decided to come out of hiding to turn his difficult and dark life into a stage musical, but when Dingo travels to LA from Australia to see the musical and talk to press, he finds that the director has turned the dark show into a silly puppet jukebox musical. Dingo is furious. Right after Dingo sees the new adaptation, he enters the press conference with the director, lead actor, and lead puppet. The audience, cast as press, watches the drama unravel in real time as they ask questions to the creative team. This 10 minute piece was developed in less than 24 hours, featured 5 performers and performed 24 times in one day. Awarded "Best Use of Space" and was Runner-up for Audience Favorite.

"The effect of being 'on the other side' of a traditional theatrical space succeeded in upending our expectations and throwing us off balance for a roller coaster ride of silliness that was to come." -Art Beats LA

TO: PICKLE (Los Angeles Immersive Invitational, 2024)

A solo theatre artist attempts an immersive show about love, grief, and Appalachian myth – only for it to spiral into something stranger, blurring myth and memory.

*Awarded “Subverting Expectations”; Runner-up for Judge’s Favorite

Community outreach @ Belmont Village Senior Center, (Westwood 2023, 2024, 2025)

A cast of 4 Fools brought an evening full of sonnets, scenes, and bard libs to the Belmont Village Senior Center. We laughed, reminisced, and shared our favorite Shakespeare stories with the community.

Performance Samples

All applicants must provide at least 3 samples of past performances.

Performance Sample #1 <https://www.thequeensfools.com/not-another-midsummer>

Performance Sample #2 <https://www.thequeensfools.com/new-news>

Performance Sample #3 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kWA_0UWae2HGKC0JfmmAHJKGM8tpxSEk/view?usp=sharing

Audience Outreach

Marketing and Publicity: This project is marketed through City website and social media postings, and more regionally with media releases. It is expected that the producing organization play a significant role in marketing and publicizing the performances through their own networks.

How many potential audience members will you reach through your email list?

407 email subscribers, and 1080 instagram followers, we get a lot of reach via social with most posts averaging 4k views

Facebook Name: <https://www.facebook.com/thequeensfools?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Instagram Name: @thequeensfools

Twitter Name: na

Other: <https://www.thequeensfools.com/>

Proposal Cost

How much funding are you requesting from the City of West Hollywood? 16,800

Enter your projected EXPENSE figures for the project (cash). You must calculate and enter Total Project Expenses.

	Amount
Artist Fees	12000
Materials	2000

	Amount
Marketing/Publicity/Advertising	1500
*Other Expenses	1300
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	16800

***If other expenses were indicated, please provide a brief explanation:**

Covers our stage manager and insurance costs

Do you plan to receive any additional outside funding to support this project? If so, please list the projected source(s) and amount(s): na

Please enter the projected total of funds that will be utilized to present this production, including the City and outside funds: 16,800

Applicant Data Survey

This section is optional. These questions are for the primary or lead artist who will be creating the project. Individual responses to these questions are not shared during the application review. The information requested below is CONFIDENTIAL and will be used for internal purposes only to better capture and understand the population we serve. As such, the information you provide may be used in summary statistics.

What is the zip code of your primary residence? 90027

How did you learn about this art opportunity? (Select one.) From Friend Casey Kringlen

What is your age? (Select one.) 45-60

With which gender(s) do you identify with? (Select all that apply.) Female

Do you identify as LGBTQ+? (Select one.) No

Do you identify as a person with a disability? (Select one.) No

How do you identify? (Select all that apply.) White, Caucasian, European American

What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed? (Select one.) Graduate school or beyond [like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.]

