

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 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 5:01 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 Catherine Lee
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman
Commission Vice Chair Martin Gantman
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:

ACTION: Approval of the July 22, 2021 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Aviles, and approved unanimously.**

D. Approval of the June 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Approval of the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman seconded by Commissioner Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

E. Public Comment

SKÛT, West Hollywood, spoke to request support of his Muralist Roster Application and approval of the mural he painted on Micky's.

Lisa Sweeny, West Hollywood, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Sheri Stark, West Hollywood, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Adam Eramian, Operations Manager at Micky's, spoke to request support and approval of the Micky's mural painted by artist SKÜT.

David Shayaa, West Hollywood Commercial Property Owner, spoke in support of the efforts to improve the site Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space but cited concerns with potential to become a homeless encampment.

John, West Hollywood, member of the West Hollywood West Residents Association, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Don Wise, General Manager at Micky's, spoke to request support and approval of the Micky's Mural painted by artist SKÜT.

James Agnew, General Manager at Leica, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space if it obscures the visibility to their building.

Manny Rodriguez, Board Member of the West Hollywood West Residents Association, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Quincy Allen, West Hollywood Commercial Property Owner, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Rick Forrest, West Hollywood, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Samuel Shayaa, West Hollywood Commercial Property Owner, spoke in opposition to the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space citing concerns with current proposal's potential to become a homeless encampment.

Tom Bird, West Hollywood, spoke in support of the Beverly and Robertson Gathering Space citing the proposal's aesthetic strength as an artwork.

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 Aviles, 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: Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held July 8, 2021 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Faltz reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the holiday artwork RFQ, the One City One Pride LGBTQ+ Arts Festival Grant Guidelines for calendar year 2022, and the WeHo Reads RFP, making small changes to language to encourage and highlight both diversity in artwork discipline and cultural diversity from artists and in artistic content.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Approval of the Holiday Artwork RFQ for release was **motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 2) Approval of the One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Grant Guidelines was **motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approval of the WeHo Reads RFP for release was **motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved unanimously.**

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

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

Commissioner Gantman reported that the Subcommittee discussed the Pulse Nightclub Memorial for addition to West Hollywood Park and recommended that the Public Facilities Commission should issue an RFP to solicit designs for the memorial, and review of the text for the plaque, prior to considering the placement of the memorial in the Robertson Commons area of West Hollywood Park.

Commissioner Gantman also reported that the Subcommittee recommended approval of Stage II at the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space following a presentation from the design team. The Subcommittee received no public comment and heard only from the design team. Commissioner Gantman also shared that the initial Stage II review earlier this year was denied for aesthetic reasons. The Subcommittee felt that the new space was a defined, contemplative space, but felt that there needed to be more greenery in the final presentation for Stage III. Commissioner Gantman also shared that the artwork is designed so that there is a defined line of sight into the artwork from the street.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Receive and file the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approve the Stage II Schematic Art Plan by artist team Greenmeme for the urban art project at Beverly Boulevard Gathering Space, in accordance with the City's Urban Art Policy and Guidelines, with the suggestion that the design team should try to address some of the concerns raised during public comment, and

Receive and file submissions from the design team in accordance with the Urban Art Policy and Guidelines including 1) schematic designs/drawings; site plans and elevations; a narrative description of the proposed art project including how it fits into the environment of the City; and proposed materials and color scheme; 2) implementation timeline; 3) outline of the art budget; 4) maintenance issues and 5) a signed copy of the developer/artist agreement.

Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved, noting a vote of "No" from Commissioner Aviles and an abstention from Commissioner Deaton.

C. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

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

Commissioner Lee shared that the Subcommittee reviewed an application by artist SKUT for the WEHO Muralist Roster and approved the application.

She then explained that the Artist SKUT, painted a mural for and on Micky's West Hollywood without Commission approval. The mural is now being retroactively considered. However, the mural contains the word "Micky's" which is an element that would be considered creative signage. If the business has, already on file, a permit with the City to allow for such signage, the element can stay. If not, it would have to be removed for the mural to be in line with the City's Commercial Business Mural Program. The Subcommittee recommended approval with the proviso that Staff verify if Micky's has the appropriate permits, and if not, to ask them to remove the creative signage element.

