

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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 5:00 PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Commission Chair Dishman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present:

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

Absent:

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

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the December 20, 2018 meeting agenda was motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.

D. Approval of the November 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the November 21, 2018 meeting minutes was motioned by Commission Rackley seconded by Commissioner Gantman, 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 Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Lee, 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. 2018 WeHo Artist Grant Program

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received presentations and feedback from 2018 WeHo Artists grantees on the WeHo Artist Grant Program.

Prentis Bonds, Grants Coordinator, introduced three grantees from the 2018 WeHo Artist Grant Program: Matthew Finley, Rachel Mason, and Brian McCarthy. A fourth artist, Steven Reigns, was unable to attend the ACAC Meeting, but sent in a letter to the Commission instead, detailing his experience with the grant program. All four artists are the first ever recipients of the WeHo Artist Grant Program, which provided funds to support an artistic project undertaken by the artists.

Matthew Finley, 2018 WeHo Artist Grantee, presented his work "In a New Light" which consisted of digital photography on the themes of nostalgia, memory, homosexuality, family, and healing. Mr. Finley reported that the grant was able to offset nearly 60% of the costs and that without the grant, the work would have taken twice as long to complete and would have been less ambitious – as the grant allowed him to purchase new equipment for his artistic practice. The work is on display through December 2018 at The Assembly coffee shop on Robertson in West Hollywood.

The Commission asked Finley for feedback on the grant application process. He answered that it was the first grant he had ever applied for and got – and found that the most difficult part was finding a space to exhibit his artwork. He requested that the Commission consider including a list of spaces that have expressed interest in showcasing art.

Rachel Mason, a 2018 WeHo Artist Grantee, presented her work, "Singularity Song" which she performed at the RedCat Theatre in Downtown LA. Mason mentioned to the Commission that she has applied for over 50 grants in support of her artistic career, and that the application process for this grant was the first time where she felt the process was streamlined and able to be used for the work she wanted to do as an artist. She mentioned that because performance art can't be purchased like other works for art, performance artists depend on grants to be able to create new works. When asked by the Commission how the grant could be improved, Mason responded that the grant could include a temporary counselor or mentor to provide an artist with help in professional development.

Brian McCarty, a 2018 WeHo Artist Grantee presented his work "War-Toys" which is created with children who are in art therapy after experiencing war.

Commissioner Gantman suggested that in the future, the Commission should look into showing the project on WeHo TV. Commission Chair Dishman suggested that the grantees could present two slides at a City Council Meeting. Artist Finley suggested that the Commission should introduce the grantees to each other, at least in an email, and Artist Mason agreed, mentioning that in the past, she's been the recipient of grants that have luncheons with previous and current grantees.

ACTION: Received and filed.

B. Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held December 6, 2018.

Vice Chair Moreno-Freedman reported that the subcommittee has one item to present to the Commission that will be heard under New Business as Item IV.A. She also mentioned that the Subcommittee is discussing professional development for artists and will have suggestions at a future date.

C. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Urban Art Subcommittee on its meeting held December 13, 2018.

Commissioner Williamson reported that the Commission reviewed the project at 1001 Fairfax by artist Laurie Frick. There was discussion on whether the artwork was properly lit, and whether or not it needed to be written into the Urban Art Ordinance that all future artworks are properly lit.

ACTION: Approval of Stage III Final Art Plan by artist Laurie Frick for the urban art project at 1001 Fairfax (Empire at Fairfax) with the condition that the art work panels are illuminated evenly at night so that the project colors are intensely visible. **Motioned by Commission Vice Chair Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved.**

D. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Art on the Outside Subcommittee did not meet on December 20, 2018 due to lack of agenda items. No action required.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2019 WeHo Artist Grant Funding Recommendations

The Commission will consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee to award WeHo Artist Grants of \$2,000 each to six (6) West Hollywood artists for a total of \$12,000.

Grants Coordinator Prentis Bonds reported that all of the applicants were reviewed by PACA.

Commissioner Lee mentioned that the applicants seemed stratified between two people: experienced artists and new artists. Commissioner Williamson said that the grant should be focused on artists who are looking to focus their artistic development. Commissioner Gantman said that the grant was a merit-based grant, and that the Commission could look into creating a separate grant for new artists if the Commission decides it wants to support new artists.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the award of WeHo Artists Grants of \$2,000 each to West Hollywood artists Betsy Kalin, Sean Noyce and Katya Usvitsky, Stephanie Koenig, Jared Fortunato, Ari DeSano and Dan Guerrero as recommended by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee. Motioned by Commissioner Dawn Moreno Freedman, Seconded by Commissioner Gantman, and approved unanimously.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rackley wished everyone a happy holiday season and congratulated Commissioner Lee on her recent marriage.

Commissioner Williamson reported that Cedars-Sinai has matched a quarter of a million dollars to the National AIDS Monument documentary about doctors and nurses working in Cedars-Sinai during the height of the AIDS epidemic.

Commissioner Gantman wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Commissioner Dishman thanked everyone for the time, energy, effort, and creative thought.

Commissioner Lee wished everyone a happy holiday season.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Grant Coordinator Prentis Bonds wished everyone a happy holiday season and stated how pleased he was with the presentations from WeHo Artist Grantees.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che wished everyone a happy holiday season and mentioned that the new library exhibit "Prior Pleasures" is now on display at the West Hollywood Library.

Arts Manager Andrew Campbell thanked the Commission for their work during the year.

Recording Secretary Moya Marquez wished everyone a happy holiday season.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the January 24, 2019 meeting agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:40 PM to its meeting scheduled January 24, 2019, 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 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2019.



J. DALLAS DISHMAN, CHAIR

ATTEST:



MOYA MARQUEZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY