

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL, FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM,
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Aviles at 5:01 p.m.

A. Land Acknowledgement: Chair Aviles read the Land Acknowledgement.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Aviles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call:

Present: Commissioner Dan Faltz
Commissioner Sigourney Gunther
Commissioner Moreno-Freedman
Commission Vice Chair Lindsey Deaton
Commission Chair Mito Aviles

Absent: Commissioner Cameron Faber
Commissioner Catherine Lee

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

D. Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Approval of the August 24, 2023 meeting agenda was **motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the July 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

ACTION: Approval of the July 27, 2023 was **motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**

F. Public Comment ISSA ABABSEH, West Hollywood, introduced himself to the Commission.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matter was acted upon by one motion. Approval of the Consent Calendar was **motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Gunther, 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. Fiscal Year 2024 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Subcommittee's Structures and Appointment to the Library Cultural Programming Committee

The Commission reviewed and considered approval of its Subcommittee's structures (Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, Urban Art Subcommittee, and the Art on the Outside Subcommittee) for FY 2024 as proposed by the Chair and considered appointing commissioners to sit on the Library Cultural Programming Committee.

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

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Urban Art Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Moreno-Freedman on the Urban Art Subcommittee for its meeting held August 17, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Urban Art Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the artwork "RELAX UR OK" to remain in its current location on the traffic median at Santa Monica Boulevard at Holloway Drive. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Gunther and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to have the "ONE LOVE" artwork remain in its current location on the traffic median at Santa Monica Boulevard at Holloway Drive. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved an additional \$5,000 per year to be added to the Civic Art Collection Maintenance account to cover costs associated with maintaining the artworks. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Approved the City proceed with the transfer of ownership for the artworks, "RELAX UR OK" and "ONE LOVE" by artist Scott Froschauer and forwarded the approval to City Council. **Motioned by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved unanimously.**

- 6) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve STAGE I Concept Art Plan for the 1201 Detroit Street (Lexington Gardens) project.
- 7) Approved the artist selection of Rafael Lopez.
- 8) Received and filed submissions in accordance with the Urban Art Policy and Guidelines.

Actions 6 to 8 were all approved in one motion by Commissioner Faltz, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved unanimously.

B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Vice Chair Deaton on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held August 24, 2023 and considered ratifying recommendations proposed by the Subcommittee.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report.
- 2) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve Rebekah Rose Ressler's proposal for the 9x9 Mural Opportunity (West Hollywood Park's 5-Story Parking Structure). Motioned by Lee seconded by Commissioner Deaton and approved unanimously. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to decline to proceed with finding the Temporary Art Project *LA Romance* by artist Alexandre Murucci. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's approval of the temporary art project proposal, *Untitled (Donna Mae Stemmer)*, 2023 by Rami George, submitted by Orange Barrell Media, for Exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from September 1, 2023 – December 1, 2023.
- 5) *Time Owes Me Rest Again*, 2023 by Christine Sun Kim, submitted by Orange Barrell Media, for Exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from September 1, 2023 – December 1, 2023.
- 6) *We Hold*, 2023 by Lukaza Branfman Verissimo, submitted by Orange Barrel Media, for Exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024.
- 7) *Untitled* by Patrick Martinez, submitted by Orange Barrel Media, for Exhibition on the electronic billboards at 8775 Sunset Boulevard (Sunset Spectacular) from December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024.

Actions 4 to 7 were all approved in one motion by Chair Aviles, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.

- 8) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve the draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the City Hall Community Plaza Banners. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 9) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to deny Marissa Brown's proposal *How lonely sits the city*, was denied, citing concerns regarding the artist's lack of experience for the proposed method of installation of the project and a lack of innovation in the proposed project.
- 10) Cody TheCreative's proposal *LoveKey Movement Community Mural Project: Love is the Key in WeHo*, was denied, citing concerns about the design quality, potential visual enjoyment, and lack of innovation in the proposal. The proposed location was not available.
- 11) Vanessa Gomez's proposal *Ecdysis*, was denied, citing concerns about concerns about the design quality, potential visual enjoyment, and lack of innovation in the proposal. The proposed location was not available.
- 12) Donna Gough's proposal *LOVEWIN(G)S*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal and concerns about the proposed project materials. The proposed location was not available.
- 13) Mary Lai's proposal *Dream Portal*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal and concerns that the artwork may require a custom foundation. The proposed location was not available.
- 14) Yeu Nguyen's proposal *Vibrant Figures*, was denied, citing concerns about the appropriateness of the proposed materials for public space, considering maintenance and longevity.
- 15) CK REED's proposal *The Pros and Cons of West Hollywood*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal. The proposed location was not available.
- 16) Seda Saar's proposal *Rainbow Column*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal, the potential need for a custom foundation, and the appropriateness of the proposed materials for public space, considering maintenance and longevity.
- 17) Nathan See's proposal *The Sword in the Stone*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal and concerns that the artwork may require a custom foundation. The proposed location was not available.

- 18) Ilya Sobol's proposal *HearHug by Izobrulo Polylight Art*, was denied, citing concerns about the proposed budget being unrealistic relative to the scope of the proposal (the proposal is for a 6-week installation) and the appropriateness of the materials for public space considering maintenance and longevity. The proposed location was not available.
- 19) Ricardo Tomasz's proposal *Colors of Resilience* were denied and directed staff to see locations within the City for artwork opportunities and to find artists to install in the locations. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

Actions 9 to 19 were all approved in one motion by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.

C. 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival Summary Report and Draft 2024 RFQ

The Commission received a report on the 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival, considered recommendations from staff, and reviewed the drafted RFQ for the 2024 WeHo Pride Arts Festival Curator/Producer.

ACTIONS:

- 1) Received and filed the final report for the 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival.
- 2) Directed staff to plan a Harvey Milk Day event for 2024 and determined that staff can choose if the event should be city produced or contracted to a curator/producer. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Directed staff to produce a weekend LGBTQ multidisciplinary arts activation on June 15-16 in Plummer Park as part of the 2024 WeHo Pride Arts Festival. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Directed staff to issue an RFQ for a curator/producer to present a weekend LGBTQ multidisciplinary arts activation as part of the 2024 WeHo Pride Arts Festival. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 5) Directed staff to plan a Banjee Ball event for the 2024 WeHo Pride Arts Festival and determine if the event should be city produced or contracted to a curator/producer. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**
- 6) Directed staff to allocate \$5,000 to pay for graphic design services for 2024 WeHo Pride Arts Festival events. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton seconded by Commissioner Faltz and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS None.

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT STEVE GALINDO, West Hollywood, invited the Commission to an event curated by Steve Galindo and former Commissioner Todd Williamson.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Moreno-Freedman asked if the City could use the exhibition space formally used by MOCA in the Pacific Design Center. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also asked all Commissioners to attend the Arts events occurring in Plummer Park on Sunday, August 27, 2023.

Commissioner Faltz shared he curated a screening of a film called *Saging the World* at the Ontario Museum; the documentary features the role of white sage in indigenous cultural practices. Commissioner Faltz thanked Commissioner Lee and the Arts Division staff for having Tina Calderon give a presentation to the Commission because it helped set the tone for his connection with the individuals/organizations involved in the film screening. Commissioner Faltz also shared that he attended Drag Story Hour and Commissioner Lee was also in attendance. Commissioner Faltz also welcomed the new Commissioners to the Commission.

Vice Chair Deaton thanked staff for their hard work. Vice Chair Deaton also shared that her stepmom Mary D. Dickerson passed away, asked the Commission to adjourn in her honor.

Chair Aviles made a motion to have AI consultants provide a presentation to the Commission at a later meeting. **Motioned by Chair Aviles seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

Chair Aviles also asked to adjourn the meeting in remembrance of Lauri Carleton.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff shared that the WeHo Artists Roundtable will take place on August 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Plummer Park, in Great Hall. Eva also shared that the final Summer Sounds event is also taking place on August 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in partnership with Grand Performances who are supported by an arts grant from the City of West Hollywood. Eva also reminded Commissioners that the WeHo Artist Grant deadline is September 1, 2023.

Arts Coordinator Mike Che reminded the Commission that an Artists and Icons talk and Reception for an exhibition at the West Hollywood Library celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Roxy Theatre will take place on September 12, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. He also thanked the Commissioners for approving the WeHo Pride Arts Festival RFQ.

In response to Commissioner Moreno-Freedman's question, Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann stated that the MOCA exhibition space is overseen by the Pacific Design Center and after a talk with them, the City was unsuccessful in establishing a partnership with them. Rebecca shared that the next Neighborhood Conversation will take place September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center following a zoom

meeting opportunity on September 27, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Rebecca also shared that the City is releasing a Request for Proposals for a management operations and programming provider for the City Playhouse, the RFP will be released on August 31, 2023 and closes on September 27, 2023.

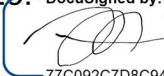
IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of Mary D. Dickerson and Lauri Carleton at 6:00 p.m. to its meeting scheduled on September 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to be held at the West Hollywood City Hall, 1st Floor – Community Meeting Room located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION ON THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST 2023.

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MITO AVILES
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST DocuSigned by:


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DENNICE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY