

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM



A. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Gary Armstrong on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Armstrong welcomed new commissioners Lilly Hanner and Jenan Cameranesi and asked each to provide a brief introduction.

C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Gary Armstrong, Commissioners Carlos Silveira, Lauri Kibby, Jim Lande; Lilly Hanner, and Jenan Cameranesi

ABSENT: Natasia Gascon, Michelle Loya, and Tina Gonsalves

CITY STAFF: Director, Jay Virata

D. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HANNER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LANDE, AND CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Written public comments were submitted as noted below.

F. ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

Commissioner Kibby nominated Gary Armstrong to continue as Chair; supported by Commissioner Lande. Commissioner Kibby nominated Jim Lande for Vice Chair; Chair Armstrong nominated Tina Gonsalves for Vice Chair. The Commissioners discussed holding off the selection of a Vice Chair until the next meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CAMERANESI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, CARRIED 5-0 TO ELECT GARY ARMSTRONG AS CHAIR AND CONTINUE ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR UNTIL THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING.

G. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR.

Chair Armstrong emphasized the importance of the upcoming fiscal year and thanked commissioners for stepping up in leadership. He noted that new commissioners bring fresh perspectives and encouraged them to dive into current projects.

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LANDE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, CARRIED 5-0 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2025.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:

1. **Little Tuscany Neighborhood Art Request.** Directed Virata read a letter received from Rebecca Hendrickson (attached). The Commissioners discussed alternatives for neighborhoods to have public art installed in their respective neighborhoods
2. **Royal Palm Hotel Reimbursement Request.** Applicant William Pujol presented the artwork "LowDes Ranch Rocks" by Artist FrankandHank and explained the \$6,500 request for reimbursement. The Commission requested additional information on the artwork materials, lighting plan, fabrication, and other items be presented.
3. **Renaming the Public Arts Collection.** Commissioners discussed benefits of renaming to "Palm Springs Art and Culture Collection" to better reflect scope and inclusivity. Written public comments (attached) were also received.

Members of Subcommittee 1 will be Jim Lande and Lilly Hanner. Members of Subcommittee 2 will be Tina Gonsalves, Carlos Silveira, and Jenan Cameranesi.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SILVEIRA TO RENAME THE PALM SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COLLECTION TO PALM SPRINGS ART AND CULTURE COLLECTION, AND APPROVE TWO SUBCOMMITTEES: 1) SUBCOMMITTEE 1 – PIECES CURRENTLY IN THE PUBLIC ART COLLECTION THAT SHOULD BE MOVED TO POTENTIAL CULTURAL COLLECTION; AND 2) SUBCOMMITTEE 2 – WRITE UP THE CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NEW PIECES TO BE CONSIDERED.

J. PROJECT UPDATES

1. Wyatt Mural Update

- Director Virata provided an update on the Richard Wyatt Mural. With the expiration of VARA rights and the waiver of VARA and CAPA rights, the City may proceed to restore or remove the Richard Wyatt mural without the approval of Richard Wyatt's heirs.

2. Ordinance Review and Update Committee

- The Commission discussed potential changes to the Public Art Ordinance and how best to approach modifying the Ordinance.

3. Beautiful Shade

- Director Virata informed the Commission that the Parks and Recreation Department would be assisting with the installation of the Beautiful Shade project.

4. Artscape in the Parks

- Director Virata shared updates on securing contractors to construct the bases for these projects and that the Parks and Recreation Department will also be assisting with these installations.

5. Art Maintenance/Inventory

- No update.

6. The Art of Taming Horses

- Director Virata noted the Parks and Recreation Department will be assisting with the installation of the North Riverside along the wash by the bridge. This project will also include new flags.

K. COMMISSIONER AGENDA REQUESTS AND COMMENTS:

- Using a grading system for doing large art reviews.
- Update on Airport Curator selection.
- Economic Development presentation.


L. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR/STAFF:

- Director Virata reported that the painted benches in front of the Airport will be moved further to the south.

ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIBBY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANNER, AND CARRIED 5-0 TO ADJOURN AT 7:12 PM TO A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, AT 5:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL LOCATED AT 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Virata, Director
Housing & Community Development Department

June 20, 2025

City of PS Arts Commission
3200 E. Tahquitz Cny. Way
Palm Springs, California
92262

Dear Mr. Armstrong, Chair,

Enclosed please find a list of questions from the Little Tuscany Neighborhood Organization in regards to our interest in possible use of a City art work. We are aware that the City has invited neighborhoods to borrow art for placement in our neighborhoods.

During the June 2025 Arts Commission Zoom meeting, I initiated contact with the Arts Commission and verbally asked some of our questions. I send this list now in preparation of our discussion during the July zoom meeting. In June, you designated our interest to be part of your July agenda. Hopefully these questions will help you all to be prepared for our questions.

Thank you and see you in July!

Best regards,

Rebecca M. Hendrickson



RMHendrickson1@aol.com
760.1668.5270

June 19, 2025

To the Palm Springs Art Commission:

Recently, the City of Palm Springs announced its invitation for neighborhoods to house city artwork in their locales. The Little Tuscany Neighborhood Organization wants to investigate this possibility.

We have questions regarding this procedure-

Does the City have an inventory of art pieces available? After seeing the inventory, is it possible to have a firsthand view of the art?

Is this considered a loan to the neighborhood? If so, what are the length and particulars of the loan?

Who oversees and who pays for transportation of the art to its new destination? Does the City have an approximate cost?

Who pays for installation of the art in the neighborhood? What is the approximate cost?

Who pays for insurance on the art during transportation, installation, and duration of its new location? Is there an approximate cost for these?

What are the specifics for the ownership of the land where the art will reside? City owned? County owned? Privately owned? Do you have a map available of land that is appropriate in our neighborhood that can be used?

Is Little Tuscany the first neighborhood to utilize this program? If not, what other neighborhoods have been involved? Can we learn from their experience?

What else does Little Tuscany need to know about this program?

We will attend the July 3rd, 5:30 PM meeting of the PS Arts Commission. We look forward to gathering more information and answers to our questions at that point.

Thank you very much!

Best regards,

Rebecca M. Hendrickson and Fred Balduini
Little Tuscany Neighborhood Organization

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FBalduini@aol.com

Jay Virata

From: Tom Dolle <tdolle@dolledesign.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Jay Virata
Subject: Public Arts Commission, public comment

NOTICE: This message originated outside of The City of Palm Springs -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

This is a public comment for tonight's Public Arts Commission meeting, July 3, 2025:

Commissioners:

This is a public comment in reference to item I-3 on tonight's agenda.

I support Commission Chair Armstrong's proposal to create the Palm Springs Arts & Culture Collection and separate the Public Art Collection from the Cultural Collection.

As a regular swimmer at the Swim Center, I pass the forlorn Morris Kight and LGBT Veterans memorials in Sunrise Park every day. It was shocking to me that something so significant for this community lay forgotten for over 20 years, as few people even knew it existed. I discovered there is a moving historical back story to the memorials, and several people who were there when they were placed are still alive. Thanks to the efforts of Mayor DeHarte and Commissioner Armstrong, these memorials will now be relocated to a more appropriate location and given the honor they deserve. Because they aren't really public art, no one noticed them and no city agency took ownership until I raised the issue.

Certain important community sculptures, memorials, plaques and installations like this should have a category separate from public art. They are important for being historic, or have community significance, or were maybe a gift—but artistic integrity is not always the point. This is different than public art that has been vetted by a committee, curated, perhaps gone through a competitive process and secured with public funds.

Having these two separate categories will create a clearer distinction between the two, and allow the proper city commission or agency to take ownership without the burden of trying to decide if the cultural pieces fulfill an artistic vision for the city. I hope this will also lay the groundwork for a comprehensive web-based archive of all the public art & cultural pieces, with the back stories that make them so significant.

Thank you
Tom Dolle
Palm Springs, District 5