



Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - 9:30 AM

The Philadelphia Art
Commission
Established 1911

Robert Roesch
Chair

Carmen Febo San Miguel
Matthew Kenyatta
James Lowe
Raed Nasser
Pepón Osorio
Rebecca Segall

Members Present: Carmen Febo San Miguel, Raed Nasser, Pepón Osorio, Rebecca Segall, Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta, James Lowe, and Robert Roesch

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Kathrine Liss on Behalf of Art Director Alex Smith – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the March 12, 2025 Art Commission Meeting.

*Ms. Liss polled the commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Members of the public may comment on agenda items during the meeting. When the agenda item that you are interested in is being discussed, you can use the “raise hand” feature and staff will unmute you during the public comment period. If you’re joining by phone, you can also use the hand raise feature by dialing *9 during the public comment period, and if you have any submitted comments through email, staff will read those emails out loud at the appropriate time.*

Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:06:34).

Alex M. Smith
Director

REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – February 26,2025

Sign Applications

Second Reviews:

- 1. 300-24**
Curtis Institute of Music
233-35 S 18th Street

First Reviews:

- 1. 27-25**
Saints
1901 Chestnut Street
- 2. 28-25**
Indochino
1519 Walnut Street
- 3. 29-25**
Sandbox
1712 Walnut Street
- 4. 30-25**

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Bond Vet
2101 Walnut Street

5. **31-25**
Abercrombie and Fitch
1702 Walnut Street

6. **32-25**
One Physical Therapy and Wellness
2015 Sansom Street

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Public or Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee of February 26, 2025 (00:07:04).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee of February 26, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **40-25**
Bus Shelter Upgrades
Various Locations (4)
Review Type: Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: Four new bus shelter installations
Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Katherine Liss presented ten Administrative Items to the Commission, beginning with Public Art Conservation. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:07:40).

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), in partnership with Intersection, has submitted a series of bus shelter upgrades as part of their on-going shelter improvement program. The Art Commission typically reviews new or replacement bus shelter locations several times a year as administrative items. Today's proposal is for four new bus shelters at various locations around the City.

These new shelters are the original size, not the narrow shelters approved earlier this fall. All the locations are proposing new shelters where currently no shelter exists.

For each location, the shelter's surrounding sidewalks are being improved if necessary, and each is also being reviewed by the Streets Department for compliance with Complete Street and dimensional standards. Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommended for approval.

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The locations:

- Alleghany Ave & Thompson St
- Cheltenham Ave & Musgrave St
- Cottman Ave & Rupert St
- Rowland Ave & Vista St

Question and comments from Commission (00:08:40)

Commissioner Nasser commented on the fact that the bus shelters are not close to the curb, which is great for that area.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:09:30)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

2. 1-25

**Annual Conservation Maintenance Program
Various Locations**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Conservation work of 29 public art sculptures

Applicant: Association for Public Art

The Association for Public Art has submitted a proposal for the ongoing maintenance program of 29 outdoor sculptures in Philadelphia. The work will be performed by Tatti Art Conservation, the Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Krelick Conservation. The scope of work includes:

- Inspection by the conservation technician and conservator, including the
- identification of any long-term problems.
- Cleaning of surface dirt, grime, and foreign matter with water under
- pressure and the removal of graffiti when necessary.
- Application of wax to bronze works and appropriate treatment to other media.
- Submission of a maintenance/condition report for each sculpture

Work by the Conservancy will additionally include replacing and repairing damaged and missing sections in the *Bird Blind*, *Benches*, and *Thoreau's Hut* as needed. All three works are part of Embodying Thoreau located at Pennypack Park. Also, treatment of Pavilion in the Trees located at the Horticulture Center will additionally include removing organic debris and graffiti, treating wood rot, and potentially replacing deck and canopy boards, screw heads, and other materials as needed. A structural integrity engineering assessment of Pavilion is also proposed this year with J&M Preservation Studio as it is now thirty-two years old.

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If approved, the work is scheduled to begin in May 2025. Copies of the maintenance/condition reports will be submitted to Creative Philadelphia upon their completion. Art Commission staff have reviewed the proposal and recommend for approval.(00:09:41)

1. Antoine Louis Barye, Lion Crushing a Serpent (1832)—Bronze on granite base
2. Artist Unknown, Well Head (Stone Basin) (1500-1600; installed 1985)—Marble
3. John J. Boyle, Stone Age in America (1887)—Bronze on granite base
4. Alexander Milne Calder, Major General George Gordon Meade (1887)—Bronze on granite base
5. Alexander Stirling Calder, Shakespeare Memorial (1926)—Bronze on marble base
6. Alexander Stirling Calder, Sundial (1903)—Limestone with bronze sundial
7. Jo Davidson, Walt Whitman, South Philadelphia (c. 1939; cast 1957)—Bronze on granite base
8. Frank Edwin Elwell, Dickens and Little Nell, Clark Park (1890)—Bronze on granite base
9. John B. Flannagan, The Miner (1938)—Limestone
10. Daniel Chester French and Edward C. Potter, General Ulysses S. Grant (1897—Bronze on granite base
11. J. Wallace Kelly, The Ploughman (1938)—Limestone
12. John Kindness, The Labor Monument (2010)—Bronze, Lithocrete paving, terra cotta pavers, concrete, granite, hardwood
13. Auguste Kiss, Mounted Amazon Attacked by a Panther (c. 1837; cast 1929)—Bronze
14. Robert Laurent, Spanning the Continent (1937)—Bronze on granite base
15. 15. – 17.) Ed Levine, Embodying Thoreau: dwelling, sitting, watching (2003) (3 separate pieces: Birdblind, Benches, Thoreau's Hut)—Hut: Pine, cedar, recycled brick, flagstone, stainless steel on concrete pad; Benches: Locust and stainless steel on concrete pads. Blind: Cedar and stainless steel on concrete pad.
18. Jacques Lipchitz, The Spirit of Enterprise (1950-1960)—Bronze on granite base
19. Paul Manship, Duck Girl (1911)—Bronze on limestone base
20. Jody Pinto, Fingerspan (1987)—Weathering Steel
21. Martin Puryear, Pavilion in the Trees (1993)—Debarked western red cedar; clear, heart white oak; clear heart redwood; chain-link fencing
22. Frederic Remington, Cowboy (1908)—Bronze on natural stone base
23. Randolph Rogers, Abraham Lincoln (1871)—Bronze on granite base
24. Augustus Saint-Gaudens, James A. Garfield Monument (1895)—Bronze on granite pedestal
25. Helene Sardeau, The Slave (1940)—Limestone
26. Edward Stauch, Night (1872)—Bronze on brick base
27. Maurice Sterne, Welcoming to Freedom (1939)—Bronze on granite base
28. Heinz Warneke, The Immigrant (1940)—Limestone
29. Albert Wolffe, The Lion Fighter (1858; cast 1892)—Bronze

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Question and comments from Commission (00:11:39)

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Commissioner Febo San Miguel suggested adding a map or a list of where the sculptures are located.

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if budget would be included (Expected to be)

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:12:15).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Lowe.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

3. 42-25

Sun Arc - Deaccession

1025 Mifflin Street

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Deaccession of public art sculpture

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Creative Philadelphia submitted request to deaccession (permanently remove) “Sun Arc” from the City’s public art collection. This is a component of the East Passyunk Rec Center renovation project, which was approved at the February 2025 Art Commission meeting.

“Sun Arc” is a City-owned, site-specific public artwork that was commissioned by the City’s Percent for Art program and installed at the East Passyunk Community Recreation Center (formerly the Tolentine Community Center) in 1991. The work consists of a sundial sculpture that is composed of fifteen bronze abstract columns placed in a semicircle and a large triangular wedge of concrete inscribed with the months of the year.

Creative Philadelphia has notified the artist Gary Weisman, through his Philadelphia gallery representative, Katherine Stanek of Stanek Gallery. The artist is in agreement with Creative Philadelphia’s intent to deaccession the piece from the City’s public art collection and plans on donating the artwork to the Sperlak Gallery and Sculpture Garden in Cape May Court House, New Jersey, where it will be reinstalled permanently by the artist.

Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommended for approval (00:12:34)

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:14:04).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Segall and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.

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The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

4. 43-25

**Public Art Conservation
Various Locations**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Conservation work of 21 public art sculptures

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Creative Philadelphia submitted to the Art Commission for administrative review and approval of conservation work for conservation work for the following City of Philadelphia owned public art sculptures to take place during 2024-2025. Note that items 19-21, identified by asterisk (*), required emergency or time sensitive conservation work that is either in process or completed. completed but has been included in the proposal for the record. The work is being performed by professional conservators who have annual on-call contracts with the City.

Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommend the submission for approval
(00:14:30)

1. Untitled (Cubes and Triangles) by James Furhman, Eastwick Regional Playground, S 80th St
2. Harrowgate Park Memorial by David Connor, Harrowgate Park, 3455 Kensington Ave
3. The Bones by Neil Liberman, Spelman Medical Examiner's Building, 321 S University Ave
4. Sky Beast by Robert Lasus, Clayburn and Lewis Playground, 1101 N 38th St
5. Fire Engine by Harold Kimmelman, Engine 36, 7818 Frankford Ave
6. Orball by Ken Clark, Disston Park, 6711 Keystone St
7. Word Play by David Cerull, Mayfair Park, 2901 Princeton Ave
8. Unknown by Stewart Zane Paul, McPherson Square Library, 601 E Indiana Ave
9. Civil War Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument by Herman Atkins MacNeil, Market Square, Germantown Ave and Church Lane
10. Three Bears by George Papashvily, Fox Chase Branch Library, 501 Rhawn Street
11. Tablet for the Battle of Germantown by Joseph H. Franzen Co, Market Square, Germantown Ave and Church Lane
12. Memorial Stone for Womrath Park, Artist Unknown, Womrath Park, 4098 Frankford Ave
13. School Is Out by Karyn Olivier, Stenton Park Playground, 4600 N 16th St
14. Henry Howard Houston Memorial by John Massey Rhind, West Fairmount Park, Lincoln Ave and Harvey St
15. A Quest for Parity: The Octavius V. Catto Memorial by Branly Cadet, City Hall (South Apron)
16. Charting a Path to Resistance by Talia Greene, City Archives, 548 Spring Garden St
17. Triune by Robert Engman, 15th St and South Penn Square
18. Leviathan by Seymour Lipton, 16th St between Market St and JFK Blvd
19. LOVE by Robert Indiana, LOVE Park, 16th St and John F. Kennedy Blvd*
20. John Wanamaker by John Massey Rhind, City Hall (East Apron)*

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21. Joan of Arc by Emmanuel Fremiet, 25th St and Kelly Drive*

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:15:25).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

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5. 44-25

**Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club – Deck Renovations
14 Boathouse Row**

Review Type: Minor construction project on City property

Project Details: Reconstruction of boat bay extension and deck

Applicant: Kelly Maiello Architects

Kelly Maiello Architects (KMA) requests the Commission's consideration, review and approval of the referenced project. The boathouse at #14 Boathouse Row was built in 1861 and is the oldest permanent structure on Boathouse Row. The boat bay extension was added by the early 1930's; it was originally an open-sided structure replacing a narrow balcony. The extension was later enclosed with CMU/stucco at the side walls and overhead doors at the dock-facing openings.

Keast & Hood Engineers prepared a building assessment for the property in 2009. The findings included that the soils under the house and deck/boat bay extension were inadequate, cracks indicating movement, as well as attempts to halt the movement, were evident. The recommendations included a structural stabilization plan and other repairs.

This is the second phase of the stabilization plan. The scope includes removing the extension structure in its entirety, installing a new foundation of spread footings and micro piles, and rebuilding the extension and deck. The new design maintains the footprint and overall look (i.e., reinstallation of stone piers) and updates the railing and deck floor to provide a more sustainable and serviceable structure. To comply with current code requirements for railings, we have opted for a metal picket rail, in lieu of the original and current open cross design, which simulates the wood picket railing that is seen on the 1930's addition.

Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommend the proposal for approval.
(00:15:42)

Question and comments from Commissioners (00:17:45)

Commissioner Febo San Miguel commented that this was needed.

Commissioner Lowe asked about the height of rail would be at original height. Ms. Liss confirmed it is being updated to current standards.

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:18:18).

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Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

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The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

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6. 45-25

Calder Gardens – Perimeter Fencing Various Locations

Review Type: Exterior site improvements

Project Details: Installation of perimeter fencing

Applicant: Calder Gardens and Aegis Property Group

Alex M. Smith
Director

The full Calder Gardens proposal received Art Commission approval in December 2022. The team is seeking administrative approval for the addition of a perimeter fence at the site. This fencing is intended to be visually unobtrusive, and will serve to:

- 1) discourage walking on or cutting across the landscape elements
- 2) show the public visually when the gardens are open or closed

The proposed fence is 42 inches tall, with vertical steel black posts and black stainless-steel mesh stretched and strung on horizontal black stainless-steel cables.

Art Commission staff have reviewed and recommend for approval. (00:18:41)

Questions and Comments from Commission (00:19:45)

Commission carried out a conversation to clarify that the fence was to be a visual indicator for when the museum was open or closed.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:20:48).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

7. 46-25

Fernhill Park Play Village 4600 Morris Street

Review Type: Exterior site improvements

Project Details: Play equipment

Applicant: Future Together LLC and Kaboom!

