



**Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Arts & Culture Commission / Human Relations Commission Committee will conduct a Special Meeting, at the following time and place, and will address the agenda listed below:**

**CITY HALL  
Telephonic/Video Conference Meeting  
Call in: (888) 468-1195  
Participant Code: 105093  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
3:00 PM**

***Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 members of the Beverly Hills City Council and staff may participate in this meeting via a teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate by listening to the Special Meeting at (888) 468-1195 (participant code 105093) and offer comment through email at [mayorandcitycouncil@beverlyhills.org](mailto:mayorandcitycouncil@beverlyhills.org)***

**AGENDA**

- 1) Public Comment
  - a. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.
  
- 2) Direction on Embrace Culture Program and Inter-Commission Collaboration
  - a. Proposed Events:
    - i. Presentation by Torie Zalben and Liana Weston on Art Installation proposed for side of the Wallis
    - ii. Community Partnership between the City of Compton, City of Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills PTA Council & BHUSD
    - iii. Host a forum / talk / lecture via Go To Meeting / Zoom featuring minority leaders
    - iv. Presentation by UTA on Beyond 2020 & the ACC's proposed Art is Life: Activate Storefront project

**George Chavez, City Manager**

**Posted: August 14, 2020**

**A DETAILED LIAISON AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT [WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG](http://WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG)**



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1014 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services.



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Beverly Hills Council Liaisons / Arts & Culture/Human Relations Commission Committees

**From:** Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services  
James Latta, Human Services Administrator

**Date:** August 19, 2020

**Subject:** Embrace and Celebrate Culture

**Attachment:** 1. Embrace and Celebrate Culture project description by Human Relations Commissioner Annette Saleh and Arts & Culture Vice Chair Deborah Frank

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**INTRODUCTION**

To embrace and celebrate culture and diversity in the City of Beverly Hills, representatives from the Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions wish to embark on an inter-commission collaboration. During these unprecedented times, the City has the opportunity to provide a venue for minority artists, performers and leaders to share their point of view on a wide array of topics on culture, diversity and inclusion. In addition, why not provide a forum for the community to discuss topics of culture, diversity and inclusion?

**DISCUSSION**

One specific proposal of interest is hosting an exhibition created by Torie Zalben and Liana Weston. The project is a video-screen window art similar to their highly successful drive by project *Going Home: A Picture Show*. The Beverly Hills project would utilize the Wallis building with a looped video, and feature creations from prominent local artists that highlight a variety of cultures. A combination of work from emerging voices and artists from Los Angeles would be showcased. The objective is to promote the power of visual arts, thus creating a collaborative community effort to safely bring people together during these challenging times. The audience will be able to view while driving by or parking curbside to ensure a safe and socially distanced program.

Another proposal includes hosting virtual talks, town hall meetings and community forums featuring individuals of interest who are experts in the field of diversity, tolerance and inclusion. The overall objective would be to celebrate diversity and culture, while fostering tolerance, and learning how to embrace difference instead of fearing it. The perspective provided by these talks will serve as an added value at this pivotal junction to support the community. This proposal fits very well with the Human Relations Commission's charge of promoting positive human relations in our community, and actively establishing our City as a model of a just and equitable society.

There has also been discussion between the City of Compton School District and the Beverly Hills PTA Council on identifying activities that would embrace and celebrate culture between the students for each school districts. Unfortunately, discussion has presently stalled with the schools moving to online learning at this point.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is currently a minimum budget allocated for Commission activities within the Community Services Department budget earmarked for the Arts & Culture, Human Relations and Recreation & Park Commissions administrative functions and established programming like the HRC's Civility Week. In further developing the City's Cultural offerings, there is now a need to development a funding plan for Commission Cultural events and programs including consideration of the development of a City Sponsorship Program to help underwrite community programming via innovative partnerships with local service organizations and the business community.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This Joint Commission collaboration is seeking direction as to whether there is interest and funding to further pursue these proposals at this time. Representatives from the Human Relations Commission, the Arts and Culture Commissions, and staff from the Human Services Division will be in attendance to answer Council Liaison questions.

**To embrace and celebrate culture and diversity in the City of Beverly Hills, representatives from the Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions wish to embark on an inter-commission collaboration.**

**WHY?**

- To present our city as socially progressive
- To introduce and promote urban culture to the community through art, music, dance, talks, etc
- To provide an environment where minority artists, performers and leaders can share their point of view on a wide array of relevant topics
- To provide opportunities and a forum in the community to discuss topics on culture, diversity and inclusion

**PROPOSED EVENTS**

- Host the exhibition created by *Torie Zalben and Liana Weston*, originally titled *Going Home: A Picture Show*.

The exhibition, featuring predominantly black artists, will be located in the City of Beverly Hills, using a yet to be determined former gallery location or an empty building from which *Zalben and Weston* can produce a video art style show from the windows of the space. The show/exhibit can be viewed fly the public from the car while driving by the location of the exhibit

- Collaborate with the BH PTA Council and the BHUSD on activities under the Sister City Program with the City of Compton  
(Ori, please fill in the information)
- Host a Talk via Zoom or Go to Meeting featuring minority leaders  
Talks that speak to diversity and inclusion that foster courageous conversations, shift perspectives, connect with others or simply inform. Whether it's five or fifteen minutes, each talk has something that anyone can take away. The perspective provided by these talks can serve as an added value at this pivotal junction to support the community