

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission**



**ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**MEETING AGENDA PACKET  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION:  
WEST HOLLYWOOD PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

***The West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied, unceded, seized territory of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples.***

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check out at the meeting; If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting, (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, 323.GO.COMMUTE (323/466-3876) or go to [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net).

Written materials distributed to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission within 72 hours of the meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution in the Arts Division at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, during normal business hours. They will also be available for inspection during the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting at the staff liaison's table. For a complete listing of arts and cultural programs, events and opportunities, please visit [www.weho.org/arts](http://www.weho.org/arts), or follow @WeHoArts on social media.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Land Acknowledgement
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Approval of the Agenda
- E. Approval of the March 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- F. Public Comment

*The public is given the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on any item within its responsibility. At the discretion of the Subcommittee, speakers may be limited to two minutes each. If you would like to present public comment at the meeting, please see the section titled "TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING" at the top of the first page of this Meeting Agenda.*

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matters can be acted upon by one motion. Individual items may be removed by the Commission for separate discussion. Items removed for separate discussion will be heard following New Business items.

**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.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file

### 3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report (Page. 10)

The Commission will receive a report from the Art on the Outside Subcommittee on its meeting held April 27, 2023, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

#### B. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report (Page.11)

The Commission will receive a report from the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on its meeting held April 13, 2023, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Receive and file the Performing Art Subcommittee Report, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.
- 2) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the four (4) finalists and two (2) alternate artists selected by the Subcommittee to create proposal artworks for the City's 2023 winter/holiday street pole banner display.
- 3) Recommend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the draft Laurel House Artist Residence Program document.
- 4) Recommend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the 2023-24 Musicians and Performers Roster and approve the short list of twenty (20) artists to be considered for the 2023 Summer Sounds and 2024 Winter Sounds Concert Series.

#### C. 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival Update (Page. 12)

The Commission will receive a presentation from Sean Knapp/HIT about the 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file or provide feedback as desired.

#### D. City Playhouse Mission and Goals (Page. 15)

The Commission will review the proposed mission and goals and provide feedback and guidance to staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the mission and goals for the City Playhouse.

**E. Library Cultural Programming Committee Report** (Page. 17)

The Commission will receive a report from the Library Cultural Programming Committee on its meeting held April 18, 2023, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) Receive and file the report from the Library Cultural Programming Committee and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Committee.
- 2) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the selection of Jennifer Y. Cheng as the 2023-26 West Hollywood City Poet Laureate and forward the recommendation to City Council for their approval.
- 3) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the denial of the application from Richard Tucci to present an exhibition titled 'End of Pandemic.'

**4. NEW BUSINESS** None.

**5. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*The public is given the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on any item within its responsibility. At the discretion of the Subcommittee, speakers may be limited to two minutes each. If you would like to present public comment at the meeting, please see the section titled "TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PUBLIC MEETING" at the top of the first page of this Meeting Agenda.*

**7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**8. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF**

**9. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Commission will advise staff on development of the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2023.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will adjourn to its **meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** to be held at the West Hollywood City Hall Community Meeting Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD PLUMMER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOMS 5 & 6  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Faltz at 5:00 p.m.

**A. Land Acknowledgement:** Chair Faltz read the Land Acknowledgement.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Faltz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call:**

Present: Commissioner Lindsey Deaton  
Commissioner Catherine Lee  
Commissioner Moreno-Freedman  
Commission Vice Chair Mito Aviles  
Commission Chair Dan Faltz

Also Present: Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann  
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Oceguela  
Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell  
Arts Coordinator Michael Che  
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff  
Arts Specialist Joy Tribble  
Public Art Consultant Jessica Rich

**D. Approval of the Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the March 23, 2023 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

**E. Approval of the February 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**ACTION:** Approval of the February 23, 2023 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz, and approved unanimously.**

**F. Public Comment** None.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Vice Chair Aviles, 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:** Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Lee on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held March 23, 2023, and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Lee shared that on April 17, 2023, Jessica Goehring will install *LightWave*, a kinetic artwork comprised of two layers, artwork on aluminum with an organza overlay, at the West Hollywood Aquatic and Recreation Center from April 2023 – March 2024.

Commissioner Lee also shared that Keenan Hartsten will present *Honeycomb Harmonies*, an interactive, hands-on painting and music-making event to be held at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park on four Saturdays, April 15, April 29, May 6, May 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will alternate between the two parks.

Commissioner Lee also shared that Sophia Lee will launch *Acorn Treasure Hunt*, an interactive installation featuring 60 hand-crafted paper-mâché “acorns” that will be temporarily on view at West Hollywood Park on April 29, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. After the event, Sophia will hide the acorns throughout the City as objects of a treasure hunt intended for the public to discover with the aid of an online map created by the artist.

Commissioner Lee also shared that the Subcommittee reviewed the temporary art project *The Jaguar's Eye* by Optical Animal (JR Skola and Max Nova) for installation at 7715 Santa Monica Blvd. (Pleasure Med).

Commissioner Lee also shared that the Subcommittee reviewed the temporary art project proposal *Be the Change* organized by Skirball Cultural Center with artwork by Alex Abli, Michelle Guerrero, River Garza, Marni Gittleman, Holocaust Museum LA, and Nature Nexus Institute for installation at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Commissioner Lee concluded her report by sharing that the Subcommittee reviewed 57 applications for the WeHo Muralist Roster Application

#### **ACTION:**

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the temporary art project proposal, *The Jaguar's Eye* by Optical Animal for installation at 7715 Santa

Monica Boulevard (Pleasure Med). **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**

- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the temporary art project proposal *Be the Change* organized by Skirball Cultural Center with artwork by Alex Abli, Michelle Guerrero, River Garza, Marni Gittleman, Holocaust Museum LA, Nature Nexus Institute for installation at Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard. **Motioned by Chair Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the WeHo Muralist Roster applications submitted by Akira Usagi, Alexandra Fisher (clamdiggin), Anna Siqueiros, Anthony Woods, Bree Stallings, Britt Flood, ChiChai Mateo, Christine Nguyen, Daniel Antelo, Daniel Dick, Ed Irmen, Ellie Balk, Erika Lopez, Evan Mendel, Federico Massa, Heather Medau, Janaeah Holloway, Jean Bradbury, Joha Harrision, Cynthia Lujan, Karina Velasco, Katie Vonderheide, Melanie Posner, Michael Che Romero, Michael Hamel, Misha Tyutyunik, Morgan Zion, Mz Icar, Nasim Golkar, Pamela Edwards, Paz De La Calzada, Ryan Yanoe x Zoueh Sarfati, Sarah Nelson, Sarah Stone, Sei Shimura, Shakir Manners, Shaylen Broughton, Sherman Parnell, Summer Mormeneo, Taylor White, Timothy Smith, Vanessa Gomez, Vojislav Radovanovic, and Yuke Li. **Motioned by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to deny the WeHo Muralist Roster applications submitted by Cody TheCreative, Darius Dio, Dominique Labaki, Sophia Lee, Sarah Nelson, Rachel O'Donnell, Richard Tucci, Jose Trejo Maya, and Michaela Saracco. **Motioned by Chair Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**

#### **B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report**

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Lee on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held March 16, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Lee shared that the Subcommittee received a presentation from Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell and artist Karon Davis for the STAGE III Final Art Plan, *Before Picasso* by Karon Davis, for the Melrose Gathering Place: Weaver's Walk and considered recommending approval of the Final Art Plan to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. The only significant change to the Art Plan was the additional drawings for the artwork's foundation.

Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Final Art Plan, *Before Picasso* by Karon Davis. **Motioned by Chair Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**

#### **C. Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report**

The Commission received a report from Vice Chair Aviles on the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee for its meeting held February 9, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Aviles shared that the Subcommittee reviewed the proposed guidelines for 2024 Arts Grant Program.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the 2024 Arts Grant Program grant guidelines for the Arts Project, Community Arts, Organizational Development, Transgender Arts Initiative, and WeHo Artist categories. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation from Tina Calderon about the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kisch peoples**

The Commission received a presentation from Tina Calderon about the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kisch peoples.

**ACTION:** None.

**B. City Playhouse Steering Committee Update**

The Commission received an update from the City Playhouse Steering Committee members regarding the March 14, 2023 meeting. It was mentioned that the next City Playhouse Steering Committee Meeting will take place on April 18, 2023.

**ACTION:**

Received the update.

**C. City Playhouse Programming Scenarios**

The Commission reviewed the proposed programming scenarios for the City Playhouse and provided feedback and guidance to staff.

**ACTION:**

Provided feedback and direction to staff on the preferred programming scenario for the City Playhouse.

**V. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

None.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Faltz congratulated Commissioner Deaton and Commissioner Lee on their



reappointments to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

Commissioner Lee thanked staff for their hard work and expressed her gratitude for inviting Tina Calderon to present about the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kisch peoples.

Commissioner Deaton also thanked staff for Tina Calderon's presentation.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman echoed the comments made about Tina Calderon's presentation. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also suggested that the City of West Hollywood Playhouse should be renamed.

Vice Chair Aviles also thanked Staff for inviting Tina Calderon. Vice Chair Aviles also suggested for any outreach meetings to not take place on a holiday.

Chair Faltz also thanked Staff for inviting Tina Calderon, asked staff to ask Tina how Commissioners can help. Chair Faltz also thanked the City Playhouse Steering Committee and staff for their hard work.

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

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared the following grantee events information: Chanel Lumiere presents *100 Faces 100 Stories The Collective* on March 24 at 6:00 p.m., and Up & Coming Actors present *Meant To Be Pilot* on April 8 at 3:00 p.m., Eva also shared that the Artist Bootcamp continues to take place and all the artists are enjoying it. Eva also thanked the Commissioners for approving the 2024 Arts Grant Program guidelines.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che shared that City Council will issue a proclamation for National Poetry Month at its April 3, 2023 meeting and our Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace will attend to read an original poem he wrote celebrating the City of West Hollywood. A temporary public art installation, Poetry Walk, will be installed on April 6 on the Santa Monica and Doheny median. Michael also shared that staff helped put together the Lesbian Speaker Series Panel: *I Know You See Me* taking place on April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. which features queer female and non-binary identifying artists. Michael invited the Subcommittee to the WeHo Reads/National Poetry Month event called *Lounging with Poets* on April 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aquatic and Recreation Center (ARC) Respite Deck. Michael also shared that the Open Call for 2023-26 West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (RFQ) is open to apply until April 4, 2023. Michael concluded his comments by sharing that the Drag Story Hour event will take place on April 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann shared that the Drag Laureate application is now open and the deadline to apply is April 26, 2023. Rebecca also shared that 27 patrons both in person and virtually attended the Laurel House Residency meeting on March 17, 2023.

## **IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:58 p.m. to its meeting scheduled on April 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center Rooms 5 & 6.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
ON THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2023.

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DAN FALTZ  
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

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DENNICE OCEGUERA,  
RECORDING SECRETARY

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission may refer to the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Agenda to discuss **item 3.A.**

The **Art on the Outside Subcommittee Agenda** is available for viewing and download at this URL:

<https://bit.ly/41odCJ5>

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission may refer to the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Agenda to discuss **item 3.B.**

The **Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Agenda** is available for viewing and download at this URL:

<https://bit.ly/3GmuoQ2>

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission may refer to the

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APRIL 27, 2023

SUBJECT: **2023 WEHO PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL UPDATE**

INITIATED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**  
(Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager)  
(Mike Che, Arts Coordinator)

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**STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:**

The Commission will receive a presentation from Sean Knapp/HIT about the 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file or provide feedback as desired.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:**

The City of West Hollywood's WeHo Pride Arts Festival is the City's LGBTQ arts festival which takes place over 40 days from Harvey Milk Day (May 22) to the end of June Pride Month (June 30).