Have you ever received funding, financial award, or commission from the City of West Hollywood's Arts Division? (Select one)

No

Attachment B – 2026 Free Theatre in the Parks Applications

Theatre Organization	Title of Proposed Production	Brief Production Description		Funding Requested from City	Total Budget
<p>Conundrum Theatre Company</p> <p>http://www.conundrumtheatreco.com</p>	<p>A Midsummer Night's Dream</p>	<p>It's the (mid) summer of love in West Hollywood! When the sun starts to set, the fairies and hippies come out onto the Sunset Strip creating mischief and mistaken identities. Immerse yourself alongside four lovers and a troupe of amateur drag artists as we navigate the backstage of a music festival during the height of the counter-culture movement!</p> <p>This production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" celebrates West Hollywood's history, diversity, and culture in a never before seen way! With live music, love, and a bit of magic, this is the perfect show for all.</p>	<p>www.fiona-burrows.com</p> <p>https://www.conundrumtheatreco.com/urinetown</p> <p>https://www.conundrumtheatreco.com/pastproductions</p>	<p>\$2,100</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>Theatre of NOTE</p> <p>http://www.theatreofnote.com</p>	<p>Theatre of NOTE's Casual Classical Presents TBD</p>	<p>The Theatre of NOTE “Casual Classical” project is an ultra-low-budget, plainclothes show created completely by the Theatre of NOTE membership ensemble. The show is funded by the Board of Directors and supported by use of at hand resources such as memberships’ own wardrobe, props, design talents, performance, and any other labor required for the piece. The play is a NOTE interpretation of a classical piece available in the public domain while utilizing our ensemble members who represent the diverse voices in the Hollywood area and in the greater Los Angeles area.</p>	<p>https://www.theatreofnote.com/bits/</p> <p>https://www.theatreofnote.com/tune-in/</p> <p>https://www.theatreofnote.com/ywp/</p>	<p>\$5,700</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>

<p>The Queen's Fools</p> <p>http://www.thequeensfools.com</p>	<p>Not Another Midsummer</p>	<p>The play follows a fictional troupe of actors who arrive disastrously late to their own performance, missing half their cast, most of their costumes, and nearly all of their dignity. As the audience becomes part of the action, the players scramble to assign roles, share backstage gossip, & pull together the performance in real time. When the troupe finally begins Midsummer, the lines between play and reality blur, off-stage drama invades the stage, and the audience finds themselves inside both the story and the spectacle. Will the show go on? Or will it break into pieces?</p>	<p>https://www.thequeensfools.com/not-another-midsummer</p> <p>https://www.thequeensfools.com/new-news</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kWA_0UWa_e2HGKC0JfmmAHJKGM8tpxSEk/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>\$16,800</p>	<p>\$16,800</p>
<p>Impro Theatre</p> <p>http://www.improtheatre.com</p>	<p>Jane Austen UnScripted</p>	<p>Impro Theatre creates completely improvised, full-length plays in the styles of the world's greatest playwrights, authors, and composers. Jane Austen wrote only six novels, but her wit and wisdom left readers pining for more. Whenever Impro Theatre performs Jane Austen UnScripted, it gives audiences a chance to imagine the other books she might have written. The Jane Austen UnScripted cast creates a world of love-struck girls, brooding gentlemen and charming cads, and although hearts are sure to be broken, true love will win out in the end. Impro Theatre cast members are Hollywood-based professional actors with decades of experience in theatre, television and film. With no pre-planning or prepared scenarios, the performers combine verbal dexterity and robust physicality to bring character and plot to</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/325209495/5060cab149?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/291407149?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/76113631/3461879dc9?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>

		life in an instant, making each Impro Theatre show unique and unlike any other theatrical experience.			
Ensemble Tenshi http://www.ensembletenshi.org	SHIZUKA	<p>"SHIZUKA" Synopsis: The civil war era in 12th Century Japan. Shizuka-Gozen is the most popular Shirabyoshi dancer (entertainer who serves the Gods) in Kyoto, the capital of Japan, where the gorgeous court aristocratic culture is flourishing. Shizuka meets Yoshitsune of Minamoto, the younger brother of the supreme leader of the Genji Samurai clan. Yoshitsune is a dashing war-hero who is taking Kyoto by storm. Shizuka is Kyoto's No.1 dancer of reputed beauty. They fall fatally in love. Winter of 1185, their love story follows a tragic path...</p> <p>"Shizuka" is a drama based upon a true beloved historical tale in Japan. This tragic love story is both unapologetically romantic and epic. Introducing the dramatic fate of bigger than life legendary historic characters in 12th century Japan to the audience in West Hoollywood. "Shizuka" will attract live audiences in Los Angeles. It presents the aesthetic charm of traditional Japanese costumes, mannerisms, Japanese classical dance, and fierce combat scenes with innovative modern theatrical design. It will be delivered with English dialogue by trained actors with diverse backgrounds in order for an American audience to viscerally feel the story. The perfect combination of glamorous exoticism and emotionally</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rywySlpj0Vc</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHO0zxzBsEc</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oNy3mn90LaXdye5aRDck376_YGpZyPYO/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105685955968148551546&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	\$17,000	\$26,000

		<p>heightened authentic powerful storytelling.</p> <p>Uniquely talented group of actors, martial artists, singers and a dancer will fill the stage of “SHIZUKA” and captivate the audience."</p>			
<p>The Actors' Gang</p> <p>http://www.theactorsgang.com</p>	<p>Shakespeare-in-the-Park WeHo</p>	<p>"The Actors' Gang brings Free Shakespeare in the Park for Families in WeHo.</p> <p>The Actors' Gang will continue its tradition of free theater in the park. Based on William Shakespeare's work and featuring our favorite modern characters.</p> <p>Adapted by Rynn Vogel and Directed by Adam Jefferis.</p>	<p>https://www.instagram.com/theactorsgang/reel/DM8BT-wRNUm/</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/reels/CvxV0m6rkHj/</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JMMtdHgsak</p>	\$15,000	\$21,597
<p>Helix Collective</p> <p>http://www.helixcollective.org</p>	<p>Click Clack Moosic</p>	<p>"Click Clack Moosic! is a live musical storytime event featuring the Click Clack Moo! book by Doreen Cronin set to original music by Helix Collective resident composer, Phil Popham, with narrator Rena Strober and a pair of actors that bring the story of Click Clack Moo to life.</p> <p>This beloved book shares the power of working together in collective action. Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type tells the story of the cows on Farmer Brown’s farm, who find an old typewriter in the barn and proceed to write letters to demand better working and living conditions. They join forces with the other animals and go on strike together to improve their lives through collective action.</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/1087846821/8a16540e77</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/1087847595/ebf3c6c2dd</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/1087846035/533400c94e</p>	\$14,600	\$21,600

		<p>In this updated version of classic programs like Peter and the Wolf, the story is told through diverse styles of music including salsa, a ho down, waltz, and blues. Each character in the story is represented by an instrument so the audience gets to know the music through the character's personality.</p> <p>Telling the story is Broadway/TV actress Rena Strober whose voice is also heard on hundreds of animated cartoons & video games. Some favorite Broadway credits include Les Miserables, Fiddler on the Roof and Beauty & The Beast. TV fans know Rena from her recurring roles on Disney' Liv & Maddie and Nicky Ricky Dicky & Dawn, VEEP & SHAMELESS. Rena's award winning Sesame Street album IMAGINE THAT features Jason Alexander, French Stewart and a choir of young blind children that Rena taught while working at the Academy of Music for the Blind.</p> <p>In the program, the cello plays Farmer Brown with a bluesy lament. The woodwinds cover the feathery friends of the duck and chickens. The cows are of course played by the trombone, the instrument that creates the best ""moo."" The keyboard with all the notes covers the big, messy pigs and bringing up the back the percussionists cover all the clicking,</p>			
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		<p> banging sounds including those busy typewriters!"</p>			
<p>Red Ink Ensemble</p> <p>http://www.redinkensemble.com</p>	<p>Twelfth Night, or What You Will</p>	<p>"“If music be the food of love, play on,” Red Ink Ensemble’s Twelfth Night, or What you Will is a queer celebration of love and an ode to the fragile yet radiant beauty of queer joy. Set in a reimagined Illyria inspired by 1920s Berlin, the birthplace of modern LGBTQ identity, this production pays homage to a moment in history when queer life pulsed openly before it was silenced.</p> <p>Shakespeare’s comedy becomes a meditation on visibility and the ecstatic freedom of living truthfully in a world that insists on conformity. Featuring a cast of primarily LGBTQ+ performers, this Twelfth Night revels in gender fluidity and the transformative power of desire.</p> <p>Joyful and defiantly alive, this Twelfth Night is a reminder that queer joy is precious and worth protecting...now more than ever."</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yvdpHwPkQpbfNaeO68a8vIEtSB9zTQs/view?usp=share_link</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yvdpHwPkQpbfNaeO68a8vIEtSB9zTQs/view?usp=share_link</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/14czfpFFUvEggHTlsBronc0yKmtqGNQ9j/view?usp=share_link</p>	<p>\$6,000</p>	<p>\$11,000</p>
<p>MACHA Theatre Company</p> <p>http://www.machatheatre.org</p>	<p>Frida, Chavela & the Mariachi</p>	<p>On the night of Frida Kahlo's birthday celebration in the garden of La Casa Azul the famous Mariachi singer Chavela Vargas sees Frida sitting on her bed in all her splendor. Chavela falls in love at first sight what follows are serenades, tequila drinking and dancing all night. Their meeting will change their lives.</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/1112771806?fl=pl&fe=sh</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/1144320406/f29e2ca3e1?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci</p> <p>https://youtu.be/FITXz1y7WnQ?si=Wh1QlcbYQeFhiixQ</p>	<p>\$18,000</p>	<p>\$18,000</p>