The Subcommittee also reviewed several Temporary Art Project Proposals and made the following recommendations:

- Recommend denial of Carl Hopgood's application, citing aesthetics as the primary reason, and lack of consistency with the Commission's adopted work plan specifically in reference to the Cultural Equity Statement.
- Recommend denial of Anthony James' application, citing the proposed location is not appropriate and fact that an almost identical artwork is already exhibited in the Pendry Hotel.
- Recommend denial of Jessica Tedder's application, citing concerns about location for the exhibition, and lack of clarity in the proposal. There were also

concerns that some of the artwork in the application may have been sold, as per the artist's statement on the application.

- Recommend denial of Pamela Valfer's application, citing the project's lack of relevance to the community.
- Recommend that the artist Shelly Heffler return to the Subcommittee to further discuss the Community Quilt project.
- Recommend that the artist Shelly Heffler's return to the Subcommittee to further discuss the Refuse series.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approve SKÜT's WEHO Muralist Roster application. **motioned by Subcommittee Member Gant, seconded by Subcommittee Member Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for 8857 Santa Monica Boulevard featuring the artwork by SKÜT, with the proviso that staff should first check if they have a permit for signage, and if not, to instruct the artist to paint over the Micky's text on the mural. **motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Identify Carl Hopgood's proposal application as denied, **motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Identify Anthony James' proposal application as denied, **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Identify Jessica Tedder's proposal application as denied, **deny motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 7) Identify Pamela Valfer's proposal application as denied, **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved unanimously.**
- 8) Invite Shelly Heffler to a future Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Community Quilt Project, **motioned by Commissioner Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 9) Invite Shelly Heffler to a future Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Refuse series, **motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Aviles and approved, noting a "No" vote from Commissioners Williamson and Gantman.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Naming Request To Rename The West Hollywood Library In Honor Of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

In accordance with the City's Naming Policy, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission considered a formal inquiry by the Public Facilities Commission to provide an

evaluation and recommendation on a request to rename the West Hollywood Library in honor of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Commission agreed by consensus to support the naming of the Library in honor of Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg.

ACTION: None, received and filed.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair FY2021-2022.

The Commission elected a Chair to preside over the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) in accordance with the ACAC Bylaws. The Commission also elected a Vice-Chair to preside over the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission in absence of the Chair and in accordance with the ACAC Bylaws.

Commissioner Lee nominated Commissioner Gantman for Chair, and Commissioner Faltz for Vice Chair and Commissioner Deaton seconded the nominations.

Commissioner Gantman accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Faltz accepted the nomination.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Elect Commissioner Gantman as Chair to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission in accordance with the ACAC Bylaws. **Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 2) Elect Commissioner Faltz as Vice Chair to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission in accordance with the ACAC Bylaws. **Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Giesbrecht, Former President of West Hollywood West, spoke about the Beverly/Bonner Gathering Space.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Faltz thanked everyone for their vote and care and thanked Commissioner Williamson for being Chair this past year.

Commissioner Gantman thanked everyone for their vote and expressed he looks forward to working with everyone on the Commission.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman expressed gratefulness to chair Williamson for his role as Chair over the last year.

Commissioner Aviles thanked commissioner Williamson for his role as Chair and asked the Commission to sign up for training with Dr. DiAngelo next week.

Commissioner Deaton thanked the members of the public for their public comment.

Commissioner Lee thanked and congratulated Commissioner Faltz and Gantman on their election. She also thanked the Commission for not shying away from difficult conversation, and announced she was pregnant.

Commissioner Williamson thanked everyone for supporting him as Chair this past year,

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Arts Technician, Joy Tribble, shared the WeHo LIVE! and WeHo Sounds schedule.

Grants Coordinator, Eva Angeloff, asked everyone to stay tuned to the WeHo Performance Art Grantees schedule to be announced soon via newsletter.

Arts Coordinator, Mike Che, Congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair, thanked them for their use of the adopted Cultural Equity Statement, shared information regarding the open calls for the Holiday Artwork RFQ and WeHo Reads RFP, and introduced the Arts Division's new intern

Arts Intern, Joshua Martis, introduced himself to the Commission.

Recording Secretary, Moya Márquez, reminded the Commission to sign up for the training with Dr. DiAngelo next week.

Acting Arts Manager, Rebecca Ehemann, thanked everyone for their hard work, and thanked the public speakers tonight.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 7:15 PM to its regularly scheduled meeting on August 26, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Todd Williamson

TODD WILLIAMSON,
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



MOYA MARQUEZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY