

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, April 22, 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 5:04 PM.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner Williamson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Roll Call:**

Present: Commissioner Mito Aviles  
Commissioner Lindsey Deaton  
Commissioner Dan Faltz  
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman  
Commission Vice Chair Martin Gantman  
Commission Chair Todd Williamson

Absent: Commissioner Catherine Lee

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 April 22, 2021 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

**D. Approval of the March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**ACTION:** Approval of the March 25, 2021 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman seconded by Commissioner Deaton, and approved unanimously.**

**E. Public Comment**

None.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion.

**ACTION:** Approval of the Consent Calendar as amended was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Deaton 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. Urban Art Subcommittee Report**

The Commission received a report from the Urban Art Subcommittee on its meeting held April 15, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman shared that the Subcommittee did not approve the Stage II Schematic Art Plan by artist team Greenmeme for the urban art project at Beverly Boulevard Gathering Space. The Subcommittee provided feedback to the presenters and direction for them to consider at a future meeting for consideration of their Stage II Schematic Art Plan.

**ACTION:** None. Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.

**B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report**

The Commission received a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its meeting held April 22, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman reported that the Subcommittee had four actionable items: the approval of the Sunset Arts and Advertising Program and the first temporary video art project proposal as part of the plan; a funding request for the upcoming temporary art project Meringue by artist Kiduck Kim; and a Commercial Business Mural Application at 8811 Beverly.

The recommendations from the Subcommittee include the approval to the changes of the original "Arts on Sunset" proposal that include approval of the new curator Diana Nawi, and temporary approval of an interspersed art initiative in which art is presented in between advertising throughout the hour. The Commission debated momentarily the duration of the temporary approval of the interspersed art initiative and decided on a temporary approval of six months to test the initiative. The Subcommittee also approved the remainder of the "Arts on Sunset" proposal, and the first temporary video project, *Volatile Landscapes*.

The Subcommittee also recommended approving a decrease in the number of art elements to 23 and funding request in the amount of \$7,976 for the temporary art project Meringue by artist Kiduck Kim. The original budget included the installation work to be done by the artist. However, during review of the structural engineering documents, the City Engineer stipulated that a licensed contractor must be hired to install and deinstall the artwork. This additional funding will be used to pay for the additional licensed contractor services.

Finally, the Subcommittee recommended approval of the Commercial Business Mural Application submitted by Josh MacDonald for 8811 Beverly Boulevard (Maddox Gallery) featuring the artwork by Mikael B. There was debate on whether this artwork could be interpreted as creative signage. It was agreed that regardless of whether the item passes, Arts Staff should inquire with the City Attorney to determine if this artwork is within the guidelines of the Mural Program.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the new schedule of interspersed art initiative for 6-months after which time the Subcommittee will review the initiative. **Motioned by Subcommittee Member Deaton, seconded by Subcommittee Member Faltz and approved noting a “No” vote from Commissioner Aviles.**
- 3) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the proposed curator Diana Nawi. **Motioned by Subcommittee Member Williamson, seconded by Subcommittee Member Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the remainder of the “Arts on Sunset” proposal as presented by the Orange Barrel Media team. **Motioned by Subcommittee Member Faltz, seconded by Subcommittee Member Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approval of the temporary video project proposal by Orange Barrell Media for *Volatile Landscapes* by The Propeller Group for installation on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard from 4/23/21 – 6/30/21. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Approval of an additional funding request of \$7,976 for a new budget not-to-exceed \$27,976 for the temporary art project Meringue by artist Kiduck Kim. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Deaton, and approved unanimously.**
- 7) Approval of the Commercial Business Mural Application for 8811 Beverly Boulevard featuring the artwork by Mikael B, and directed staff to check in with the City Attorney to determine the application’s consistency with the Mural Program. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved noting an abstention from Commissioner Deaton.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**V. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Williamson asked the Commissioners to briefly introduce themselves for the benefit of the new Commissioners. He mentioned his artistic practice and that he has sat on the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for ten years.

Commissioner Aviles shared information on his business and artistic practice and interest in politics and social justice.

Commissioner Aviles asked the Commission's interest in inviting the newly formed Social Justice Task Force to address the Commission in a future meeting to share their vision of how social justice can work in the City through art. The Subcommittee agreed by consensus to add this to a future agenda after the Board has had a few meetings.

Commissioner Aviles asked the Commission's interest in creating a self-guided mural tour of West Hollywood. The Commission agreed by consensus that the Commissioner should present a proposal to staff before the item is presented to the Art on the Outside Subcommittee.

Commissioner Aviles then asked if he could be appointed to serve as the liaison to either the Transgender Advisory Board, Lesbian Gay Advisory Board, and/or Public Facilities Commission. A discussion ensued about the duties of a liaison, and staff was directed to reach out to the City Clerk for direction on how to proceed.

Commissioner Gantman shared information on his artistic practice.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman shared information on her work at the West Hollywood Library and her poetry.

Commissioner Deaton shared that she was first involved with the City in the Fall of 2015 when she became involved with the City's Transgender Day of Remembrance, and has served previously on the Transgender Advisory Board.

Commissioner Faltz shared his history of activism in San Francisco and how it impacted his views on art as cultural response.

## **VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

Arts Technician, Joy Tribble, shared the news that the partnership with the Troubadour for the WeHo Sounds online concert series will not be taking place. Instead, musicians will be recording their own concerts to broadcast on the City's Art Division YouTube page.

Grants Coordinator, Eva Angeloff, shared events taking place through the City's Grants Program. Two events, both on 4PM on 4/24, will be held by the organizations Benita Bike and International Eye. Greenway Arts Alliance will also present their month-long Poetry Festival online. Finally, Women in Film will host their next panel on April 29 at 6pm. She also shared that the Community Arts Grant Deadline is on May 1st.

Arts Coordinator, Mike Che, reported that there is a May 12 WeHo Reads event featuring 2020 National Book Award winner Charles Yu and historian Arthur Dong called "Creating Hollywood Chinese" ([weho.org/wehoreads](http://weho.org/wehoreads)). He shared that the Citywide collaborative poem crafted from words from 53 Community members is online on the City's National Poetry Month webpage. He shared that the art exhibit *Meringue* will be installed in Mid-May on the median of Santa Monica Boulevard at Doheny. He mentioned that there has

been positive feedback to the City's Cultural Equity Statement and a neighboring City reached out to him with questions on how to develop one for their own City. He mentioned that the Arts Division will have two internship positions opening soon, one funded through a grant from the LA County Department of Arts and Culture. He reminded Commissioners that One City One Pride launches on May 22 and will be entirely online this year.

Acting Arts Manager, Rebecca Ehemann, reported that the *cacti* exhibition will be de-installed next week, April 26-30, to prepare for the installation of *Meringue*. She will present *Opulent Mobility*, an Art on the Outside project, to the Disability Advisory Board on April 28 for consideration to be included in the City's celebration of Disability Awareness Month in October. She also provided an update on the Urban Art Guidelines with required Zone Text Amendment scheduled for presentation to the Planning Commission (May 20) then City Council (June 3).

Lisa Marie Belsanti, Director of the Department of Communications, introduced herself to the Commission and gave a brief overview of her department, which includes the Arts Division.

**IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Staff will coordinate with the city staff liaison for the Social Justice Task Force to schedule a presentation at a future date.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:45 PM to its regularly scheduled meeting on May 27, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 27th DAY OF MAY 2021.

DocuSigned by:

*Todd Williamson*

TODD WILLIAMSON,  
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Moya Marquez*

MOYA MARQUEZ,  
RECORDING SECRETARY