

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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 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 Cameron Faber
 Commissioner Sigourney Gunther
 Commissioner Catherine Lee
 Commissioner Moreno-Freedman
 Commission Vice Chair Lindsey Deaton
 Commission Chair Mito Aviles

Absent: Commissioner Dan Faltz

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

D. Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Approval of the September 28, 2023 meeting agenda with item 4B moved to next month's meeting **motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Chair Aviles, and approved unanimously.**

E. Approval of the August 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

ACTION: Approval of the August 24, 2023 was **motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved noting an abstain vote from Commissioner Faber.**

F. Public Comment PICKLE, DRAG LAUREATE, West Hollywood, shared a summary of the Drag Artists Roundtable (meeting 1) that took place on September 20, 2023.

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.**

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 September 21, 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 STAGE II - Developed Design Review of Urban Art Plan for 1201 Detroit Street (Lexington Gardens) project. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Chair Aviles and approved unanimously.**

B. Art on the Outside Subcommittee Report

The Commission received a report from Commissioner Lee on the Art on the Outside Subcommittee for its meeting held September 28, 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 the WeHo Muralist Roster applications from Alex Gonzalez, Andrey Kravtsov, Augustus Harper, Charlie Sutcliffe, Chelsea Hart, Danté Marshall, De Shawn Huff, Fil OK, Freshta Neksa, Hugo Medina, Jared Karp, Joaquin Hoste, Kimberly Brown, Melissa Arendt, Rebekah Ressler, Richard Ingram, Scott (SKÜT) Lewallen, and WRD SMTH. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**
- 3) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to deny the WeHo Muralist Roster applications from Aubrey Gray, Caroline Geys, Davia King, Mary Cheung, Michelle Dinh. **Motioned by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Faber and approved unanimously.**
- 4) Approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve artists Sunny Allis, Daniel Dick, Katbing, David Kim, Danté Marshall, SKÜT with alternative artists

Mz. Icar and Christine Nguyen for a short list of the Art on Construction Fence Program. **Motioned by Vice Chair Deaton, seconded by Commissioner Moreno-Freedman and approved unanimously.**

- 5) Approved the Subcommittee’s recommendation to approve Xvarnah by Shaghayegh Cyrus for exhibition at 9157 Sunset Boulevard (Streamlined Arbor) as part of the Moving Image Media Art Program (MIMA) from February 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024. **Motioned by Chair Aviles, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arts Grant Program 2024 Funding Recommendation

The Commission reviewed the scores provided by the peer review panel for the 2024 Arts Project Grant, Community Arts, Organizational Development Grant, and Transgender Arts Initiative Grant applicants and recommend funding allocations for the 2024 calendar year based on those scores.

ACTION:

The Commission approved the funding Scenario A for the 2024 Arts Project Grant, Community Arts Grant, Organizational Development Grant, and Transgender Arts Initiative Grant and forwarded the recommendations to the City Council for ratification. **Motioned by Commissioner Gunther, seconded by Vice Chair Deaton and approved unanimously.**

B. Arts Grant Program 2024 WeHo Artist Grant Application Review

The commission will review, evaluate, and score applications received in response to the City’s call for submissions for the WeHo Artist Grant and make funding recommendations.

ACTION:

Moved to next month’s meeting.

C. 2024 Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Work Plan

The Commission reviewed the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Work Plan for fiscal year 2024.

ACTION:

The Commission reviewed the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission Work Plan for fiscal year 2024 and provided feedback as necessary. **Received and filed.**

V. EXCLUDED CONSENT None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT None.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lee thanked staff for all their hard work. Also stated that Commissioners from Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission should be involved in all the decisions for the Laurel House Residency Program.

To answer Commissioner Lee's comment, Commissioner Moreno-Freedman stated that the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee is going to be involved in the decisions for the Laurel House Residency Program and report back to the full commission. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also acknowledged HIT for the 2023 WeHo Pride Arts Festival. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman also acknowledged Arts Specialist Joy Tribble for the diverse community engagement of Summer Sounds and Free Theatre in the Park 2023. Commissioner Moreno-Freedman concluded her comments by asking staff what steps were taken to achieve the success of the programs and how the target audience was identified.

Chair Aviles echoed Commissioner Moreno-Freedman's comments on the WeHo Pride Arts Festival. Chair Aviles asked for clarification for the City Playhouse RFP. Chair Aviles also asked how the individuals for Artists and Icons get selected. Chair Aviles also agreed with WeHo's Drag Laureate Pickle of having a grant specifically for drag performers. Chair Aviles concluded his comments by asking to adjourn the meeting in memory of Randy Mathews, a long time WeHo resident, artist, and friend.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF

To answer Commissioner Moreno-Freedman's questions, Arts Specialist Joy Tribble stated that in the instance of Free Theatre in the Park, Pacific Opera Project had a great following that contributed to the success of the program. Joy stated that for Summer Sounds, she ensures that a wide range of diverse artists are considered when planning the program. Additionally, Joy dedicates substantial effort to the marketing aspect to promote all the artists and ensure a strong audience turnout. Joy also shared that in October the Winter Sounds Concert Series item will be presented to City Council for approval, featuring the proposed new location at the Sunrose at the Pendry West Hollywood. Joy concluded her comments by inviting the Commissioners to the Artists and Icons conversation highlighting the work of Tim Sullivan, and film screening of *Relighting Candles: The Tim Sullivan Story*, on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m at the Council Chambers.

Grants Coordinator Eva Angeloff thanked the Commission for their funding recommendation of the 2024 Arts Grant Program. Eva also extended a warm welcome to the new Commissioners and stated that they can address her with any inquiries they might have regarding the Arts Grants. Eva concluded her comments by having Commissioners save the date for the presentation of the 2023 WeHo Artist Grantees on December 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Arts Coordinator Mike Che shared that City Council approved the Commission's recommendation for the City Poet Laureate. The installation of Jen Cheng, the new City Poet Laureate will take place on October 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Plummer Park Community Center rooms 5 & 6. Mike also shared that Jen Cheng will team up with the L.A. County Library to offer a writing workshop on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at the West Hollywood Aquatics and Recreation Center (ARC), Doheny Room. Mike shared that WeHo Reads: *Creating Hope in Times of Trouble* will be an online event taking place on October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Mike also invited the Commissioners to the WeHo Reads x Literary Death Match on November 8, 2023. Mike also shared that all events will be available in the Arts Division newsletter on October 1,

2023. Mike concluded his comments by inviting the Commissioners to the One Institute's Circa: LGBTQ+ Histories Festival beginning on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Public Art Administrator Marcus Mitchell thanked the Commissioners that attended Sean Noyce's *HB7: Cruising* on September 16, 2023. Marcus concluded his comments by sharing that Julio Sims' *Falling on Deaf Ears* was installed in the Council Chambers on September 11, 2023 and will remain in exhibition until January 10, 2023.

Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann stated that all the Commissioner participated in the draft development of the Artist Residency Program for Laurel House. Commissioner input will continue after the architectural development has concluded; the architecture team, consultants and staff will provide a presentation to the Commission in next month's meeting for input and feedback. Rebecca shared that the RFP for the City Playhouse closed on September 27, 2023 and three proposals were received, they are under review at this time. Rebecca concluded her comments by stating that Artists and Icons started and continues to be a City Council initiative.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The Commission authorized staff to develop the agenda for the meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned in memory of Randy Mathews at 6:28 p.m. to its meeting scheduled on October 26, 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 28th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023

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MITO AVILES
COMMISSION CHAIR

ATTEST:
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DENNICCE OCEGUERA,
RECORDING SECRETARY