

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
TELECONFERENCE MEETING***

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Faltz at 5:02 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 Martin Gantman
Commissioner Dawn Moreno-Freedman
Commissioner Todd Williamson
Commission Vice Chair Mito Aviles
Commission Chair Dan Faltz

Absent: Commissioner Catherine Lee

Also Present: Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann
Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Oceguela
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 January 26, 2023 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the November 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Approval of the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles, and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment

- 1) Sean Knapp, spoke in support of Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee 3A Item: 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer RFQ – Finalist Presentations.

- 2) Corie Mattie, spoke in support of Art on the Outside Subcommittee 4C Item: Commercial Business Mural Application, 450 N. Doheny Drive (Doheny Dry Cleaners), featuring artwork by Artist Corie Mattie.

II. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion.

Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Chair Faltz, 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.**

B. **Arts Division Summary Report FY 2015-2019**

The Commission received an Arts Division Summary Report which covers a five year-period of FY 2015-19.

ACTION: Received and filed the FY 2015-16 Arts Division Summary Report.
Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

C. **Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Look Ahead Calendar**

The Commission received the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Look Ahead Calendar from February 2023 to May 2023.

ACTION: Received and filed the Look Ahead Summary Calendar. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

III. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Deaton on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held January 26, 2023, and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Deaton, Subcommittee Chair for Art on the Outside due to Commissioner Lee's absence, shared information on the temporary art project *Falling on Deaf Ears* by Julio Sims.

Commissioner Deaton also shared information regarding all item presented for the (MIMA) Moving Image Media Art Program.

Commissioner Deaton concluded her report by sharing information of the submitted artwork by Corie Mattie for the Commercial Business Mural Application for 450 N. Doheny Drive (Doheny Dry Cleaners).

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.

- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve temporary art project presented by Julio Sims for *Falling on Deaf Ears*. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the artwork *Reverse Women* by Sarah Rara for exhibition on the billboard at 8743 Sunset Boulevard (Invisible Frame) from February 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the artwork *Kassaram (adapted)* by Thania Petersen for exhibition on the billboard at 9157 Sunset Boulevard (Streamlined Arbor) from February 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the qualified applications received for the Moving Image Media Art Program Prequalified List. **Motioned by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve artwork and augmented reality *Flesh and Blood* by Nancy Baker Cahill for a Moving Image Media Art Program (MIMA) exhibition at on all existing digital billboards on Sunset Boulevard from October 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 7) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Commercial Business Mural Application for 450 N. Doheny Drive (Doheny Dry Cleaners) featuring artwork by Corie Mattie. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CORIE MATTIE, spoke in support to the mural application.

B. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Gantman on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held January 19, 2023, and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Gantman, acting Chair for Urban Art Subcommittee, shared information on the 9009 Melrose Avenue (formerly 9060 Santa Monica Boulevard) (Melrose Triangle) Stage II Schematic Art Plan.

Commissioner Gantman also shared information on 1136 La Cienega Boulevard Stage III Final Art Plan.

ACTION:

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Schematic Art Plan STAGE II, by art consultant Patrick Ela and artist Ned Kahn. **Motioned by Vice Chair Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the Final Art Plan STAGE III, by art consultant Christopher Testa and artist Mark Hagan and for the project to be sent to STAGE IV. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Chair Faltz 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 January 12, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Aviles shared that the Subcommittee recommended to approve as part of the Consent Calendar the 2022 WeHo Arts Grant Program Summary Statement, the 2023 Winter/Holiday Artwork Draft RFQ, and the WeHo Reads 2022 Final Report and 2023 Winter/Spring Schedule.

Vice Chair Aviles also shared that the Subcommittee received presentations from the 3 finalists for the 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer RFQ and selected HIT/Sean Knapp as the recommended Curator/Producer. Miss Tiger, Co-Chair of LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, and Shane I. Nash, Chair of the Transgender Advisory Board were present and voted as part of the selection process as the elected representatives of their respective Advisory Boards.

Vice Chair Aviles concluded his report by sharing that the Subcommittee also received a presentation on suggested changes, discussed, and provided feedback for the 2024 Arts Grant Program Guidelines.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the 2022 WeHo Arts Grant Program Summary Statement. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Gantman and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the WeHo Reads 2022 Final Report and 2023 Winter/Spring Schedule. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the 2023 Winter/Holiday Artwork Draft RFQ. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

- 5) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve HIT/Sean Knapp as the selected Curator/Producer of the 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer Request for Qualifications. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

D. Library Cultural Programming Committee Report

The Commission received a report from Arts Coordinator Michael Che on behalf of the Library Cultural Programming Committee (LCPC) for its meeting held on November 30, 2022.

Arts Coordinator Che shared that a link of the meeting agenda is provided in the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Agenda Packet.

He shared that the LCPC approved the application and RFQ for the 2023-26 West Hollywood City Poet Laureate.

He shared that the LCPC received information on the upcoming schedule of Library Exhibitions and reviewed images for the WeHo Reads: Road to Joy exhibition to be installed in early February.

He shared that the LCPC received updates on past proposals and reviewed 4 new proposal applications. The LCPC approved two of these. One proposal is for Drag Queen Story Hour. In a subsequent conversation with the applicant, the project will be renamed Drag Story Hour in alignment with the national organization, and to allow it to be inclusive of both drag queens and drag kings. The other is for Literary Death Match which will be part of the WeHo Reads series in the Fall. Arts Coordinator Che is working on contracting and scheduling for both projects.

He shared that the LCPC also received an early draft of the WeHo Reads Final Report and 2023 Winter/Spring schedule.

ACTION:

Received and filed the Library Cultural Programming Committee Report. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously.**

E. Laurel House Artist Residency Program

The Commission received a presentation from staff and documents pertaining to the development of the Laurel House Artist Residency Program.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann shared documents and answered questions relating to the development of Laurel House Artist Residency. She shared that the consultants would present at the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee meeting on February 9, 2023, and encouraged all Commissioners to attend to provide feedback.

ACTION:

Received the presentation and provided feedback as necessary.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. City Playhouse Design Steering Committee (AD Hoc)

The Commission received a presentation from staff on the City Council meeting held January 23, 2023 and provided direction as necessary.

ACTION:

Received the presentation and selected Vice Chair Aviles, Commissioner Deaton, and Commissioner Moreno-Freedman with Chair Faltz as an alternate if needed for the Steering Committee. **Motioned by Commissioner Gantman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Deaton thanked staff for the incredible work presented in the meeting. She also stated the importance of security/sheriffs to be present when Drag Story Hour events take place, and suggested metal detectors or bag checks.

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman shared that she attended Kontrapunktus Neo-Baroque Chamber Orchestra "BACH & HANDEL: SOLI DEO GLORIA" at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, although she enjoyed the event, she was disappointed to only see about 60 people in attendance. She suggested that in the future, we give grantees the option to also give free tickets to their events to fulfill the attendance audience. She went on to suggest several items that can help boost the engagement at the Art events.

Vice Chair Aviles thanked everyone for the meeting. He also congratulated all the subcommittees on their amazing work. Also asked staff to be mindful of artist application submissions so that hiccups don't occur in the future. Vice Chair Aviles concluded his comments by echoing Commissioner Deaton on the importance of sheriffs for the Drag Story Hour events.

Chair Faltz also thanked Staff and the Commissioners for their hard work in the Subcommittee level. Also shared what a great opportunity the Laurel House Artist Residency Program will be for the arts and community of West Hollywood. Chair Faltz concluded his comments by also echoing Commissioner Deaton's comment on having sheriffs or security for any Drag Story Hour events.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared that WeHo Artists Roundtable is taking place February 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Eva also shared that the Artist Bootcamp is taking place on February 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Eva shared the following grantee events information: International Eye LA presents *Music Spectacle and Masquerade* on February 4 at 1:15 p.m., Suarez Dance Theater presents *Mother.Father* on February 14 at 1:00 p.m., and War Toys in Ukraine on February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Eva concluded her comments

thanking Commissioner Moreno-Freedman for attending the Kontrapunktus event and hopes to see the community at more events in the near future.

Arts Specialist Joy Tribble shared that the Winter Sounds Concert Series begins on January 28 with the Essentials, followed by Jennifer Leitham on February 11, and ending with Juliana Riccardi on February 25. All performances will be at the West Hollywood City Council Chambers at 5 p.m.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che shared that the kickoff for the 2023 WeHo Reads series begins on February 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Michael shared that the Poet Laureate RFQ is now open and the deadline is April 4, 2023. Michael thanked the Commission for approving HIT/Sean Knapp as the 2023 WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival Curator/Producer. Michael also stated that he will send an email to the Public Safety Division to request sheriffs for Drag Story Hour events as requested by several Commissioners. Michael concluded his comments by sharing that Walter Mosley, multiple award-winning author of *Devil in a Blue Dress*, will be part of the *WeHo Reads: Writing Paths Toward Justice* event taking place online on February 22 at 6:00 p.m.

On behalf of Public Art Consultant Jessica Rich, Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann thanked the commission for all the approvals of the MIMA Program.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann asked Commissioners to reflect on all the Arts Division events occurring in the following months. Rebecca asked the Commission to read through the Arts Division Summary Report FY 2015-2019. Rebecca also mentioned that an Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Look Ahead Calendar has also been provided for the Commission. Rebecca shared that there are two upcoming City Playhouse Community Meetings taking place on February 14 at 5:00 p.m. at Kings Road Park and February 28 at 5:00 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center. Rebecca also shared that the City is applying for a Bloomberg Public Art Challenge Grant to provide Temporary Art Projects at the city's Holloway Interim Housing Program.

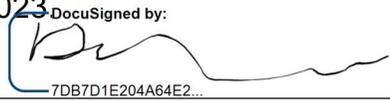
IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:24 p.m. to its meeting scheduled on February 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY 2023

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DAN FALTZ
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Dennice Ocegüera

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DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY