CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD LGBTQ+ COMMISSION AGENDA Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:00 P.M.

West Hollywood City Hall
1st Floor - Community Meeting Room
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Special meeting-related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Community & Legislative Affairs Division at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 323-GO-METRO (323-466-3876) or go to www.metro.net.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for check out at the meeting. If special assistance to participate in this meeting is required, (e.g., an American Sign Language interpreter for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing), you must call or submit your request in writing to the Community & Legislative Affairs Division at (323) 848-6559 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TTY line is (323) 848-6496.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ 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."

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Commission is requested to approve the September 14, 2023 Agenda as posted.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the September 14, 2023 Agenda as posted.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission is requested to approve the August 10, 2023 Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the August 10, 2023 Minutes.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission values your comments; however, pursuant to the Brown Act, the LGBTQ+ Commission cannot act on items not listed on the posted agenda. The public is given the opportunity to address the Commission on agenda items or

items of general interest within the jurisdiction of the LGBTQ+ Commission. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. An additional public comment period is offered at the end of the meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The LGBTQ+ Commission will elect a Chair.

RECOMMENDATION: Call for nominations and elect a Chair.

B. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The LGBTQ+ Commission will elect a Vice-Chair.

RECOMMENDATION: Call for nominations and elect a Vice-Chair.

C. C.I.T.Y. x1 YOUTH GROUP'S 2023 PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive a brief update from Carlos Sosa, Executive Director of the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group on its 2023 pre-Thanksgiving dinner and community events throughout the month of November.

Attachment:

1) Staff Report – C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group's 2023 pre-Thanksgiving Dinner and Community Events

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

D. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive a short presentation from the City's Governmental Affairs Liaison, Hernan Molina, about the California State Legislature and any potential impacts to the LGBTQ+ community in upcoming legislation.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

The LGBTQ+ Commission will revisit the discussion on the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony.

Attachments:

- 1) Staff Report Rainbow Key Awards 2023
- 2) List of Past Rainbow Key Recipients
- 3) Rainbow Key Award Guidelines
- 4) Applications for the 5 selected Rainbow Key Award 2023 Awardees

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Recommend course of action for the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony, and 2) Assign tasks and assignments to the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee members.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

This time has been set aside for the public to address the LGBTQ+ Commission on any item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission that could not be heard under Item 7 at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.

11. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

This time is set aside for brief general comments, requests, memorial adjournments, and other issues of concern from members of the LGBTQ+ Commission.

12. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

This time is set aside for City staff to provide information or feedback to the LGBTQ+ Commission on items of interest to the Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission will adjourn to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to be held in the West Hollywood City Hall - 1st Floor Community Meeting Room at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

ITEM 6 ATTACHMENT

MINUTES CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD LGBTQ+ COMMISSION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 7:00 P.M.

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL 1ST FLOOR – COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM 8300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

- **1. CALL TO ORDER** Moya Marquez, Community Programs Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
- 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Read by Commissioner Sotile "The West Hollywood LGBTQ+ 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."
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Kacy led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Patrick Ryan Blood, Ron Z. Cortes, Chiedu

Egbuniwe, Nik Kacy, Renee F. Sotile, Alec White,

ABSENT: Amber Whittington

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

ACTION: Table items 8.A. and 8.B. and approve the meeting agenda of July 13, 2023. Motion by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner Sotile, and approved.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

ACTION: Motion to approve the July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Pro Tempore, John Erickson apologized for not being able to attend the Commission's first meeting but expressed gratitude and excitement for the

Commissions future work.

*Public comment submitted via email included as attachment.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR TABLED

B. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR TABLED

C. UPDATE ON PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update and provided feedback on various public safety equipment, technology, and security enhancements as well as a drone and fixed camera pilot program with a real-time watch center to help support community safety efforts in West Hollywood. Danny Rivas, Director of Community Safety, led the presentation, and was joined by Captain Moulder and Lieutenant Lapkin who were available to answer questions.

The Commission's feedback included general discontent with the amount of time provided to review the report. Their feedback will be incorporated in the Community Safety Study Session on Monday, August 14th.

ACTION: Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes, Commissioner Blood, seconded by Commissioner Cortes, and approved.

D. WEHO PRIDE

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update regarding the City's WeHo Pride 2023 event from Cleo Smith, Event Services Manager and Megan Reath, Event Services Supervisor. The Commission shared positive thoughts and considerations and also highlighted areas of improvement and suggested Events staff look into the following for next year's Pride event: 1) Discounts for West Hollywood residents for next year's event, and 2) sliding scale entry fees or potentially having the City subsidize ticket fees.

E. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS 2023

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a brief overview of the history, guidelines, and process of the Rainbow Key Awards and discussed how to proceed with the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony.

ACTION: Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes by Commissioner Blood, seconded by Commissioner Cortes, and approved.

ACTION: Motion to create Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee to help plan the next Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony consisting of Commissioner Blood, Commissioner Cortes, and Commissioner Sotile, and approved.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Blood

Thanked Community Safety Director, Danny Rivas, Captain Bill Moulder, and Cleo Smith, the City's Event Services Manager.

Commissioner Cortes

No comments.

Commissioner Egbuniwe

Thanked the Commissioners, staff, and each of the City staff members that provided presentations to the Commission.

Commissioner Kacy

Asked staff to clarify how the Commission can make statements on incidents and hate crimes that involve members of the LGBTQ+ community. Staff liaison, Jennifer Del Toro, suggested the Commission appoint a liaison to the Public Safety Commission and will follow-up with staff and report back.

ACTION: Motion to extend meeting to 9:35pm by Commissioner Cortes, seconded by Commissioner Kacy, and approved.

Commissioner Sotile

Provided a brief event attendance report on their attendance at events throughout the City, including the swearing-in of Drag Laureate, Pickle, and National Night Out events. Commissioner Sotile also thanked Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson, the Commission, and staff.

Commissioner White

Congratulated Commissioner Kacy on their upcoming show and provided a brief event attendance report on their attendance at events throughout the City, including the swearing-in of Drag Laureate Pickle, and National Night Out events. Commissioner Kacy also thanked each of the City staff members that provided presentations to the Commission.

The Commission asked staff to clarify if the Commission can make official statements denouncing hate crimes or incidents involving LGBTQ+ individuals.

ACTION: Motion to appoint Commissioner Blood to draft a statement on behalf of the LGBTQ+ Commission's discontent with the amount of time provided to review the update on public safety equipment, technology, and security enhancements staff report. Motion by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner Blood and

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11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 9:44PM to its next regular meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM, at West Hollywood City Hall – 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room, located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Chair |

Recording Secretary | Jasmine Duckworth

From: Carlos Sosa <<u>genesisfxe@yahoo.com</u>> Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 4:54 PM

To: Jennifer Del Toro < JDelToro@weho.org>; Moya Marquez < MMarquez@weho.org>

Subject: Re: LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting 8/10/23

Dear Moya,

Thank you for your flexibility. Kindly find eclosed my comments below:

Good evening my name is Carlos Sosa and I am the Executive Director of The C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group. Our nonprofit organization focuses on linking local LGBTQ+ Homeless Youth to social services such as mental health support, GED training, drug & rehab, food assustance, and Transitional Living programs.

Since 2003 we have produced our annual Big Feast Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner, which the Commission has proudly supported since 2005 by generously donating \$1,000 that goes towards dinner expenses. This free community activity provides over 500 meals during Thanksgiving week, both in-person and delivered directly to local encampments.

The 21st annual event returns this November and we are reaching out in hopes that the Commission will renew its annual \$1,000 sponsorship. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to service many of the city's most vulnerable youth and linked thousands of displaced young people to the valueable services they desperately need. We certainly hope that we will partner together once again this year.

We ask that the Commission take this item under consideration and discussion during its September Agenda, where I will be in attendance to answer any questions the Commission members may have.

Thank you for your consideration. I can reach at 213-417-8888 or webmail@cityx1.com if anybody has any questions in the interim.

ITEM 8.C. ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: C.I.T.Y. x1 YOUTH GROUP'S 2023 PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER

AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

PREPARED BY: COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(Yvonne Quarker, Director of Community Services)

(Jennifer Del Toro, Community and Legislative Affairs Supervisor)

(Jasmine Duckworth, Community Programs Coordinator)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive an update on staff's recommendation that the West Hollywood City Council approve the co-sponsorship of the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group's 2023 "Big Feast" pre-Thanksgiving dinner and community events throughout the month of November.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) Receive and file.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Community Intervention Through Youth (C.I.T.Y.) x1 Youth Group is a non-profit organization dedicated to putting on free social events for at-risk and homeless LGBTQ+ youth between the ages of 14-24. C.I.T.Y. x1 is committed to connecting LGBTQ+ homeless youth to life-changing social services including, GED and job training, transitional housing assistance, medical care and health services, support groups, and food assistance. Since its formation in 2005, C.I.T.Y. x1 has serviced more than 7,500 youth through its collaborative partnerships with local service providers, non-profit organizations, and local municipalities like the City of West Hollywood.

Since 2009, the City of West Hollywood began partnering with C.I.T.Y. x1 to provide

financial support for their pre-Thanksgiving community events and dinners. Over the years, members of the City's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board (formerly known as the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board and now recognized as the LGBTQ+ Commission), have supported and volunteered at these holiday events which have often consisted of food and meal distribution. Financial support of C.I.T.Y x1 events helps to offset costs in coordinating the dinners and, food and meal distributions.

Historically, C.I.T.Y. x1 events are very successful and attract more than 100 participants each year. For over 15 years, the organization has remained steadfast in its mission to provide a safe space where youth can access much-needed services and interact with their community and allies. All C.I.T.Y x1 events are alcohol- and tobacco-free and are intended to serve as an alternative to the club scene. The organizers anticipate that several LGBTQ+ youth from West Hollywood will attend and benefit from these events, as they have in previous years. In 2019, the event was in-person with 300 meals served. In 2020, the event was a drop-off only event, with 250 meals dropped off at local encampments and transitional living homes. In 2021, the event was a drop-off only event with 275 meals dropped off at local encampments and transitional living homes. The event hosted in 2022 was the first in-person event for the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Groups' "Big Feast" since 2019 due to the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. This year, C.I.T.Y x1 will host a dinner and series of pre-Thanksgiving community events beginning on Sunday, November 19, 2023, and lasting until Wednesday, November 22, 2023. The community events will consist of two food giveaways; one scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2023, and the other scheduled for Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at QQ Café, located in the City of Los Angeles.

The City of West Hollywood has a history of providing financial support to C.I.T.Y. x1 events. As part of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget, the City Council approved an allocation of \$1,000 to support this year's event. Funding for this event is consistent with the City's current policies and initiatives. This item is to provide an update to the LGBTQ+ Commission on staff's recommendation that the West Hollywood City Council approve the co-sponsorship of the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group's "2023 "Big Feast" pre-Thanksgiving dinner and community events beginning on Sunday, November 19, 2023, and lasting through Wednesday, November 22, 2023, in the amount of \$1,000.

ITEM 9 ATTACHMENTS

LGBTQ+ Commission
NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: RAINBOW KEY AWARDS 2023

PREPARED BY: COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(Jennifer Del Toro, Community & Legislative Affairs Supervisor)

(Moya Márquez, Community Programs Coordinator)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The Commission will revisit the discussion on the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Recommend course of action for the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony; and
- 2) Assign tasks and assignments to the Rainbow Key Awards subcommittee members.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

The City of West Hollywood and its LGBTQ+ Commission (formerly the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board & the Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board) have presented Rainbow Key Awards since 1993 to those who have made outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community.

Awardees can be individuals or groups, and in the past, have contributed in many forms, including the arts, community action, humanitarian action, sports, medicine, armed services, leadership potential, benefit to the global LGBTQ+ community, or other ways. Since 1993, the City has given out 174 Rainbow Key Awards (Attachment A).

In Fall 2022, the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board reviewed, and Council approved, a set of guidelines for administering the Rainbow Key Awards (Attachment B). The Guidelines indicate the opening and closing times for the nominations, the review process, and

eligibility for the Rainbow Keys.

At the February 2023 meeting, the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board confirmed the selection of five Rainbow Key Award nominees (Attachment C), in accordance with the Rainbow Key Award Guidelines. The five selected nominees were Nashon Dion, Steven Reigns, Brody Schaffer, Bert Champagne, and Steve Pieters. As this body is the successor body of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, it is now the responsibility of this LGBTQ+ Commission to assist in the award process for these five individuals. It is not possible to select new nominees for the 2023 year, as the City, under the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, has already selected the five nominees for 2023 through a public process.

Each year, Commissioners (formerly the Advisory Board members) play specific roles in the planning and execution of the Rainbow Key Awards. When applications for nominations open, Commissioners are expected to share the nomination form within their networks. When the nominations close, Commissioners are expected to review received applications, and come to a consensus on no more than five nominees. Once individuals are selected, the Board then forms a Subcommittee to help staff plan and execute the event within budget (costs are inclusive of award design, graphic design, catering, photography, etc.). The Commissioners are also responsible for volunteering (either as teams or individuals) to present the awards at the ceremony. This involves researching the awardee, possibly interviewing them informally, and writing your own ceremony award script when you hand your award. Commissioners are also expected to help promote the event within their networks and attend the event and assist the day-of the event, as needed.

This year's process is unique, and staff understands that the Commission may feel partially disconnected from the nominees since there was no involvement from this body in the selection process. As a result, staff is presenting the Board with two scenarios to consider for the 2023 Award Ceremony.

- Scenario A: The Commission proceeds with hosting a ceremony in 2023 for the five selected nominees.
- **Scenario B:** The Commission does not host a ceremony this year, but instead holds a combined 2023/2024 ceremony in 2024 that incorporates the five 2023

nominees, and five more for 2024 selected by this body.

In both cases, the Commission must present awards to the five previously selected nominees – all that changes is the year of the presentation ceremony.

Both scenarios have their advantages and disadvantages.

- For Scenario A: staff believes that the biggest advantage is that it gives the 2023 awardees their own ceremony this year, and a ceremony for five has fewer moving parts than a combined scenario. The biggest disadvantage would be that the Commission would need to form a Subcommittee at the August 10, 2023 Commission meeting to help plan a successful ceremony in the fall of 2023.
- For Scenario B: staff believes that the biggest advantage would be the additional time the Commission would have to create a combined program with stronger attendance for the 2024 event. It would also provide the Commission the ability to choose its own awardees and feel closer to the selection process. The disafvantages would be that the award speeches may need to be shorter to accommodate more speeches, awardees will have to share their special day with more people, and that the Commission would need to do additional work in preparing speeches for ten awardees at the event.

If scenario A is selected, the Commission will also be requested to form the Subcommittee of the Rainbow Key Awards at the August 10, 2023 Commission meeting, as time is of the essence.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – List of Past Rainbow Key Recipients

Attachment B – Rainbow Key Award Guidelines

Attachment C – Applications for the 5 selected Rainbow Key Award 2023 Awardees

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD RAINBOW KEY RECIPIENTS 1993-2022, BY YEAR

1993	Carole Cook		Michaeljohn Horne	2013	Chaz Bono
	Bruce Vilanch		Yolanda Retter		Drían Juarez
			Steve Schulte		Torie Osborn
1994	Steve Bryan		Rodney Scott		Felice Picano
	David Engel		Tom of Finland		Stuart Timmons
	Walt Hanna		Robin Tyler		Virginia Uribe and Gail Rolf
	Thomas Harkins		Dottie Wine		
	Ernie Over		Lesbian Visibility Committee	2014	Noelle Carter and Valerie A. Moore
	Eric Underwood				Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles
4005	Balatata B	2008	Leslie Barclay		National Council of Jewish Women
1995	Patricia Ryan		Shirley Bushnell		Kim Rocco Shields
1996	Sharon DiFrancisco		Chris Clarkin Rita Gonzales		Jeff Zarrillo, Paul Katami, Kris Perry, and Sandy Stier
1330	Rabbi Denise Eger		Mitchell Grobeson		and Sandy Stier
	Steve Eng		Sue Hamilton	2015	Jon W. Davidson
	Helen Levin		Steve Krantz	2013	Mikel Gerle and Brendan Rome
	Alan Louis Needham		Sheila Kuehl		Our Lady J
	Jeffrey Prang		Robert Patrick		Jimmy Palmieri
			Svyatoslav Sementsov		Elaine Suranie
1997	Eugene Alper		Sisterhood Bookstore		
	Ed Gould		The Eagle LA	2016	Jay M. Kohorn
	Abbe Land		S		, Mark Lehman
	David Merrill	2009	Lynn H. Ballen		Carol Taylor-DiPietro
			Jinx Beers		West Hollywood Community
1998	Morris Kight		Malcolm Boyd and Mark Thompson		Housing Corporation
	Moss Krivin		David Codell		Ruth Williams
	Rev. Troy Perry		Paul Colichman		
	Steve Tyler		Phillip Ray De Blieck	2017	Cleve Jones
	Nancy Wilson		Don Kilhefner		JQ International
			Diane Olson		Eric Paul Leue
1999	Jon Bailey		Jenny Pizer		Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian
	Kenneth P. Hahn		Pat Rocco		Chamber of Commerce
	Richard Odenthal		Beth Chayim Chadashim		Michaela Mendelsohn
2000	Do Do Control Cilinad		Celebration Theatre		Jewel Thais-Williams
2000	Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord		Congregation Kol Ami		Ruth Tittle
	Sky Johnson Jon Maher		Metropolitan Community Church L.A.	2018	Rudy Akbarian
	Dr. Lo Sprague	2010	Wendy Averill and Marilee France	2010	Kathy Griffin
	Julie Summers	2010	Midge Costanza		Matt Palazzolo
	Steve Wayland		Oscar De La O		Brian Pendleton
			Lillian Faderman		Bamby Salcedo
2001	Michael John Smith		Dana Miller		Elizabeth Savage
			Karen Ocamb		ŭ
2002	West Coast Singers		Lisa Powell	2019	Asian/ Pacific Gays and Friends
	<u> </u>		C.I.T.Y. x1		Jeffrey Bowman
2003	MOMMA		Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing		Rabbi Lisa Edwards
			ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives		Jake Mason
2004	Khandi Alexander				Mecca LA Hosted by Kelly Gilliam
	Lynda Castro	2011	Sam Borelli		Project Angel Food
	Suzann Gage		John Ireland		
	Jean O'Leary		Terry LeGrand	2021	Dante Alencastre
			Stephen David Simon		Grace Baldridge
2005	Jeanne Córdova		John Eric (Rick) Watts		Jeff Consoletti
	Paul Koretz		Del Whan		Sophie B. Hawkins
	Kathy Watt Alyson Publications		Mia Yamamoto June Mazer Lesbian Archives		NiK Kacy
	Alyson Publications		Julie Mazer Lesbian Al Cilives		Troy Masters Paulo Murillo
2006	Lovedy Brydon	2012	Diane Abbitt		Dr. Adrian Ravarour
2000	David Logan	2012	Jeannette Bronson		Dr. Adrian Navarodi
	Demetri Moshoyannis		David Cooley	2022	Damian Pelliccione
			Ben Patrick Johnson		LaShawn McGhee
2007	Chad Allen		Roots of Equality		Alia Daniels
	Ivy Bottini		Karina Samala		Chris Rodriguez
	Durk Dehner		Nadia Sutton		Monica Trasandes
	John J. Duran		Brenda Weathers		Jazzmun Crayton,
	Linda Garnets		Carolyn Weathers		Greg Hernandez
	Sal Guarriello				Amita Swadhin

John Heilman

Rainbow Key Awards Guidelines

Adopted October 3, 2022

- Each year, the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board (the "Board") may bestow Rainbow Key
 Awards (the "Award") in accordance with the following rules and procedures.
- 2. Up to five awards will be given each year, with attention to achieving and maintaining gender parity over time.
- Award recipients need not be present in person to receive the award, although in most cases the recipient will be present either in person or by electronic communication.
- 4. The nomination period will be open from December 1 through January 31, and the nomination form will be posted online during this time period.
- 5. A nomination received after the deadline date may not be considered by the Board.
- 6. Outreach for nominations and participation in the awards will be shared through social media and other means of communication.
- 7. Nomination forms will seek specific information about the impact, nature, and scale of each nominee's contribution to the West Hollywood LGBTQ+ community specifically, as well as, if applicable, the global LGBTQ+ community.
- 8. Nomination forms will mention attributes for which nominees are sought, including local community action, arts, literature, humanitarian efforts, sports, medicine, armed services, potential for leadership, benefit to the global LGBTQ+ community, outstanding organizations, and other fields of contributions, with the understanding that these categories are meant to be illustrative, rather than binding.

- 9. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will receive and review all nominations for the awards, and will decide together as a Board, at a publicly-noticed Board meeting in February, which nominees to recommend to City Council.
- 10. Voting of the Board shall be by either a show of hands or a roll call vote, at the discretion of the Board.
- 11. The winner of the Awards shall be the nominees receiving the most votes cast, with up to five selected total. In the event of a tie, there shall be an immediate revote conducted that includes only the nominees that tied for the most votes.
- 12. The Board may only select as a recipient of an Award, individual(s), a nonprofit organization, a for-profit business, or a media company for whom or for which it has received an official nomination.
- 13.A nomination of an individual employed by the City of West Hollywood, or an appointed official currently serving or having served within the prior year on a City Advisory Board, Commission, or Task Force, shall not be considered by the Board.
- 14. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will provide recommendations on honorees to the City Council in March of each year, providing time for the City Council to consider and select the final recipients before the awards.
- 15. Amendments or exceptions to these guidelines cannot be made once public solicitation of nominees has commenced.



Submitted On:

Dec 11, 2022, 11:12PM EST

Nominated		Nahshon Dion		
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)		PO Box 7463 New York , NY 10116		
Nominee's Pho	ne Number	347-595-8531		
Nominee's Ema	ail	Ratcliff1978@gmail.com		
Nominee's Social Media https://www.lnst		tagram.com/nashondion/https//www.Facebook.comNashondion		
Any Other Cont Information for		Www.nashondionanderson.com		
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?		Nahshon Dion is a proud African American/Latinx multitalented, award winning creative nonfiction writer, an aspiring/ emerging filmmaker, creative director, producer, and a patron from Pasadena California. Nahshon's literature and film production speaks to discrimination and violence many Black & brown youth are subjected to. Being a resident in WEHO (2005-2009) she started her transition while living there, helping the homeless with the food Coalition, and participated in the Transgender day of remembrance events.		
Please Describ and Scope of T Nominee's Con	his	Transgender artist initiative grant to host; Honoring our Transcestors. The event hosted in March2021 Affirmed the lives and celebrated artist former residents as well		
Please Include Information You Important	•	In 2020, Nahshon was awarded a West Hollywood Transgender artist initiative grant to produce and host Transbrations March 31,2022, the 13th annual Transgender day of visibility The event allowed them to express their vibrant colors and gave hope to victims of violence and discrimination. A counter-narrative that honors the human spirit, celebrating		

victories of winning, in the face of adversity, and the

Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code) Your Phone Number

Your Name (Nominator)

323-440-8244

oppressors

Nahshon Dion

5480 Wilshire bl

Your Email	philwlankford@yahoo.com
Your Social Media Handles	IG/ PhilipLankford
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Submitted On:

Dec 28, 2022, 12:49AM EST

	st Hollywood
Person or Organization Nominated	Steven Reigns
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	748 Willey Lane, WEHO CA 90069
Nominee's Phone Number	213-249-6777
Nominee's Email	stevenreigns@gmail.com
Nominee's Social Media Handles	www.facebook.com/stevenreigns/ www.instagram.com/stevenreigns/ www.twitter.com/stevenreigns
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	www.stevenreigns.com, www.thegayrub.com, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Reigns
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood	Steven Reigns has been a WEHO resident for over 17 years and is an openly gay man whose writings focus on the gay experience and people with HIV. He is the first Poet Laurette of West Hollywood. During the time of his appointment, he started projects still in effect, such as the annual lamppost project every April and an annual poetry writing workshop. For the past 5 years, his lines of poetry have been featured on the large electronic billboard at the West Hollywood Gateway.
	For the past 17 years he has taught My Life is Poetry, an autobiographical poetry writing workshop to LGBTQ seniors. This is vital workshop that helps LGBTQ elders write about their life in an encouraging and supportive environment. The workshop connects them with a greater community but also with the joys of writing autobiographically. The workshop also creates a document for the seniors to share the wisdom and experiences of their life. A book, My Life is Poetry, was published with writings by workshop participants. He has taught 3 writing workshops at Yale. Before the start of My Life is Poetry, he taught poetry workshops around the country to LGBTQ youth groups and people with HIV. While doing all of this he also worked for 10 years doing HIV testing, counseling, and outreach. More than half of that time was

Just last year prestigious SF publisher City Lights published A Quilt for David, a book that Reigns devoted 10 years to research and

coordinating the Rapid HIV Testing Program at The Saban Community

many WEHO residents, was under the executor directorship of Abbe Land, and where Reigns won the WEHO's Paul Starke Warrior Award.

Clinic: a program that was partially supported by WEHO, served

write. Its focus is on a dentist in 1991 accused of transmitting HIV to his patients. The book details the life and struggle of a maligned gay man that Reigns ultimately clears in the book. It is a terrible tale of gay scapegoating and has received great praise.

For about four years, Reigns facilitated the Lambda Literary Book Club at the West Hollywood Library. The book club brought together LGBTQ people to discuss a diverse selection of books held in the WEHO Library. It has been on hiatus after the first year of the pandemic.

After leaving The Saban Community Clinic, Reigns became a licensed therapist with a history of WEHO involvement. He interned for free at Being Alive and Aids Project Los Angeles's WEHO location, started a first-ever support group for HIV+ men that focused on cinema as a projective tool. About 14 years ago his image was used in WEHO's Gay Heroes campaign.

Reigns also has an art exhibition of rubbings of LGBT markers debuted in West Hollywood at the One Archives Gallery. This exhibition, titled The Gay Rub, has since toured the country and features numerous plaques from WEHO. In print interviews he has credited WEHO for inspiring the project after he read about the Transgender Hate Crime Plaque at La Cienega and Santa Monica. This ongoing project was the subject of an award-winning short documentary in 2018.

Just this fall, a quote by Reigns was selected by artist Jenny Holzer and projected onto Rockefeller Center for a week. Just last month, he presented at The Broad Museum for World AIDS Day. He is also featured in photographer John Russo's brand new book 100 Making a Difference, alongside Oprah, Elton John, Serena Williams, Jennifer Lopez, and George Clooney.

Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.

Steven Reigns' life focus has been about literary arts, advocating for LGBTQ people and preventing and destigmatizing HIV. He has done exceptionally well at his projects and actions getting attention—this is especially impressive given how little attention poetry and poets get. He has elevated LGBTQ literary arts through his curation of lamppost banners, electronic billboards, Lambda Literary Book Club facilitation, workshop teachings, and by his own writings. He is an important part of the Los Angeles literary scene and works hard for others to feel included, supported, and seen. At a time where fewer and fewer people understand the importance of the literary arts, Steven Reigns is reminding them without being an elitist. His workshops are supportive and the majority of them are free and designed for LGBTQ people.

I think with any artist, it's hard to determine the impact of the work.

His poetry has received rave reviews by some of our biggest literary talents. The back of A Quilt for David is blurbs from our most prominent writers. President Obama's inaugural poet Richard Blanco has even written an essay about the importance of Reigns work. His workshops have been highly praised, and he has received grants from West Hollywood and the Los Angeles County Depart of Cultural Affairs.

There is a large scope of people interested and supportive of his writing, teaching, community involvement and artwork. His event are always packed, he has 5,000 Facebook friends, has three collections of poetry, edited three anthologies of queer writing. His reach is quite wide.

Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important

I think Steven Reigns' accomplishments and dedication to WEHO and the LGBT community is relevant and obvious. I would appreciate seeing someone like him receive the award. He is someone who has been focused and dedicated in quiet and important ways. He is a poet, artist, activist, and educator. His latest book, A Quilt for David, is reason enough to award him. With the research and writing of that book, he single-handedly vindicated the life and legacy of an HIV+ gay man who was falsely accused of passing on infection. Steven is quite fearless and deserving of The Advisory Board's recognition.

Your Name (Nominator)

Alexander Bazley

Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)

929 N San Vicente Blvd #4 WEHO CA 90069

Your Phone Number

310-595-4892

Your Email

axb8000@gmail.com

Your Social Media Handles

www.instagram.com/grandolbaz www.facebook.com/AlexanderxBazley www.linkedin.com/in/alexanderbazley/

Any Other Contact Information for You

I was a Public Safety Commissioner for under 2 years, was Transportation Commisioner for 3.5 years, and CFO for West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for 5.5



Submitted On:

Jan 9, 2023, 11:53PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Brody Hudson Schaffer
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	7241 Sitio Lima Carlsbad, CA 92009
Nominee's Phone Number	619 808 5884 Mother Danielle Schaffer
Nominee's Email	danielle@citygirlgonemom.com
Nominee's Social Media Handles	bossbabybrody Instagram
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	citygirlgonemom
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	At the young age of 7, Brody Schaffer has contributed hope and healing to so many in the West Hollywood LGBTQ community through his fierce dancing and bold personality. In a world that still sometimes fears and bullies kids like Brody, he is a reminder and an example—to me and his 650k followers on social media—of fierceness, boldness and courage. I am very grateful to be one of Brody's teacher and choreographers at Danceology LA, located in Beverly Hills, where I've seen his interactions with other children in class, which has been inspiring and challenging at times.
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	In many ways, our world is most afraid of feminine young boys. They are attacked and often bullied online and in person at school by children and by adults in politics and in the world. And this makes the scope of Brody's impact so meaningful, both psychologically and emotionally. As an influencer, he already has a local and global following, and without even knowing it, is an inspiration to young boys and girls who don't always feel safe to be themselves. Personally teaching Brody has been meaningful and healing for me. I was shamed and bullied for being like Brody when I was younger—Feminine, Creative, Bold and Fierce. And I hear this echoed by a lot of gay men who had similar experiences. Despite that society is scared of young feminine boys, Brody shows his confidence and courage everyday by being completely himself and having a voice.

Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important helping and saving LGBTQ kids who see Brody and identify with him. Along with Brody's influence in the LGBTQ community his family is a great support system. Knowing they also could be attacked for it, they do not back down. His fierce mother, loving father and

He has danced on Nickelodeon, done projects with "The Old Gays"

on social media, appeared in ads for Gap, received numerous scholarships and awards in dance competitions, and now has his own toy line. We are only just starting to see the scope of how he is

	supportive siblings. In the midst of "Don't Say Gay" bills popping up everywhere, I believe it is the responsibility of West Hollywood and the LGBTQ community to award the Rainbow Award to a young child, to give them hope. The LGBTQ community knows what it feels like to be bullied as children, and we still deal with the effects of this. Kids like Brody need to be celebrated. Brody needs to be celebrated. This is our future. Brody is the future. Brody is the Present.
Your Name (Nominator)	John Corella
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	7095 Hollywood Blvd. #453 Hollywood, CA 90078
Your Phone Number	3232360079
Your Email	corelladance@gmail.com
Your Social Media Handles	john_corella
Any Other Contact Information for You	jjcorella@yahoo.com



Submitted On:

Jan 30, 2023, 11:59PM EST

California 1984	1 lollywood
Person or Organization Nominated	Bert Champagne
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	6430 Dix Street, Los Angeles, CA 90068
Nominee's Phone Number	323-422-5543
Nominee's Email	bertc@aids walk.net
Nominee's Social Media Handles	www.facebook.com/bert.champagne
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	Bert worked for AIDS Walk Los Angeles, which is how this extraordinary man came into my life. Mr. Champagne has supported, helped, donated, and volunteered in many places in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York; it is hard to list all his contributions. I will focus on AIDSWalk LA; for over 20 years, he has led the Walk. The onsite guru for all AIDSWalk logistics. He helped to raise money for his own event. He helped to raise millions of dollars to fund services for AIDS organizations and non-profits that serve our community.
	Mar Change and a second assemble as of the California Landian

Mr. Champagne was a board member of the California Lesbian Project, which focused on lesbian health and raised over \$25,000 for them. When I asked him why do you want to support this CLP? His answer was they saved us when we were dying. I will never forget it, and I will always be thankful.

Project Angel Food hand delivers meals to many who are homebound and lonely. Bert has been volunteering there for over a decade. I worked at Project Angel Food, and I share this to prove I was an eyewitness to his compassion and generosity. I saw him volunteer weekly, delivering meals, helping Vesna with Special Events, fundraising, and taking phone calls during Project Angel Food's two telethons on KTLA. Bert is the man who is the first person on the scene and the last to leave.

During COVID-19, Bert Champagne spent his own money to purchase toothpaste, tissue, soap, gloves, masks, and toilet paper for Project Angel Food clients. He would add bags of necessities to the meal deliveries he made. To this day, the leadership and some staff still need to learn that he did tath for PAF clients.

Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	He has help go raise money for many who live with HIV & AIDS in West Hollywood for nearly over 20 years.
Contributions.	He has delivered Project Angel Food meals to clients in West Hollywood for ten years.
	He has volunteered at many small NPO's in West Hollywood from the Lesbian Project, the Jordon Rustine Coalition, No on Prop 8, and helped to organize many events in West Hollywood.
	Throughout the 15+ years of knowing Bert, the most obvious trait that comes through is his care for others. Our professional and personal relationship started with our involvement with Project Angel Food and progressed to AIDS Walk and other endeavors throughout the community. Bert spreads his generosity, hard work and love in so many ways within the community. From the personal delivery of food to those in need (which always have goodies added to the delivery) to coordinating/managing major events that benefit many within West Hollywood and beyond. These and all the other projects, events, donations, etc., all come with no strings, hoopla or expectations, only the need and desire to help others. I feel privileged to know this generous, kind and down-to-earth human. His example should be brought to others so that it may expand even further. Vesna Fartek, former Project Angel Food Volunteer Manger and long time friend of Bert Champagne.
Your Name (Nominator)	Anne-Marie Williams
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	8345 Rosewood Ave. #18 West Hollywood, CA 90048
Your Phone Number	323-309-1618
Your Email	amw323@gmail.com
Your Social Media Handles	IG: @yepwilliams
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Submitted On:

Feb 1, 2023, 12:02AM EST

City of West Hollywood California 1984	Hollywood
Person or Organization Nominated	Rev. Dr. Steve Pieters
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	
Nominee's Phone Number	(323) 717-7221
Nominee's Email	steve.pieters@att.net
Nominee's Social Media Handles	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/steve.pieters1 IG: https://www.instagram.com/aspieters/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	The Rev. Dr. Steve Pieters, a long-time resident of West Hollywood, has been an AIDS activist for over 40 years. After being diagnosed with AIDS-related complex (ARC) in 1982, and AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four Lymphoma in 1984, his remarkable story of recovery serves as an inspiring example of healing and hope. He brought national and international awareness to the AIDS epidemic when he was interviewed by Tammy Faye Bakker on The PTL Club during which they discussed his sexuality, coming out, diagnosis with AIDS, and the death of his partner. Steve's story was captured in the award-winning film "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" (2021)
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	The Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters is a long-term survivor of AIDS. Diagnosed with AIDS-related complex (ARC) in 1982, and AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four Lymphoma in 1984, his remarkable story of recovery serves as an inspiring example of healing and hope. He has been interviewed by the Los Angeles Sunday Times, Time magazine, Omni magazine, Life magazine, and numerous television talk and news shows including CNN, Headline News, Tammy's House Party with Tammy Faye Bakker, CBS This Morning, the Tom Snyder Show, America Talks Back, and Real Life with Jane Pauley. He is featured in the 2000 documentary, The Eyes of Tammy Faye, and he is portrayed in the 2021 feature film, The

Eyes of Tammy Faye.

In September 1985, he was a featured speaker at the first entertainment industry dinner AIDS benefit, given by Elizabeth Taylor and honoring former First Lady Betty Ford. In November 1987 he presented the Buddy of the Year Award to Whoopi Goldberg at APLA's third annual entertainment industry benefit. In the summer of 1990, he appeared as himself in the hit play, "AIDS US/II." His story also appears in the books, Surviving AIDS by Michael Callen, Voices That Care by Neal Hitchens, Don't Be Afraid Anymore by Rev. Troy D. Perry, and I Love to Tell the Story, by Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson.

Rev. Pieters was born and raised in Andover, Massachusetts, where his father chaired the Mathematics Department at Phillips Academy. Steve attended Phillips Andover in preparation for his theater studies at Northwestern University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Speech in 1974.

In 1976, he joined Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church in Chicago, where he decided to pursue a calling to the professional ministry. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1979, at which time he accepted a call as Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford, Connecticut.

In Hartford, he served on the Board of Directors of the Hill Center, Inc., and Center City Churches, and on the Executive Committee of the Sexual Minorities Task Force of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches. The Gay Switchboard for the region was kept in his home, and he was interviewed in the print media, as well as on many TV and radio shows as one of the few local gay activists.

In April 1982, Steve began experiencing the first symptoms of what we now know as HIV infection, but then was called GRID: Gay Related Immunodeficiency. Steve resigned his position in Hartford, and moved to Los Angeles, where he experienced a series of illnesses, including hepatitis, cytomegalovirus, mononucleosis, and pneumonia. That led to his diagnosed with ARC: AIDS-related complex. In April 1984, he was diagnosed with AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four lymphoma, and he was told by one health professional that he would not live to see 1985.

There were no treatments available, and his doctor, Alexandra M. Levine, M.D., told him, "You in the church have more to offer at this point than we do in medicine." She also challenged him to "do everything you can to create the conditions for medication to work when we find something," adding, "If 0.001% end up surviving AIDS, than why not believe that you will be among that 0.001%, and act accordingly?"

In 1985, he became "patient number 1" on the first anti-viral drug trial to treat HIV. He took suramin for a total of 39 weeks. Within six weeks of treatment with suramin, both cancers went into complete remission. Due to toxic side effects, the drug was discontinued for use against AIDS. However, Rev. Pieters continues to enjoy a

complete remission of his cancers, according to his physician, Alexandra M. Levine, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of City Of Hope.

Since his diagnosis, Rev. Pieters has served on the Boards of Directors of AIDS Project Los Angeles, the AIDS Interfaith Council of Southern California, the AIDS National Interfaith Network (USA), and the first Los Angeles City/County AIDS Task Force, and was Field Director for the AIDS Ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from 1987 to 1997. He has written a series of articles for Journey magazine about his experiences with AIDS, which have been collected with other writings of Rev. Pieters' in the book, I'm Still Dancing.

Rev. Pieters was one of twelve guests at the first AIDS Prayer Breakfast at the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie on November 30, 1993. The President talked about Rev. Pieters in his World AIDS Day speech on December 1, 1993.

Rev. Pieters has received awards for his ministry in the AIDS crisis from the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; Evangelicals Together, Inc.; the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles; The Lazarus Project of the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church; and the West Hollywood City Council. In 1989 he received an Honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from Samaritan College, the seminary of the Metropolitan Community Churches. In 1990, he received the prestigious Sheldon Andelson Award from the Stonewall Democratic Club, and the Sandra L. Robinson Award from Community Unity in Dayton, Ohio.

Rev. Pieters received an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University in 2003, and subsequently worked as a psychotherapist for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; Alternatives, Inc.; Teen Line; and the Westminster Counseling Center.

Reverend Pieters has been a singing member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles since 1994. From 1994-99, he served on their Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles Board from 1997-99. With the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, he has performed in some of the great concert halls of the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York (in 1994 and 2019), Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Reverend Pieters has served as Staff Clergy at Founders
Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles. He has traveled the
world, teaching, preaching, and sharing his belief in God's healing
and sustaining power while living with HIV/AIDS. Everywhere he
spoke, he carried a fairy wand to teach about the importance of

	believing in fairies when so many good fairies were dying. It symbolized the importance of believing in ourselves enough to do the work of healing, whether that be healing into life, or healing into death.
	In October 2019, examples of his work in AIDS Ministry and of his life as a person with HIV/AIDS were placed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Included in that collection is his fairy wand.
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	I met Steve through the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and over the years, have become dear friends. His life has been filled with compassionate activism and to many in the recovery community, he continues to be a light for those in need. This past fall, Steve was diagnosed with a new stage-4 cancer. And now he's in for another fit of his life again.
Your Name (Nominator)	Jason Frazier
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	2353 N Reese Pl Burbank, CA 91504
Your Phone Number	(310) 418-8014
Your Email	jason.lgab@gmail.com
Your Social Media Handles	@jasfraz
Any Other Contact Information for You	

- 9. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will receive and review all nominations for the awards, and will decide together as a Board, at a publicly-noticed Board meeting in February, which nominees to recommend to City Council.
- 10. Voting of the Board shall be by either a show of hands or a roll call vote, at the discretion of the Board.
- 11. The winner of the Awards shall be the nominees receiving the most votes cast, with up to five selected total. In the event of a tie, there shall be an immediate revote conducted that includes only the nominees that tied for the most votes.
- 12. The Board may only select as a recipient of an Award, individual(s), a nonprofit organization, a for-profit business, or a media company for whom or for which it has received an official nomination.
- 13.A nomination of an individual employed by the City of West Hollywood, or an appointed official currently serving or having served within the prior year on a City Advisory Board, Commission, or Task Force, shall not be considered by the Board.
- 14. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will provide recommendations on honorees to the City Council in March of each year, providing time for the City Council to consider and select the final recipients before the awards.
- 15. Amendments or exceptions to these guidelines cannot be made once public solicitation of nominees has commenced.