CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
LGBTQ+ COMMISSION
AGENDA
Thursday, February 8, 2024
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 February 8, 2024, Agenda as posted.

   RECOMMENDATION: Approve the February 8, 2024, Agenda as posted.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
   The Commission is requested to approve the January 11, 2024, Minutes.

   RECOMMENDATION: Approve the January 11, 2024, 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. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. WEHO PRIDE 2024 PLANNING UPDATE

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive an update on WeHo Pride 2024 planning, provide input on selection priorities for the Community Group Grant program, and appoint a Commission member to participate on the selection panel for the Community Group Grant Program for WeHo Pride 2024.

Attachment:
1) Staff Report

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Receive an update related to WeHo Pride 2024 planning. 2) Provide input on the Commission's priorities as they relate to the evaluation of the WeHo Pride Community Group Program applications.
3) Appoint a member of the Commission to participate on the selection panel for the Community Group Grant Program.

B. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

The LGBTQ+ Commission will debrief about the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony and receive a brief update on the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards Nominations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Debrief about the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony. 2) Receive a brief update on the 2024 Rainbow Key Awards Nominations.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The LGBTQ+ Commission will consider electing a representative to attend and represent the Commission on the City Council approved Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials.

Attachment:
1) Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION: *Elect one member to attend the City Council approved Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials, which will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm in Sacramento, California.*

B. LESBIAN & QUEER WOMEN'S VISIBILITY WEEK

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive an update on Lesbian & Queer Women's Visibility Week including typical City recognition and programming.

RECOMMENDATION: *Receive an update on Lesbian & Queer Women's Visibility Week.*

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.

A. LIAISON REPORTS

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive reports from its liaisons to City Commissions and Advisory Boards.

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, March 14, 2024, 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, JANUARY 11, 2024
7:00 P.M.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Whittington called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** Read by Vice-Chair Whittington
"*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 White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:	Ron Cortes, Nik Kacy, Renee F. Sotile, Alec White, and Amber Whittington
ABSENT:	Chiedu Egbuniwe

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

ACTION: Motion to approve the January 11, 2024, Agenda as posted by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

ACTION: Motion to approve the December 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Kacy, seconded by Commissioner White, and approved.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
None

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8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. INFORMATION ON SOCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The LGBTQ+ Commission received information on social services available to the West Hollywood community, as well as social services needs and demographic information as collected in the 2019 West Hollywood Community Study and the Social Services Needs Assessment Focused on Communities of Color.

ACTION: Received and filed.

Joseph Green, Co-Chair Pro Tempore on the LA County Commission on HIV shared information on their annual meeting which included an update on Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and use throughout the County, and implored the Commission to educate the community about resources available.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RAINBOW KEY AWARDS

The LGBTQ+ Commission received an update from Moya Marquez, the City's Community Programs Coordinator, on the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony. Staff provided an update on the Poet and Drag Laureate's participation in the event and noted the Commission's interest in ensuring the TransChorus performed at the event.

Staff discussed nominee assignments. Commissioner Sotile agreed to introduce Brody Schaffer and Commissioner White agreed to introduce Bert Champagne.

Staff informed the Commission that each Commissioner will receive a script template and be responsible for drafting the script for the nominee they are presenting an award to.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

11. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cortes

Commissioner Cortes thanked staff for sharing the report and update on Social Services programs and asked how the Commission can help ensure services are extended to residents who need them most. Commissioner Cortes provided a brief attendance report and thanked the City for cosponsoring the VIBEZ New Year's Eve event for the sober community.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White apologized for not being able to attend the last meeting, provided a brief attendance report, and expressed excitement about the upcoming City Council meeting and Mayoral Installation.

Commissioner Kacy

Commissioner Kacy thanked Moya for their work and efforts in the production of the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards Ceremony, as well as staff for their support and assistance

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throughout the planning process. Moving forward, Commissioner Kacy requested that staff ask whether Commissioners want printed copies of the agenda packet and supporting documentation, asked about the public comment process at the Transgender Advisory Board meetings and inquired whether Social Services staff can attend a future Commission meeting as follow-up to the consent item on this agenda.

Commissioner Sotile

Commissioner Sotile thanked staff for their support and guidance in the planning of the 2023 Rainbow Key Awards event and asked for an update on 2024 Rainbow Key Awards nominations at the next meeting. Commissioner Sotile proposed the idea of allowing individuals to vote for 2024 Rainbow Key Award nominees via a QR code and provided a brief attendance report. Commissioner Sotile also suggested that the Commission partner with the event producers of the Long Beach Trans Pride for a future Commission event.

Staff liaison, Jennifer Del Toro notified the Commission that we have received a total of 8 nominations and the Commission will receive an update at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sotile expressed concern with the Commission's involvement in Pride 2024 and asked how the Commission could be involved in the review of RFP's/applications, selection of the event producer, coordination and planning of the Dyke March, and other aspects of the Pride event.

Yvonne Quarker, Director of Community Services, responded to Commissioner Sotile and explained that staff is scheduled to bring an update to Council at the January 22nd Council meeting. After the item is approved by Council, staff will be attending the Commission's February meeting to provide an update on WeHo Pride 2024 planning and gather feedback from the Commission. Yvonne provided clarity on the importance and role of the City's Commissions and spoke about the difference in areas of focus of the previously disbanded Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board and the LGBTQ+ Commission. Yvonne also clarified that the 2024 Dyke March would be produced by the Women's Freedom Festival and L Project and the West Hollywood City Council gives final approval of each approved RFP.

Commissioner Kacy asked how the Commission could partner with the L Project and Women's Freedom Festival in producing the Dyke March. Staff informed the Commission that the next meeting will include an item with an overview of upcoming programming and events scheduled for WeHo Pride 2024.

Vice-Chair Whittington echoed the sentiments expressed by Commissioner Sotile and Commissioner Kacy and shared her experience with the Dyke March. Vice-Chair Whittington shared interest in ensuring the Commission was more involved in the planning and production of the Dyke March.

Vice-Chair Whittington

Vice-Chair Whittington informed the Commission of her participation in the MLK Day parade and expressed excitement about the 2024 Mayoral Installation. Vice-Chair Whittington asked staff if the item about racial and disability discrimination occurring at bars and nightclubs could be brought back to the Commission. Lastly, Vice-Chair Whittington reminded the Commission of her involvement on District Attorney George Gascón's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board and told the Commission she would share details about an upcoming event at the next Commission meeting.

A. LIAISON REPORTS

No liaison reports.

12. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jennifer Del Toro, staff liaison notified the Commissioners that they will receive a Pride update at their next meeting, in addition to a brief update on the 2024 Rainbow Key nominees, followed by a larger discussion at the Commission's March meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The LGBTQ+ Commission adjourned at 8:01pm to its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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.

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Vice Chair Whittington

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Recording Secretary | Jasmine Duckworth

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ITEM 8 A
ATTACHMENT

LGBTQ+ COMMISSION FEBRUARY 8, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: **WEHO PRIDE 2024 PLANNING UPDATE**

PREPARED BY: **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**
(Yvonne Quarker, Director)
(Cleo Smith, Event Services Manager)
(Megan Reath, Event Services Supervisor)
(Kerry McCormack, Event Services Coordinator)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive an update on WeHo Pride 2024 planning, provide input on selection priorities for the Community Group Grant program, and appoint a Commission member to participate on the selection panel for the Community Group Grant Program for WeHo Pride 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive an update related to WeHo Pride 2024 planning.
2. Provide input on the Commission's priorities as they relate to the evaluation of the WeHo Pride Community Group Program applications.
3. Appoint a member of the Commission to participate on the selection panel for the Community Group Grant Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Since its incorporation in 1984, the City of West Hollywood has celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride during June of each year.

Through 2019, events such as a ticketed festival, parade and community street festival were programmed and produced by Christopher Street West (CSW), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The inaugural WeHo Pride Weekend was held during the first weekend of June in 2022. The inaugural event was safe, successful, and generated positive feedback from partner agencies, community members and stakeholders.

Following the success of the inaugural WeHo Pride, the City Council approved a multi-year agreement for WeHo Pride production services for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and identified the WeHo Pride event weekend as the first weekend in June. Additionally, the City Council directed staff to negotiate a three-year co-sponsorship Agreement with the L-Project for their event, Women's Freedom Festival, to be included as a part of WeHo Pride annually for years 2023 through 2025.

The second annual WeHo Pride Weekend was held Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4, 2023. Overall, the 2023 WeHo Pride Weekend events drew substantial crowds and garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback from community members, stakeholders, and partner agencies.

The LGBTQ+ Commission received a post event debrief report and provided input about the event at its meeting on August 10, 2023 and the City Council received a post event debrief report at its meeting on October 16, 2023. Also at that meeting, the City Council approved a 2024 WeHo Pride Weekend with the same core programming elements as the 2023 event, to include:

- A **free Friday night community concert** in West Hollywood Park on Friday, May 31, 2024.
- The **WeHo Pride Street Fair** on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2, 2024, along Santa Monica Boulevard.
- The **OUTLOUD Music Festival**, produced by JJLA, on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2, 2024, in West Hollywood Park.
- The **Women's Freedom Festival** and **Dyke March**, held on the Community Stage at the Street Fair on Saturday, June 1, 2024.
- The **WeHo Pride Parade** on Sunday, June 2, 2024, along Santa Monica Boulevard.

- **Co-sponsored community group events and activations** produced by LGBTQ+ affiliated community groups, to amplify their participation in the overarching WeHo Pride month.

COMMUNITY GROUP PARTICIPATION

At its meeting on November 7, 2022, Council directed staff to facilitate an application process for LGBTQ+ affiliated community groups and organizations to receive funding to produce independent events under the larger WeHo Pride brand in 2023 and authorized the allocation of up to $150,000 for this program. Groups who were approved to receive funding as a part of the community group program, were required to enter into a Co-Sponsorship agreement with the City. The intention of the Community Group Program is to highlight and give opportunity and visibility to underrepresented groups and communities within the larger LGBTQ+ community.

In 2023, The City received 32 applications, and of which, 19 groups were selected to receive funding and over $98,000 was awarded. Of the 19 selected applicants, 11 of them were 501(c)3 organizations. Examples of funded events include a South Asian Pride night, an LGBTQ+ Latin dance event, and a Sober Pride event.

The City received largely positive feedback from the community groups, most of which stated that they would be interested in applying to participate in future years, should the program continue. Feedback from community groups and stakeholders included the opportunities to share information and dates between groups, in order to minimize scheduling conflicts among between the groups, a more accessible event calendar to highlight these programs and opportunities to develop standard protocols for community groups to follow for City sponsored events.

At its meeting on January 22, 2024, the City Council approved agreements, facilities uses, and other administrative matters related to the above core programming elements, and once again authorized the facilitation of the Community Group Program with available funding of an amount not to exceed $150,000 for the 2024 program.

Applications opened on January 25, 2024, and will remain open until February 29, 2024. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- LGBTQ+ serving Group or Organization
- Demonstrated connection to the West Hollywood Community
- Alignment with the City's purpose and messaging related to the WeHo Pride event
- Event/Activation must serve a public purpose and priority will be given to non-commercial ventures
- Event is open to the public (free or ticketed)

Staff is recommending that the LGBTQ+ Commission provide input on the Commission's priorities, as they relate to the consideration of the WeHo Pride Community Group Program applications and proposed events. Such input may include prioritizing free events over those that are ticketed, prioritizing events that take place in West Hollywood or prioritizing events aimed at specific communities.

This input will be used by the selection panel when evaluating the applications.

Additionally, staff is recommending that the LGBTQ+ Commission appoint one member of the Commission to participate in the evaluation of Community Group Program applications by serving on the selection panel. The evaluation of the applications will take place in early March and the date and time of the panel will be determined based on the collective availability of participants.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

ITEM 9 A
ATTACHMENT

LGBTQ+ COMMISSION FEBRUARY 8, 2024
NEW BUSINESS

SUBJECT: **SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

PREPARED BY: **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
(Hernan Molina, Governmental Affairs Liaison)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The LGBTQ+ Commission will receive a brief report on the City Council approved Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials and will appoint one delegate from the Commission to attend and one alternate if the delegate is unable to attend. The Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

RECOMMENDATION:

Elect a delegate to attend the Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials and one member to serve as an alternate if the delegate is unable to attend.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

On May 22, 2022, the City Council approved the establishment of a Sacramento Legislative Action Day for Appointed Officials. This would be an opportunity for the delegates from the Advisory Boards and the LGBTQ+ Commission to travel to Sacramento with City staff to meet with legislators and their staff and discuss topics relevant to the City's constituency groups.

This trip will be coordinated to take place on Tuesday, April 16th, during Year 2 of the 2023-2024 regular session of the California Legislature. Depending on the bills under consideration at the time of the trip, the meetings may include advocating on a particular bill(s) of relevance, or on general topics of interest to the City.

ATTACHMENT:

None.