<p>AKB Communications</p> <p>http://www.akbccommunication.com</p>	<p>Borderlines</p>	<p>"When a Black mother seeks asylum for her teenage son, she does not cross a border, she crosses a lawn.</p> <p>BORDERLINES is a powerful contemporary drama set on the manicured front yard of a Beverly Hills immigration attorney. Aisha and her son, Darius, arrive from South Los Angeles carrying only a duffel bag, a phone number, and the desperate hope that safety might exist somewhere in this city. What begins as a quiet plea for refuge becomes a moral reckoning that forces four lives to confront the true cost of comfort.</p> <p>As fear, privilege, and institutional power collide, the lawn becomes a border, the house a nation, and survival a political act. Daniel, the well-intentioned homeowner, must face the limits of his beliefs when the crisis is no longer theoretical. His daughter Chloe stands at the threshold between inheritance and responsibility, while Aisha and Darius fight for the right to exist without being seen as a threat.</p> <p>Poetic, urgent, and deeply human, BORDERLINES explores who is granted safety, and who is denied it, when systems value property over people. At its heart is a mother's love and a teenager's will to live, asking audiences to reckon with the difference between empathy and action.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBXvxy9ZZI</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coDjbsUPJtg</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHcXvy-jBeE</p>	<p>\$18,000</p>	<p>\$18,000</p>
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		This is a story about dignity, survival, and the price of silence."			
ActorsSync and Shak Kanish Productions http://www.instagram.com/shakkanish http://www.instagram.com/actorsync/?hl=en	Melt	"Eli and Ryan are college theater students cast opposite each other in their university's spring production. Eli is methodical, guarded, prepared. Ryan is instinctive, open, unafraid. Under the watchful eye of their director Finch, they're tasked with creating something authentic—a believable love story for the stage. But as late-night rehearsals blur into early mornings, as blocking becomes muscle memory and scripted words start to feel like confessions, something shifts. The characters they're playing begin to feel less like roles and more like permissions. The question stops being ""how do we make this look real?"" and becomes ""what if it already is?"" MELT explores the vulnerable, terrifying space between performance and truth. It asks what happens when pretending to fall in love becomes indistinguishable from the real thing and whether there was ever a difference at all.	https://www.instagram.com/actorssync/?hl=en https://www.instagram.com/actorssync/?hl=en https://www.instagram.com/actorssync/?hl=en	\$8,000	\$10,000
Lefty Entertainment http://www.instagram.com/lindsayf	Lifegame: WeHo	"Lifegame: WeHo is a live, improvised theatrical event where a real audience member's life becomes the play. Guided by a host and staged instantly by a small ensemble of performers, personal stories are transformed into scenes that are funny, surprising, and moving. The	https://youtu.be/dMI_mTXIZxQ?si=oln9kw3jRForFd2y https://youtu.be/Zzxx9Vku-es?si=AkDQYiuuh8TbCWfl	\$15,000	\$15,000