The festival grew out of a 2006 report from a City Council Task Force which evaluated the CSW/LA Pride Parade and Festival; a subsequent report was presented to Council in 2006 with several recommendations, including to *Gradually extend the Pride Event to incorporate a month-long series of arts, film, cultural and social activities that celebrate the creativity and diversity of the West Hollywood/Los Angeles LGBT community.*

From 2008 – 2022, the festival was called One City One Pride. In 2022, City Council decided to create its own WeHo Pride Festival separate from LA Pride/CSW and we decided to rename the festival the WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival. This year, with input from the City's Communications Department, the festival is renamed the WeHo Pride Arts Festival to align with the other WeHo City Pride events and branding.

An RFQ for a 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival Curator/Producer was open from September 27 to October 20, 2022. On November 3, 2022, the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee (PACA), along with one elected representative each from the City's

Transgender Advisory Board and LGBTQ+ Advisory Board reviewed 5 applications. On November 17, 2022, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved Subcommittee's recommendation of three (3) finalists to present at the January 12, 2023, PACA meeting. On January 26, 2023, the Commission approved PACA's recommendation of Sean Knapp/HIT to be the 2023 curator-producer.

Sean Knapp/HIT, in coordination with staff, is pleased to present the preliminary 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival schedule of events and programs, Attachment A. This year's festival will include a Drag Pageant, exhibitions at various gallery spaces citywide, a Banjee Ball, an LGBTQIA+ Craft Fair, film screenings, dance performances and workshops. As required by the City's RFQ, all events are free to attend and artists in the Festival include representation from the following communities: Asian and Pacific Islander, Ballroom/House, Bisexual, Black, Disabled, Drag, Gay Men, Latinx/o/a, Lesbian, Middle Eastern, Native American/Indigenous, People with HIV/AIDS, Senior, Sober, Transgender/GNC;/Non-Binary/Gender-fluid/Intersex, West Hollywood artists, and Youth. The producers had one open call for visual artists (drawings and photographs relating to LGBTQIA+ Pride) for an exhibit which will be mounted at the West Hollywood Library. They plan to have open calls which will open soon for LGBTQIA+ craft vendors, film and dance.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A:        2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival preliminary schedule

**WeHo Pride Arts Festival**  
Schedule of Events

May 22

Celebrating Harvey Milk Day: *The First Annual José Sarria Drag Pageant*, hosted by Maebe A. Girl.

June 1

Opening Reception for Coyote Park's solo exhibition, *My Own Private Rodeo* at One Gallery.

June 1 - Jun 30

Coyote Park's solo exhibition, *My Own Private Rodeo* at One Gallery.

June 1 - June 30

Ron Athey and Carmina Escobar Video Exhibition in Long Hall at Plummer Park.

June 1 - Aug 15

WeHo Library exhibition of pride-themed, digital drawings and photographs.

Date and Location TBD

*Banjee Ball* presented by Isla Ebony and the House of Ebony

June 17

LGBTQIA+ Craft Fair at Plummer Park Community Center.

June 22

Split Bill in Fiesta Hall. *Hungry Bottom*, a performance art group show, curated by Allie Smith AND Silverlake Shorts presents one hour of queer animated short films.

June 24

Queer Book Fair in Fiesta Hall. Lectures / Performances / Appearances by: Rick Castro, Boris Dralyuk, K Bradford, and others.

June 25

Dance Performance in WeHo Park. (including *SEAMS* by Yozmit).

June 27

Screening of *Girl Internet Show: A Kati Kelli Mixtape* with the filmmaker Jordan Wippell at Braindead Studios.

June 28

Screening of *Show Girls*, presented by John Early at Braindead Studios.

Dates TBA

Community Classes with Invertigo Dance Theatre, Toogie Barcelo, Justin Morris, Magi Calcagne and Dean Evans, Reach LA, and Ryan Heffington.

Keioui Keijaun Thomas Solo Performance - West Coast Premiere

*Haunting of Schindler House* by Jas Lin at MAK Center

ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APRIL 27, 2023

SUBJECT:           **CITY PLAYHOUSE MISSION AND GOALS**

PREPARED BY:   **ARTS DIVISION**

(Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager)

(Eva Angeloff, Grants Coordinator)

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**STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:**

The Commission will review the proposed mission and goals and provide feedback and guidance to staff.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the mission and goals for the City Playhouse.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:**

On March 23, 2023, the Commission discussed proposed statements to be included in the mission statement of the City Playhouse. The mission statement will communicate to the rest of the world what the City Playhouse is about, why we do it, and how we do it. Staff incorporated the Commission's direction into the proposed mission statement:

The City Playhouse is a multidisciplinary center for the visual and performing arts that presents new and innovative work that reflect and promote diverse voices, genres, and points of view. The City Playhouse commits to engaging the spirit of West Hollywood audiences through the programming of outstanding theater, music, dance, film productions, comedy, and cultural presentations in an intimate and fluid theater space that is accessible and welcoming.

In addition to the mission of the City Playhouse, the Arts Division's goals for the City Playhouse are:



1. To be a home for leading, world-class performing artists, while nurturing established and emerging artists and arts organizations with a primary focus on the communities in West Hollywood.
2. To serve as a center for community celebration, gathering, belonging; employ an artistic and administrative staff; ensure that fair and equitable access is provided to artists and community-based organizations that focus on engagement, partnership, equity, racial justice; and deliver high quality programming at affordable rental rates and ticket fees.
3. To promote the City Playhouse as a local center for artistic expression, an anchor and catalyst for economic development, while reaffirming its place as a hub of cultural activity that specializes in presenting performing arts which reflect the values of the City of West Hollywood.
4. To safeguard the City's significant level of capital investment by ensuring the theater's building, advanced technology, and equipment, are safe, clean, consistently maintained and regularly updated so that the facility will continue to be a cultural asset for the City.

ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APRIL 27, 2023

SUBJECT: **LIBRARY CULTURAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE REPORT**

INITIATED BY: **ARTS DIVISION**

(Rebecca Ehemann, Arts Manager)

(Mike Che, Arts Coordinator)

**STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:**

The Commission will receive a report from the Library Cultural Programming Committee on its meeting held April 18, 2023, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) Receive and file the report from the Library Cultural Programming Committee, and consider ratifying recommendations proposed by the Committee.
- 2) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the selection of Jennifer Y. Cheng as the 2023-26 West Hollywood City Poet Laureate and forward the recommendation to City Council for their approval.
- 3) Recommend that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approve the denial of the application from Richard Tucci to present an exhibition titled 'End of Pandemic'.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:**

After building the West Hollywood Library building in 2011, the City and Library formed the Library Cultural Programming Committee (the 'LCPC') as it was realized there was a need for greater cross-communication and collaboration between the agencies involved, and as a way to receive and approve requests from the public to present events, programs, art exhibits and other projects at the West Hollywood Library through an open application process. All agencies involved are also allowed to approve and conduct their own programming.

The LCPC is coordinated by the City's Arts Division and is comprised of representatives from the City's Arts Division, the West Hollywood Library (LA County Library), the City's

Recreation Services Division, City's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, and the Friends of the West Hollywood Library. Beginning in 2022, the LCPC began sharing updates to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A: Minutes from the April 18, 2023 Library Cultural Programming Committee meeting.

# Library Programming Meeting Agenda

**Date: Tuesday 18, 2023, 2:30-4pm**

**Location: Online on MS Teams**

[Link to agenda packet](#)

## Attendance:

- Emily Alcock, LA County Library
- Mike Che, City of West Hollywood Arts Coordinator (Library Cultural Programming Committee Lead)
- Kim Dower, Former West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (left at 3pm)
- Dan Faltz, Arts Commissioner (left at 3pm)
- Charles Flowers, Former West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (left at 3:10pm)
- Matt Gill, LA County Library, West Hollywood Library Manager
- Barbara Meltzer, Friends of the West Hollywood Library
- Dawn Moreno-Freedman, Arts Commissioner
- Dennice Ocegüera, City of West Hollywood Arts Division Admin IV (Recording Secretary)
- Steven Reigns, Former West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (left at 3:10pm)
- Brian Sonia-Wallace, Current West Hollywood City Poet Laureate (left at 3:10pm)

1. **Welcome** – Meeting began at 2:32pm – Mike reminded everyone that we are joined by our 4 current and former Poet Laureates for the City Poet Laureate application review.
2. **Introductions and Updates from Committee**
  - a. **City Poet Laureates** – All former City Poet Laureates shared their excitement for the selection of the next City Poet Laureate.
    - i. **Brian Sonia-Wallace** – also invited all to the April 26 Poetry Spa Day event
    - ii. **Steven Reigns**
    - iii. **Kim Dower**
    - iv. **Charles Flowers**
  - b. **Library:** Matt & Emily said hello
  - c. **Friends of the Library:** Barbara said hello and shared that she was selected as Woman of the Year by Congressman Adam Schiff.

d. **Recreation:** No representative was present

e. **City Arts Division:**

- i. Arts Commissioners Moreno-Freedman & Faltz said hello.
- ii. Dennice also said hello and noted she will be taking minutes.
- iii. Mike Che said hello, mentioned that there are some vacancies on our Arts Commission, and also shared information and invitations to Arts programs that are coming up for the rest of April & May as follows:

1. **Poetry Month:**

- a. **2 upcoming events on April 25 (Lesbian Speaker Series) and 26 (Poetry Spa Day – WeHo Reads)**
- b. **Poetry Walk**
- c. **Banners**

2. **WeHo Reads – April 26 and May 3 event**

3. **May 22 Harvey Milk Day**

- a. Jose Sarria Amateur Drag Pageant - Judges: Mayor, Karina Samala, Eugene Maysky, host : Maebe A Girl.
- b. Milk Crate photo op
- c. Voter Registration Table
- d. Pride Poets

4. **Drag Story Hour upcoming dates:**

- a. **June 17**
- b. **August 19**
- c. **October**
- d. **December 16**

5. **Drag Laureate Program – April 26 deadline**

6. **New Public Artworks –**

- a. **LightWave at the ARC – installed on April 17,**
- b. **April 29 - Keenan Hartsten music and painting and Acorn treasure hunt WeHo Park**
- c. **Britt Westveer wheatpaste on city hall May 15**
- d. **Nicole Goodwin performances, May 19 and 20, 6-7pm**

7. **WeHo Pride Arts Festival May 22-June 30**


3. **West Hollywood City Poet Laureate 2023-26 Application Review –**  
8 applications were received:





- i. Alixen Pham (West Hollywood resident)
- ii. Christopher Soto
- iii. Daniel A. Lovato
- iv. Imani Yvette-Marie Tolliver (West Hollywood resident)
- v. Jennifer Y. Cheng (West Hollywood resident)
- vi. Melissa Ann Bañales (submitted late – about 6 hours past the deadline)
- vii. Michael Baroto (West Hollywood resident)
- viii. October Olivia Ryan (West Hollywood resident)

Each Committee member shared their top 1-3 choices. There were comments about the number and quality of the applications. Names that were mentioned within the top choices, from most mentions to least, were: Jennifer Y. Cheng, Imani Yvette-Marie Tolliver, Alixen Pham, Melissa Ann Bañales, and Christopher Soto.

**\*The Committee voted to recommend Jennifer Y. Cheng noting Commissioner Moreno-Freedman voting for Imani Yvette-Marie Tolliver and abstention from Kim Dower and Commissioner Faltz because they had to depart early.**

**4. Library Exhibits Update and Review – The LCPC received an update on existing and upcoming exhibitions and**

Library Exhibits		Status
<p><b>Heart Sculpture (Mr. Brainwash)</b></p>		<p><b>On extended loan until October 2029,</b> We added a clause for 30 day termination by either party and have reached out regarding a cleaning.</p>

<p><b>West Hollywood Park by Jay Lynn (formerly Ramiro) Gomez</b></p>		<p><b>On extended loan until 2026 or sold</b></p> <p>Arranged for an extended loan which may be terminated by either party with one week notice.</p>
<p><b>Remembering Beverly Park</b></p>		<p>Open-ended, but the plan is to remove it later this year.</p>
<p><b>Historic WeHo – Photos of Historic Buildings by Tony Coelho</b></p>		<p>Extended due to pandemic.</p> <p>Partially deinstalled in April 2022.</p> <p>Remainder will be deinstalled in May 2023.</p>
<p><b>WeHo Reads Exhibition</b></p>	<p><b>WeHo Reads: Road to Joy</b></p> <p>In conjunction with the City’s WeHo Reads series, we conducted an open call photo contest around the WeHo Reads theme: Road to Joy, specifically about finding joy in the midst of sorrow. This photo competition was juried by Marisela Norte and Lynell George. This is a selection of photographs received in response to this photo contest.</p> 	<p>Dates of Installation: February 2023 to May 2023</p>
<p><b>LGBTQ+ Pride Drawings and</b></p>	<p>The City and WeHo Pride Arts Festival curators shared an open call for drawings and photographs for an LGBTQ+ Pride exhibit. At this meeting, the LCPC</p>	<p>Dates of Installation:</p>

<b>Photographs Exhibition</b>	<p>reviewed the images and approved or provided feedback for the curators as follows:</p> <p><b>Samara Lichtman:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Brian Sisney:</b> Everyone voted yes (Back or Side Wall)  <b>Ben Cuevas:</b> Everyone voted yes (Back or Side Wall)  <b>Jack Manning:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Joseph A Kaminski:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Michael Osborne:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Seda Saar:</b> Everyone voted yes, it was suggested that this could look good printed very large  <b>Pedro Salcido:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Mary Cheung:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Mychai Scrensen:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Jahari Tucker:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Thom Dower:</b> LCPC asked Mike to find out what the object being held by the figure is  <b>Helen Rogers:</b> Everyone voted yes (Back or Side Wall)  <b>Louis Jacinto:</b> Everyone voted yes, added a note to make sure the year of the photo is included in the description.  <b>Sophia Gasparian:</b> Everyone voted no because of profanity and a url (currently not pointing at anything but could be redirected)  <b>Ruby Vartan &amp; Sophia Gasparian:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Joanne Chase-Matillo:</b> Everyone votes yes (Back or Side Wall)  <b>Julia Mata:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Gary Javier:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Francisco Palomares:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Ingrid Bayter:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Julianne Clark:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Patrick Webb:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Umaina Damakka:</b> Everyone voted yes  <b>Roberto Eckholm:</b> Everyone voted yes</p>	<p>June 1 to August 24</p>
<b>ROXY 50</b>	<p>This will be a Mini Teaser exhibition (10-12 photographs) for a larger Grammy exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Roxy (a music venue located on the Sunset Strip). Mike shared that he is working on a reception and Artists and Icons talk scheduled for September 12, 2023.</p>	<p>Sept 7 installation. De-install in late January 2024</p>

**5. Updates on Past Proposals (approved in November 2022)**

- a. Mike shared feedback on the first Drag Story Hour which took place on April 15 including security concerns and a considerably large attendance of 115 people. Press from ABC, Spectrum News, WeHo Times, and several local colleges came. Mayor Shyne, CM Byers,



and Arts Commissioners Moreno-Freedman and Aviles also attended.

- b. Mike also provided an update on the Literary Death Match proposal. The City is working on contracting for a November 2023 presentation.

**6. Review of New Proposals Received**

Title of Program	Type of Program	Result
a. Richard Tucci – End of Pandemic	Exhibition	Denied because images are not of West Hollywood but instead feature Hollywood (weak/no connection to West Hollywood). Also this a fairly small exhibition that lacks impact.  Unanimous vote to deny.

**7. Scheduling of next meeting date and development of next agenda.**

To be handled via email.

Meeting ended at 3:57pm