

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, January 28, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
*Teleconference Meeting***

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Williamson at 5:01 PM.

A. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Williamson 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
Commission Chair Todd Williamson

Also Present:

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

C. Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Approval of the January 28, 2021 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Vice Chair Gantman, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Approval of the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as amended was **motioned by Commissioner Vice Chair Gantman seconded by Commissioner Dishman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Public Comment

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion.

ACTION: Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, 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.**

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 January 14, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Rackley reported on the meeting, sharing that the Subcommittee had no actionable items in its meeting, but did discuss the development of the cultural equity statement, which they believe they will be able to share a draft to the full Commission at its February 2021 meeting.

ACTIONS: None. Received and filed the Performing Arts & Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Urban Art Subcommittee on its meeting held January 21, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman reported on the meeting, sharing that the Subcommittee had no actionable items, but did receive an update on *Extraction* by Cayetano Ferrer for the Melrose Gathering Space, which was met with the approval of the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS: None. Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.

C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its meeting held January 28, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Lee began her report by discussing the temporary video art project proposed by Jessica Rich, The Rich Picture, for *THE FREE REPUBLIC OF CALIFORNIA* by Cole Sternberg for installation on the electronic billboards at 8410 and 9039 Sunset Boulevard (10AK) from 2/1/21 – 3/31/21. During the meeting, Commissioner Dishman expressed his concern about the scrolling text in the artwork, and its readability and accessibility due to its scrolling speed. Jessica Rich, Curator for the Rich Picture, informed the Subcommittee that she would work with the artist to reduce and slow the amount of text.

Commissioner Lee also reported that the Windows of WeHo RFQ received 357 applications, while only 8-10 artists are anticipated to be selected for actual projects. The Subcommittee received three scenarios for a pre-qualified list of artists. The Subcommittee recommends scenario A. Scenario A excludes muralists, as murals

were not intended for this project but includes WeHo artists and artists with professional portfolios. Applications who did not meet the basic criteria outlined in the RFQ were also not included in the list.

The Subcommittee also discussed the Art on the Outside budget. Currently the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year is at \$11,500. The Subcommittee expects a total of \$55,000 for their budget in the next fiscal year.

Keeping budget considerations in mind, the Subcommittee reviewed temporary art project proposals:

- The Subcommittee was excited to consider A. Laura Brody's *Opulent Mobility* exhibition and discussed the possibility of asking the artist to re-submit the proposal for exhibition at another location other than Long Hall, in case the public is not able to attend Long Hall by the Fall, as intended by the proposal. Ultimately, the Subcommittee decided to approve the proposal as submitted.
- The Subcommittee declined artist Carl Hopgood's proposal due to budgetary restrictions and invited the artist to reapply with a secured location for the exhibition, and updated proposal.
- The Subcommittee declined artist Gille and Marc's proposal due to budgetary concerns.
- The Subcommittee decline artist Karla Funderburk's proposal due to budgetary concerns.
- The Subcommittee agreed by consensus to postpone artist Tim Devlin's proposal, and invite the artist at a later day to present to the Subcommittee to discuss potential City-owned location opportunities.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the temporary video project proposal by Jessica Rich, The Rich Picture for *THE FREE REPUBLIC OF CALIFORNIA* by Cole Sternberg for installation on the electronic billboards at 8410 and 9039 Sunset Boulevard (1OAK) from 2/1/21 – 3/31/21, with the modification that the amount of text on the artwork be reduced, and the scrolling speed of the text would be slowed down. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dishman and approved, noting a "No" vote from Commissioner Rackley.**
- 3) Approved the Windows of WeHo (WoW) Pre-Qualified List Scenario A and the applications therein; designate the applications not included in Pre-Qualified List A as denied and direct staff to provide denied applicants with information about future artist opportunities; and directed staff to maintain the Windows of WeHo Pre-Qualified List of Artists through December 31, 2021. **Motioned by Commissioner Rackley, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the funding request of \$2,500 for the exhibition of *Opulent Mobility* as proposed by artist A. Laura Brody. **Motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

- 5) Recommended the declination of Carl Hopgood's project proposal with a funding request of \$14,000 and invited the artist to re-apply with a secured location and updated proposal. **Motioned by Commission Vice Chair Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Recommended the declination of Gillie and Marc's project proposal with a funding request of \$30,000 due to budget restrictions. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Rackley, and approved unanimously.**
- 7) Recommended the declination of Karla Funderburk's project proposal with a funding request of \$17,000 due to budget restrictions. **Motioned by Commissioner Dishman, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction to West Hollywood City Poet Laureate

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received an introduction to the West Hollywood City Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace who is serving from October 2020 to October 2022.

Arts Coordinator, Mike Che, presented the history of the Poet Laureate program and introduced Brian-Sonia Wallace to the Commission, highlighting his past contributions to the arts and culture community of West Hollywood.

Brian Sonia-Wallace discussed his programmatic plans as the WeHo City Poet Laureate and briefly led a workshop for the Commission to submit lines to the WeHo Collaborative Poem Project intended to create a City-wide collaborative poem.

He also shared the animated video of the City's Holiday Poem and shared a collaborative poem he created with the help of elementary school students.

RECOMMENDATION: None. Received and filed the presentation.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman shared that she met with the City's Business Development Analyst Tara Worden to discuss the closures of bars and nightclub venues in West Hollywood and will continue to advocate for the survival of these historic businesses and LGBTQ spaces.

Commissioner Rackley reported that she will be stepping down from the Commission after the February meeting.

Commission Chair Williamson complimented the content and educational materials provided in the WeHo Artist Bootcamp thus far.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Technician, Joy Tribble, reported that the City is in talks to partner with the Troubadour to host a virtual concert series. Staff will return to the Commission soon with more information. She also reported that Los Angeles Blade newspaper awarded WeHo Live! concert series an Editor’s Choice award for Best Virtual Online Arts & Entertainment Event. She also reported that there is a WeHo Sounds Online concert Friday, January 29 at 6PM at weho.org/wehosounds.

Grants Coordinator, Eva Angeloff shared that in February, the City will open applications for their Arts Grants Panelists and asked the Commission to encourage arts-engaged community members to apply to be considered.

Arts Coordinator, Mike Che reported that the Spring 2021 WeHo Reads online event series launches on February 17th, with an event for Black History Month, and a particular highlight is the addition of the 2020 National Book Award winner to a May panel. The full lineup is on www.weho.org/wehoreads. He also shared the news that the City received a grant from the LA County Department of Arts and Culture for a 2021 paid arts internship.

Acting Arts Manager, Rebecca Ehemann reported to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission that on Monday, the City Council will be announcing their council appointments for Commissioners.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:37 PM to its regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 25th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Todd Williamson

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TODD WILLIAMSON,
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Moya Marquez

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MOYA MARQUEZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY