

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES OF THE EL SEGUNDO ARTS AND CULTURE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE & DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Pickhaver called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

ROLL CALL

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

|                         |   |         |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| Chairperson Pickhaver   | - | Present |
| Vice Chairperson Palmer | - | Present |
| Member Bart             | - | Absent  |
| Member Burrell          | - | Present |
| Member Carroll          | - | Present |
| Member Haffley          | - | Present |
| Member Kennedy          | - | Present |
| Member Leach            | - | Present |
| Member Losasso          | - | Present |
| Member Mitchell         | - | Present |
| Member Schepps          | - | Present |

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

|                          |   |         |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| Chairperson Villena      | - | Present |
| Vice Chairperson O'Brien | - | Present |
| Member Atmore            | - | Present |
| Member Gebhart           | - | Absent  |
| Member Green             | - | Present |
| Member Janicek           | - | Absent  |
| Member Mitrovich         | - | Absent  |

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – (Related to City Business Only – 5-minute limit per person, 30-minute limit total)

Georgette Gantner, a representative from Redondo Beach, stated she was attending the meeting to take notes on behalf of their Cultural Arts Commission.

Barbara Raymond, a resident of El Segundo, shared she had recently met with Member Haffley to discuss various ideas related to her work in nonprofits, philanthropy, and development.

Jerry Esenor, a resident of El Segundo, introduced himself to the committees and noted that he attended the meeting alongside Barbara Raymond.

Ron Swanson, a resident of El Segundo, provided public comment expressing concern that the city has strayed from the traditional spirit of the Festival of Holidays and would like to see the event return to its original roots.

## A. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. Introduction of DEI and ACC Committee Members *(Item moved before Public Communications)*

Members of the DEI and ACC Committees briefly introduced themselves to one another.

### 2. Festival of Holidays

DEI Chairperson Villena spoke about the origins of Festival of Holidays. ACC Chairperson Pickhaver shared his experiences from last year's event. DEI Vice Chairperson O'Brien noted that the event highlights the diverse traditions celebrated by different families in the community. The committees emphasized the importance of logistics, particularly in coordinating with council member's schedules. Director of Recreation, Parks, and Library Aly Mancini proposed the creation of a working group to support planning efforts for the Festival of Holidays.

MOTION by DEI Chairperson Villena SECONDED by ACC Chairperson Pickhaver, approving the establishment of a working group for planning the Festival of Holidays, composed of DEI Chairperson Villena, DEI Vice Chairperson O'Brien, and ACC Chairperson Pickhaver, MOTION PASSED.  
14/0

### 3. GUNDO Pride Event

ACC Chairperson Pickhaver announced the upcoming GUNDO Pride Event scheduled for Sunday, June 29, from 10 am to 2pm at Recreation Park. He mentioned that the event organizers are actively seeking volunteers. Member Schepss inquired about the event's promotional efforts. Director Mancini and ACC Chairperson Pickhaver provided additional information.

### 4. United Against Hate Week

DEI Chairperson Villena introduced United Against Hate Week, which will take place during the week of October 19. The committee plans to collaborate with South Bay Coalition Against Hate to support the initiative. DEI Member Green suggested that the event could be shaped into a more celebratory and family-oriented experience to encourage broader community participation.

### 5. Potential Collaborations of DEI and ACC

DEI Vice Chairperson O'Brien suggested community programming as a potential collaboration. ACC Member Schepss inquired whether funding could be allocated for dance performances. Director Mancini provided additional information.

DEI Chairperson Villena announced that the city will not be hosting a Juneteenth event this year but expressed interest in bringing it back next year as a potential collaboration. ACC Chairperson Pickhaver stated that the library will feature a Juneteenth book display in recognition of the holiday.

Adjourned at 6:30 PM

*Viviann Gonzalez*

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Viviann Gonzalez, Senior Administrative Specialist