

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, August 27, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.
*Teleconference Meeting***

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Dishman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call:

Present:

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

Absent: Commission Chair Todd Williamson

Also Present: Acting Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Moya Márquez
Arts Coordinator Michael Che
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff
Arts Technician Joy Tribble

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Approval of the August 27, 2020 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Lee, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the July 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dishman asked staff to modify the July 2020 minutes to reflect his statement during Commissioner Comments was that his discontent with the City's Sunset Boulevard Arts and Advertising Program is less to do with the way it was written, but more so that it was appropriating art to sell the billboards to community and giving the project the appearance that it was a major arts initiative when it is not.

Approval of the July 23, 2020 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Public Comment

BRYCE SMITH, thanked the Commission for engaging in a cultural equity statement development workshop, spoke about the low population of people of color in West Hollywood, and raised concerns about silent racism in the community. He also shared

with the Commission that the he and three other friends have been working on a mural initiative and offers himself as a resource.

JOHN CORELLA, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about how he has lived in the community for 20 years and had a recent meeting with Mayor Horvath regarding racism in the county and in West Hollywood. He is also part of the mural initiative Bryce is working on.

II. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matter were acted upon by one motion.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Dishman, 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: Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B. Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held August 13, 2020.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved and added a list of peer review panelists to the currently existing panelist list to assist the City with review and scoring of Arts Grant Program applications (One City One Pride Grant, Transgender Arts Initiative Grant, Organizational Development Grant, and Arts Project Grant); directed staff to create a proposal of a panelist shadowing/mentoring program; and authorized staff to secure the panel and provide an honorarium of \$100.00 for panelists who serve.

Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

C. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Urban Art Subcommittee on its meeting held August 19, 2020.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Urban Art Administrative Guidelines for Developer Initiated Projects as recommended by the Subcommittee.

Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cultural Equity Statement Development Workshop

The Commission participated in a cultural equity development workshop to set the groundwork and collect input for creation of an Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Cultural Equity Statement.

Mike Che, Arts Coordinator, introduced the Aspire Group (Diane Burbie and Evonne Gallardo) to the Commission. The Aspire Group led the conversation, explaining definitions of key terms of cultural equity. They also shared the components of a cultural equity policy – including all its components such as a statement, policy, and the plan.

Parts of the session included the Aspire Group asking questions to the Commission. In one instance, the Commissioners were asked to reflect on why they dedicated time to this process. Commissioners responded by mentioning that the City values diversity and must live up to its claims to support it.

In another instance, the Commission was asked to identify examples of existing Commission and City work they felt valued diversity. The City's inclusive programs such as the Transgender Arts Initiative were mentioned as a response.

Other activities included writing personal values of equity and inclusion, and a self-reflection session in which they were asked to consider how past successes in championing for inclusivity can be used as building blocks for future initiatives.

The Commission was asked to participate in the workshop by interacting with handouts prepared by the Aspire Group and included in the meeting's agenda packet.

The Aspire Group shared examples of cultural equity statements completed by other arts organizations and asked the Commission to consider and share what they wanted their statement to reflect.

The session included conversations about explicit bias and overt racism that still exists today, the difference between explicit bias and implicit bias, and its presence in multiple aspects of our lives. Other topics, like the concept of privilege were also addressed.

At the conclusion of the session, staff explained that the first draft of the Cultural Equity Statement would first be reviewed in the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee. After the Subcommittee's review and edits, it will return to the full Commission for further review, input and final adoption.

ACTIONS

- 1) None. Received and filed the presentation.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

BRYCE SMITH, thanked the speakers for the session after having listened to the entire presentation. He also thanked all the Commissioners for participating in the session and encouraged the Commission to begin their work on the statement as soon as possible, emphasizing the critical moment that we are in as a nation. He also talked about his mural project that could be a fit for West Hollywood.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dishman thanked the two facilitators for the meeting. He also asked if it was possible to put face coverings or masks over the Rocky and Bullwinkle statue to encourage compliance with public health recommendations regarding face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Rackley also thanked the two facilitators for the meeting and expressed she was looking forward to seeing them again to work on the Cultural Equity Statement at a future Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Faltz thanked the two facilitators for the meeting.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also thanked the facilitators for the meeting and expressed she was hopeful for the statement.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Technician Joy Tribble thanked the facilitators for the workshop and reminded everyone that we there are two more WeHo Live! Sessions planned.

Arts Coordinator Mike Che thanked the Commissioners for their thoughtful participation and for devoting their time to a longer than usual meeting.

Commission Secretary Moya Marquez thanked the facilitators for the workshop and thanked the Commission for participating.

Acting Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann thanked the Commission for their openness and willingness in participating in the workshop. She also addressed that face coverings on the Rocky and Bullwinkle statue cannot be accommodated based on the sensitive nature of the surface of the sculpture and the effort is cost prohibitive.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2020.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 8:13 PM to its meeting scheduled September 24, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ON THIS 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Todd Williamson

TODD WILLIAMSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Moya Marquez

MOYA MARQUEZ
RECORDING SECRETARY