

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.

*Location: Community Meeting Room – West Hollywood City Hall
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Dishman at 5:02 PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chair Dishman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present: Commission Chair J. Dallas Dishman
Commission Vice Chair Dawn Moreno-Freedman
Commissioner Martin Gantman
Commissioner Catherine Lee
Commissioner Madeleine Rackley
Commissioner Todd Williamson

Absent: Commissioner Candice Beroukhim

Also Present: Arts Manager Andrew Campbell
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Arts Coordinator Mike Che
Arts Technician Joy Tribble

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the July 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Public Comment

None.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matters were acted upon by one motion. There were no items removed for separate discussion.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, 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: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held October 11, 2018 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman reported that the Subcommittee approved a WeHo Arts Community Grant Award of \$1,000 to The Lavender Effect for a workshop performance of the new play "Y2K" by Michael Liberatore on December 1, 2018 at Plummer Park Fiesta Hall.

ACTION: Approve a WeHo Arts Community Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the Lavender Effect for a workshop performance of the new play "Y2K" by Michael Liberatore to be performed on December 1st in Plummer Park for World AIDS Day. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Williamson, and approved unanimously.**

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Urban Art Subcommittee did not meet on October 18, 2018 due to lack of agenda items. No action required.

ACTION: Receive and file.

C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Art on the Outside Subcommittee did not meet on October 25, 2018 due to lack of agenda items. No action required.

ACTION: Receive and file.

D. West Hollywood Cultural Plan – WeHo Arts: The Plan

The Commission received updates from staff on *The Plan's* implementation process and discussed the Artists Roundtable held on September 12, 2018.

Arts Manager Andrew Campbell reported that the Artist Roundtable on September 12th was focused on providing professional development for artists. Since the Artist Roundtable, the City's Grants Coordinator has been researching professional development opportunities and organizations that can provide the type of professional development as requested by artists at the Roundtable. Commissioners Williamson and Lee were in attendance.

Commissioner Williamson reported that he heard comments from artists who attended the Roundtable that they were impressed with the City's WeHo Artist Grant, which they considered to have an approachable application process.

Commissioner Lee reported that she heard from attendees that people were surprised and pleased at how much the City offers in terms of arts programming and funding. Commissioner Lee reflected that their surprise means the City must do more to promote their arts programming and funding opportunities.

Arts Manager Andrew Campbell reported that the next Artists Roundtable will be in December. He also mentioned that staff is looking into hosting a future Artists Roundtable on the weekend to accommodate artists who have day jobs and cannot attend the Roundtable during the week.

ACTION: Receive and file.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2019 One City One Pride Design Competition

The Commission reviewed the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee recommended choice for the 2019 One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Design Competition winner and considered input from the City's Communications Division on the most appropriate design for marketing and promotional purposes.

Chair Dishman began by thanking the Subcommittee for reviewing over 100 submissions to the One City One Pride Design Competition. He explained that once the Subcommittee made a selection for the top potential winners, staff met with the City's Communications Department who recommended the selection of the Subcommittee's 2nd choice due to a concern that the first choice would not be as conducive to marketing and promotional efforts as the first. There was also a concern that the first choice may not accurately portray the City's diversity.

Chair Dishman expressed his disagreement with the recommendation to select the 2nd choice.

Commissioner Lee suggested that the artist could revise their work to address the issues brought up.

Arts Manager Andrew Campbell reminded the Commission that there is also the possibility to hire a graphic designer to design a new poster if the Commission recommends such a decision.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che clarified that the second choice artwork is not staff's second choice, but rather one of the 2nd highest ranking artworks as selected by the Subcommittee during the review process for the design competition winner.

Commissioner Rackley stated that she likes the design of the 1st choice. She recommended that the Commission and staff may want to review and revise the process and regulations of the competition for next year.

Commissioner Gantman reported that the Subcommittee choice for the winner was a unanimous vote. He also mentioned that the application guidelines did not initially mention diversity.

By consensus, the Commission agreed to not use the 2nd choice.

Commissioner Rackley brought up that the Commission has previous precedent in asking artists in the design competition to modify the winning artwork.

Commissioner Williamson suggested that the Commission recommend changing the background color to alleviate concerns about color scheme for better marketing and promotion.

Chair Dishman commented that even though diversity was not in the requirements of the call, the West Hollywood community may very well still expect a diverse artwork that reflects the City.

Staff also informed the Commission that the artwork uses a logo for the Arts Division that is no longer in use, and that the removal of that logo by the artist will be required to adhere to the City's Communication policies.

ACTION: Motion to accept the artwork by artist Irina Yushmanova as the winner of the One City One Pride Poster Design Competition, with the direction that staff notifies the artist of the Commission's selection, and requires removal of the outdated logo, and suggests, but does not require, that the artwork be modified to address the issue of diversity and color choice. **Motion made by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved, noting a "No" vote from Commissioners Williamson and Dishman.**

B. 2019 One City One Pride and Transgender Arts Initiative Panel Review Process

The Commission considered recalling the 2018 panel review process convened and executed for the 2019 review of applications submitted for One City One Pride and Transgender Arts Initiative Grants, and reconvening an independent panel in November/December of 2018 to re-review the applications and forward to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee and the full Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for funding recommendations.

Chair Dishman reported that there were some concerns over the process of the scoring system for the One City One Pride and Transgender Arts Initiative panel review process, which included representatives from the City's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) and Transgender Advisory Board (TAB) in the decision making process. Chair Dishman commented that the Commission should accept the panel review process as approved by the review panel, and that the Commission should recommend that the panel review process be looked at closely by the Subcommittee to determine if the panel should remain internal or independent in the future.

Commissioner Gantman agreed with approving the panel review process as selected by the Subcommittee. He mentioned that the one non-voting member of the panel may have shifted the weighing system, which may have contributed to the confusion of the scoring system.

Commissioner Rackley expressed concern with the voting process and the perception of an unfair voting system. Commissioner Lee recalled that her first time being a panelist scorer was difficult, and that she believes some of the scorers in the panel may have been first time scorers as well which may have contributed to the issues identified by her fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman inquired how members from the LGBT community were selected. Arts Coordinator Michael Che responded that a staff report was taken to the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (LGAB) and the Transgender Advisory Board (TAB) and members were selected by their respective boards.

Commissioner Rackley recommended that the future Transgender Arts Initiative and One City One Pride grants be scored by the same process by which the Commission uses for other grants. That system involves the use of an external group. They make recommendations that are then presented to the Commission and funded according to a recommendation from the Commission.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che reported that the reason why these grants have a different process is to provide an opportunity for other Boards that represent the LGBT community in West Hollywood to express their opinion. Mr. Che also provided further clarification on the scoring process. Finally, he reported that the purpose of the Transgender Arts Initiative Grant is to provide grants to underrepresented Trans Artists.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Motion to approve the Transgender Arts Initiative Grants and One City One Pride Grants as recommended by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and fails noting a “No” vote from Commissioners Dishman, Williamson, Lee, and Rackley.**
- 2) Recall the 2018 panel review process convened and executed for the 2019 review of applications submitted for the One City One Pride and Transgender Arts Initiative Grants, and reconvene an independent panel in November or December 2018 to re-review the applications and forward to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee and the full Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for funding recommendations. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved, noting a “no” vote from Commissioner Moreno-Freedman.**

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commission Chair Dishman reported that the Annual Congress of Commissions and Advisory Board will be held on November 28. Commission Chair Dishman also extended his thanks on behalf of the Commission to the PACA Subcommittee and representatives from the LGAB and TAB for their time and effort spent on reviewing the applications to the One City One Pride Grants and Transgender Initiative Grants programs.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman asked what the schedule for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will be in November and December.

Commissioner Gantman asked if it was under the purview of the historic preservation commission to not require a developer to pay 1% art fee.

Commissioner Lee volunteered to be an alternate Commissioner for PACA should they need an alternate.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Manger Andrew Campbell responded to Commissioner Moreno-Freedman's question about the meeting dates for the Arts And Cultural Affairs Commission meetings in November and December. All meetings during November and December will be pushed back one week to accommodate holidays.

Mr. Campbell replied that they will look into Commissioner Gantman's question about the purview of the historic preservation commission.

Mr. Campbell reminded the Commission that Senor Plummer is currently playing in Plummer Park and recommended that the Commission see the show. Tickets are available on the Rogue Theatre website. Mr. Campbell also reported that the WeHo Artists and Icons Event will be on November 3rd and feature performing artist Dan Guerrero. Mr. Campbell also reported that WeHo in Paso exhibit opens on November 8th at the Werle Building.

Finally, Mr. Campbell commented that he believes this was one of the best Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meetings, because of the way the Commission was able to handle the difficult discussion on policy issues.

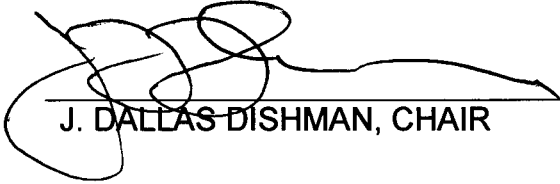
IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the November 15, 2018 special meeting agenda as appropriate.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:28 to its special meeting scheduled November 15, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room – West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018.



J. DALLAS DISHMAN, CHAIR

ATTEST:

MOYA MÁRQUEZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY