

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 25 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 5:01 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 Moreno-Freedman  
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 Ocegura  
Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell  
Arts Coordinator Michael Che  
Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff  
Public Art Consultant Jessica Rich

**D. Approval of the Agenda:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the April 27, 2023 meeting agenda was **motioned by Vice Chair Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

**E. Approval of the May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

**ACTION:** Approval of the May 11, 2023 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 with note that item 2B moved to excluded consent. Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Chair Faltz, 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.**

**B. Sunset Arts and Advertising Program (SAAP) – 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular)**

The Commission considered the approval of two artworks proposed by Diana Nawi curator, and Corey Favor from Orange Barrel Media, for exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular)

**ACTION:** Received and filed. **Approved under Excluded Consent.**

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. 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 May 11, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Aviles shared that the Subcommittee reviewed the new peer review panelists and approved twenty-four (24) to be included in the master roster.

Vice Chair Aviles also shared that the Subcommittee recommended the approval of contracting with BookSwell for the 2024 WeHo Reads series.

Vice Chair Aviles also shared that Pacific Opera Project was recommended by the Subcommittee to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2023 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Received and filed the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve twenty-four (24) new peer review panelists to be included in the master roster of peer review panelists to assist the City with review and scoring of Arts Grant Program applications and authorize staff to secure the panel and provide an honorarium for panelists who serve. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve contracting with BookSwell for the 2024 WeHo Reads series. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve Pacific Opera Project to present an in-person theatrical production in September 2023 at Kings Road Park for the City's Free Theatre Program. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Chair Faltz and approved unanimously.**

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. West Hollywood Drag Laureate**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission received a presentation from staff, discussed the applications received for the West Hollywood Drag Laureate, and made a recommendation of one applicant for the West Hollywood Drag Laureate for final approval by the City Council on June 26, 2023.

Staff announced that Transgender Advisory Board member, Luckie Alexander, was unable to participate in the scoring of the Drag Laureate applications.

The Commission expressed gratitude for all the Drag performers who submitted applications for the Drag Laureate opportunity.

The Commission inquired about the number of events that the Drag Laureate will be asked to make appearances at, the event fee and what it is expected to cover, and how events are selected for the Drag Laureate to take part in. In addition, the Subcommittee asked if there will be an overlap between the Drag Laureate and Drag Story Hour. The Commission expressed the importance of safety during the Drag Laureate's appearances for City events.

In response to the Commission's questions, Arts Manager Ehemann stated that the selected Drag Laureate is expected to participate in fifteen events per year such as West Hollywood Day and Pride Events, additional events will be negotiated, \$2,500 of the honorarium is earmarked for an annual event and fees will be waived for using a City Facility, all Drag Laureate participation in events will be discussed between staff and the Drag Laureate. Staff clarified that there will not be an overlap between the Drag Laureate and Drag Story Hour. Staff added that the Drag Laureate will be enrolled in the WeHo Artist Bootcamp.

Staff shared that a public event to install the Drag Laureate will take place on July 16, 2023, and additional details will be announced soon.

The Commission evaluated and scored all the Drag Laureate applications prior to the meeting. All applications were evaluated according to the criteria posted in the application. The evaluation criteria included a significant connection to the City of West Hollywood, quality of the cover letter, quality of the introductory video, qualifications + experience (resume), quality of the visual portfolio, performative excellence, potential impact of the performer, and recognition of the artist's work locally, regionally, and nationally. Scores were submitted to staff prior to the meeting, compiled, and averaged. Staff presented the list of the top 6 applicants that included (in order of score): Pickle, Miss BarbieQ, Jazzmun, Cake Moss, Misty Violet, and Johnny Gentleman.

The Commission deliberated about the applicants. The conversation was focused on two of the top three scoring applicants including Pickle and Jazzmun. The Commission considered the evaluation criteria in their conversation.

**ACTION:**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission selected Pickle for the West Hollywood Drag Laureate and forwarded the recommendation to the City Council for final approval. **Motioned by Chair Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved with a no vote from Commissioner Deaton.**

**V. EXCLUDED CONSENT**

**A. Sunset Arts and Advertising Program (SAAP) – 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular)**

The Commission considered the approval of two artworks proposed by Diana Nawi curator, and Corey Favor from Orange Barrel Media, for exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular).

Commissioner Deaton thanked Diana Nawi and Corey Favor for all their produced/curated work.

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved the temporary art project proposal, *We Are in Hell When We Hurt Each Other* by Jacolby Satterwhite, submitted by Orange Barrell Media, for exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from May 31 – August 31, 2023. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Vice Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 2) The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission approved the temporary art project proposal, *P22 on Film* by Jennifer West, submitted by Orange Barrel Media, for exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from May 31 – August 31, 2023. **Motioned by Commissioner Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

JACKETTE KNIGHTLEY, West Hollywood, spoke in support of item 4A.

**VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman wished to celebrate all the events occurring for the Arts Division. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also asked if *Honeycomb Harmonies* by Keenan Hartsten could be a project that returns for future events on an annual basis. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also mentioned that she attended the Nicole Goodwin's performance *Ain't I A Woman (?/!): The Woman* and expressed concern with the low attendance.

Commissioner Deaton thanked Commissioner Moreno-Freedman for her comments about Nicole Goodwin's performance *Ain't I A Woman (?/!): The Woman*. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also attended the event and thanked Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell for putting the event together. Commissioner Deaton also congratulated Arts Coordinator Michael Che for the Harvey Milk Day event.

Vice Chair Aviles started his comments by thanking all the members in the audience that were at the meeting for the Drag Laureate item and congratulated Pickle for being selected. Vice Chair Aviles also mentioned that he also attended Nicole Goodwin's performance *Ain't I A Woman (?/!): The Woman*, Vice Chair Aviles shared that although the attendance was low, he is glad that the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission were present and supportive of the project. Vice Chair Aviles also asked about Britt Westveer's wheatpasted mural *We've Always Been Here* and inquired about an installation happening at 8120 Santa Monica Boulevard. Vice Chair Aviles concluded his comments by asking the commission to adjourn the meeting in remembrance of Tina Turner who passed away on May 24, 2023.

Chair Faltz thanked Staff for all their hard work and congratulated them for the Harvey Milk Day Event and appreciated how Arts driven the event was. Chair Faltz also thanked all the applicants that attended the meeting in support of the Drag Laureate item. Chair Faltz would also like to adjourn the meeting in remembrance of Kenneth Anger who was an American Filmmaker.

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

Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell thanked the Commissioners for their support at Nicole Goodwin's performance *Ain't I A Woman (?/!): The Woman*. He gave an update on the status of Britt Westveer's wheatpasted mural *We've Always Been Here* and reminded the Commission that the negative space was approved as part of the artwork's proposal. He also thanked the Commissioners for supporting Keenan Hartsten's *Honeycomb Harmonies* and shared that the Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission (PFC) has approved the site at Plummer Park for Alexandre Murucci's *LA Romance*.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared that the last Design Steering Committee meeting for the City Playhouse will be taking place on June 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Kings Road Park Community Room. She also shared the following grantee events information: Celebration Theatre and Greenway Arts Alliance presents *Tales of the Transcestors* on June 16, 2023 and June 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Prism Q Con on June 17, 2023 begins at 10:00 a.m. at Plummer Park, Free Concert at West Hollywood Park performed by Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles at 7:00 p.m., The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights presents annual *Pride Reading Festival* on June 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Plummer Park. She reminded Commissioners that the Grants deadline is July 1, 2023.

Arts Coordinator Michael Che thanked the Commissioners for attending the *City's Harvey Milk Day event, featuring the Jose Sarria Drag Pageant*. He shared information about some upcoming WeHo Pride Arts Festival events and noted everything is online at wehopride.com. He also mentioned 2 open calls for the WeHo Pride Arts Festival with concurrent deadlines of June 9: for the Beautiful Things Craft Market on June 17, 2023 at Plummer Park and for the Queer Book Bazaar on June 24, 2023 at Plummer Park Fiesta Hall. He thanked Arts Division Intern Amanda De la Paz-Rangel as she departs from her intern role on June 1, 2023.

Arts Division Intern Amanda De la Paz-Rangel thanked the Arts Division for welcoming her and thanked them for all their guidance. Amanda also mentioned that she learned so much and is thankful for the opportunity.

Administrative Specialist IV/Recording Secretary Dennice Ocegüera congratulated the Commission on their selection for the Drag Laureate.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann introduced Laura Biery, the new Director of the Economic Development Department, in the meeting and invited Laura to the podium to say a few words to the Commissioners. Laura Biery introduced herself to the Commissioners.

Arts Manager Ehemann shared arts division updates from the May City Council meetings. She added that she has requested a presentation for the Commission from the Urban Design and Architecture Studio regarding the City Playhouse. She shared that Summer Sounds 2023 begins on June 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Plummer Park with Sophie B. Hawkins in Partnership with the City of West Hollywood's Lesbian Speaker Series. She shared that an exhibition to celebrate the LGBTQ civil rights History will be reinstalled on the construction fence on the corner of 8120 Santa Monica Boulevard. Arts Manager Ehemann stated that vendors who wish to present art making opportunities, such as Keenan Hartsten's *Honeycomb Harmonies*, should also be encouraged to propose projects with the Recreation Division. Arts Manager Ehemann concluded her comments by echoing the congratulations to Pickle on their recommendation as the first Drag Laureate.

**IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m in memory of Tina Turner and Kenneth Anger to its meeting scheduled on June 22, 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 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2023.

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DAN FALTZ  
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:

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DENNICE OCEGUERA,  
RECORDING SECRETARY