		<p>participant shares moments from their life in conversation, and the ensemble brings those moments to life in real time using improvisation, movement, and simple theatrical storytelling. No two performances are ever the same.</p> <p>Each show unfolds as a shared experience between the participant, performers, and audience. Scenes may shift between realism and imagination, humor and reflection, always shaped by the participant’s comfort and curiosity. The result is a piece that feels intimate and spontaneous while remaining warm, accessible, and appropriate for all ages.</p> <p>Developed from the Lifegame format created by Keith Johnstone and refined by Improbable Theatre, this production emphasizes care, consent, and strong ensemble listening. Performers are specially trained to handle personal material with respect while finding the humor and humanity that connect individual stories to the wider audience.</p> <p>Designed for outdoor performance, Lifegame: WeHo requires no set, no costumes, and minimal technical support. Performances run approximately 45–70 minutes with no intermission, making the piece ideal for a park setting and casual attendance.</p>	<p>https://youtu.be/72EPRWxeUoE?si=yoFZljOiSc1FWIG0</p>		
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		Presented at Kings Road Park as part of Free Theatre in the Parks, Lifegame: WeHo invites the community to gather around a shared story drawn from their own neighborhood. Every performance is entirely original and shaped by who shows up that day. The show celebrates everyday lives and reminds us how much we recognize ourselves in one another when we take the time to listen."			
Coourage Ensemble http://www.coourage.org	As You Like It	"In the forest of Arden, a band of outcasts from an oppressive regime build new communities of abundance. When Orlando is exiled from Duke Frederick's court, Rosalind, in love with him, follows, bringing her sister Celia with her. Once in the forest they encounter shepherds, philosophers, clowns, bands of musicians, and a new way of being. One of Shakespeare's most gender-free plays, Coourage's production will, once again, center trans and nonbinary performers and invite our audience on a wild, hilarious ride on the journey to finding our freest selves and living exactly how we want to live. Come be immersed in a summer adventure! Our mission to make theater accessible to everyone includes creating experiences that break down the distance between players and audience. Kings Road Park will be transformed into a forest adventure and audiences can participate and play to their comfort level. All performances will include accessible	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nld0tzsbcXg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poGglBwkpnw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cTs5yv3n78	\$25,000	\$40,450

		seating and one performance will be ASL interpreted."			
<p>Greater and Grander Productions</p> <p>https://greaterandgrander.com</p>	<p>Exploration Station: An Intergalactic Puppet Adventure for All Ages</p>	<p>"Exploration Station: Into the Void is a joyful, family-friendly puppet theatre adventure that combines science, imagination, and heart in one unforgettable performance. Created and directed by Richard Tucci, the show follows five young explorers from around the world—and their eccentric mentor, Professor Max Cat—as they journey across the stars to learn about curiosity, courage, and the wonders of the universe. In this fast-paced, music-filled story, the explorers find themselves on a mission gone awry when Zak, a cautious and detail-obsessed astronaut-in-training, becomes convinced that a mysterious black hole will swallow them all. What follows is a hilarious, heartfelt journey of friendship and discovery as the team must use creativity, teamwork, and science to overcome fear and restore balance to their orbiting base, the Exploration Station. Featuring colorful handcrafted puppets, live performers, and original songs, Exploration Station: Into the Void celebrates diversity, collaboration, and the power of curiosity. Each character represents a unique cultural background and scientific passion—from botany to engineering to the arts—showing that every kind of intelligence and imagination has value in solving big problems. Designed for outdoor parks and community spaces, the show’s minimal</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUt9hWCKe_g</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JC4r1zcqMI</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP5RsHmz-Zc</p>	\$12,000	\$12,000

		<p>set and lively puppetry create a vivid, interactive atmosphere perfect for audiences of all ages. With humor that appeals to both kids and adults, and themes that highlight courage, inclusivity, and wonder, Exploration Station brings the excitement of science and storytelling directly to the heart of the community. Audiences can expect laughter, catchy tunes, and a few surprises from Professor Max Cat—whose lessons about exploration remind us that real adventure begins not in space, but within ourselves. Exploration Station: Into the Void is an original production by Greater & Grander Productions, created to inspire curiosity and connection through theatre, puppetry, and play."</p>			
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