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Future Together LLC and Kaboom! are requesting approval for the Fernhill Park Play Village in the Germantown community. This project is funded by Kaboom! and the William Penn Foundation. It was developed by FutureTogether and Friends of Fernhill Park, with a team from Playful Learning Landscapes. The proposal includes five installations at an existing “toddler track”. The elements are intended to be interactive and educational, including modular play elements and seating with minimal structural installation requirements.

Art Commission staff have also reviewed and recommend for approval. (00:21:20)

Questions and Comments from Commissioners (00:22:07)

Commission carried out a discussion about the proposed longevity of the installation. Commissioner Kenyatta and Commissioner Lowe expressed concern about this being a temporary installation but feeling like a permanent installation. Alyssa Young, Representative from Kaboom! noted that the installation was proposed for five years, with funding for maintenance budget. Ms. Young explained the need for certain elements to have footings in the ground to ensure child safety, rather than anchors alone.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel stated that this project is complex and should in future not be reviewed administratively. She suggested that, for example, projects requiring permanent footings should require full review.

Commissioner Nasser asked about the involvement of Parks and Rec in the project. Alyssa Young noted PPR has provided approval for the installation provided Art Commission approval is obtained.

Commissioners continued conversation with Kaboom! and Future Together about the full intentions of the project, discussing level of permanence, funding source, and other Kaboom installations around the city.

Commissioner Rebecca raised the question of whether the installation could remain beyond the proposed five years. Alyssa Young noted that the installation would be decommissioned at that point unless additional fundraising efforts were successful to support future iterations.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:36:13).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Lowe.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

8. 47-25 Cobbs Creek Play Art Project

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Cobbs Creek Park - Various Locations

Review Type: Exterior site improvements

Project Details: Play equipment, sidewalk art, and educational panels

Applicant: Clean Air Council and Kaboom!

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The Clean Air Council and Kaboom! are requesting approval for park open space improvements in Cobbs Creek Park including play equipment, sidewalk art, and educational panels.

The goal of this project is to encourage community members to explore the park and trail at safe crossings, offer new play and learning spaces for children, and connect residents to park programming and activities. This project follows years of community advocacy surrounding dangerous driving behavior and an absence of pedestrian infrastructure along Cobbs Creek Parkway.

The three community workshops were held in the Spring of 2024 to identify locations, ideas, and themes for the project's design inspiration. Active play, nature, and seating were the themes identified through workshops and surveys. The designs include appropriate age connections to nature that highlight native plants, animals, creek/stream and trails that can be found within the park. Active play and rest areas are also included that have various forms of balancing.

Art Commission staff have also reviewed and recommended it for approval. (00:36:53)

Questions and Comments from the Commission (00:38:51)

Commissioner Febo San Miguel noted that the discussion from the previous project pertains here as well.

Commission chair Roesch suggested that if Kaboom! has similar projects to this one in the future, it would be nice for them to give a full presentation rather than bringing the item administratively to have a more in-depth review. He also commended the project.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:39:26)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Seagull

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

9. 48-25

SEPTA 2nd Street Station – Headhouse Improvements 2nd & Market Streets

Review Type: Construction project located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: Renovations to existing elevator and staircase headhouses

Applicant: SEPTA

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SEPTA is seeking administrative approval for headhouse improvements to 2nd Street Station, at each of the four corners at 2nd and Market Streets. These headhouses were originally installed in 1991 and received full Art Commission review at that time. During the earlier review, commissioners and neighbors both expressed a desire for the headhouses to be lower in profile so as not to block views of the nearby park. The current updates address that concern, reducing the height as it is no longer needed to accommodate the updated elevator equipment. Other improvements to address longevity and maintenance concerns include:

- The removal of the brick, stucco and tile finishes with the Headhouses and the Elevator Shafts and replace with porcelain or stone finish.
- Replacing the metal coping with new stone coping.
- Replacement of the glass block inserts within a newly designed frame.
- The existing glazed roof panels on the Headhouses are proposed to be removed and replaced with a standing-seam roof.
- Repainting the existing external structure including all mullions, beams and cladding.
- Repaint the Concrete Canopy that acts as a bus shelter on the northeast corner.
- The proposed removal of the redundant Elevator Equipment Shelters.

Art Commission staff have also reviewed and recommended for approval. (00:39:57)

Questions and Comment from Commission (00:41:41)

Commissioner Nasser asked about the timeline for this project

SEPTA representee Will Kunkle noted that for the Tasker Morris headhouse, a brand new staircase was installed, involving excavation that led to unforeseen issues and delays. 2nd street by contrast is a cosmetic facelift that will not involve excavation. SEPTA has partnered with Old City District and the city who are doing a road diet in the station. The intention is for the work to be completed ahead of 2026 celebrations.

Commissioner Lowe asked about lighting, Mr. Kunkle stated that some lighting will be replaced to current standards increasing brightness and more welcoming.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel requested lighting images.

Mr. Kunkle noted that they will share an updated evening rendering.

Commissioner Lowe asked for clarification regarding the caulking between the panels and if it had any coloration.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:47:56).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Lowe.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

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10. 266-23

**SEPTA ADA Improvements – 37th Street Station – Update
37th & Spruce Streets**

Review Type: Construction project located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: Design update to proposed elevator and staircase headhouses

Applicant: SEPTA

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SEPTA is seeking administrative approval for an updated proposal for 37th Street Station. JMT and SEPTA presented this project during the November 2023 Art Commission Meeting and received approval for original design. Since the presentation, UPenn has requested a design modification to change the curved roof of stairway headhouses to be a single slope roof with straight-line profiles. The revisions include the design for the stair headhouse roofs only, which are based on the 34th Street Station headhouses also on UPenn campus.

Art Commission staff have also reviewed and recommended for approval. (00:48:19)

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:49:19)

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if the curved roof was historic and similar to the one at Woodland Ave Alex Ryder stated that that was an original piece with no curved roof.

Commissioner Lowe asked for clarification about the bottom rails that appear to block part of the historic guardrails. The team noted that the rendering was incorrect and that an updated image could be provided. Commissioner Lowe also confirmed that the roof would be appropriately sloped for drainage.

Commissioners continued conversation about how what was presented shows improvement for the shelters.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:53:00).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Kenyatta and seconded by Commissioner Nasser.

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item.

PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 97-22

**SEPTA ADA Improvements – Erie Station – Update
Broad Street, Germantown Avenue, and Erie Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located within City Right-of-Way

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Project Details: Relocation of proposed elevator headhouse within public plaza
Applicant: SEPTA
Presenter: JMT

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Micheal from JMT began the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:53:23).

Questions and comments from Commission followed.

Commissioner Roesch asked two questions if the benches get hot due to them being metal? Also, if the resin would break away as the tree matures? The applicant team answered that the benches have powder coating on them, so they don't get as hot. And that the resin would loosen in a limited way. Commissioner Roesch commended them about the work that they did with planting the trees.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if the some of the replanting and removal of the trees will improve visibility of the mural that was originally blocked. The applicant team confirmed that yes, coincidentally, the trees that need to be removed block the mural and the existing trees will be pruned so that they remain healthy.

Commissioner Lowe continued the conversation centered around the plants and maintenance to this site. Commissioner Kenyatta comments on some of the community engagement and about the current art in this space.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:43:13).

Questions and comments from Commission (00:57:01)

Commissioner Roesch asked what color the grout between glass blocks would be? Micheal stated it would be a dark gray.

Commission continued conversation about how the current bus shelter on the triangle was removed and being relocated during construction. Commissioners discussed need to see a more complete visual showing the location of the new bus stop and shelter.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Kenyatta and seconded by Commissioner Segall.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (7-0).

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2. 24-25

**Riverview Wellness Village
7801 State Road**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: New building and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Department of Public Property
Presenter: Ballinger

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Nick Brown Project Manager from Ballinger along with Karen Scout Landscape Architect and Jeffrey Canne from Beam lighting designer began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:06:52)

Questions and comments from the Commission

Commissioner Roesch inquired about the advantages of green roofs versus solar panels. The applicant team noted that the green roof strategy is being used here to link to the idea of wellness and recovery.

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if runoff is an issue at the site, to which the team responded that while it is not a specific issue requiring mitigation, the team will manage it in a responsible manner (design and regulatory).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:24:24:00).

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe (Recused), Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (6-0).

3. 185-24

**Vogt Recreation Center
4131 Unruh Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Playground redesign and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Community Ventures (on behalf of Rebuild)
Presenter: Community Ventures and OZ Collaborative

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Kathy began the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:27:31)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:35:27)



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Commissioner Nasser asked what will happen with the gate. The presenter stated that the gate would be locked at the perimeter and would be open from Dawn to Dusk. The applicant team to coordinate with Parks and Recreation on signage if necessary.

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if there a section on the site that has been identified zone for the public art or does that process wait? The team noted that a meeting is scheduled to discuss art opportunities with Creative Philadelphia.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:38:45)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Kenyatta and seconded by Commissioner Segall.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (7-0).

PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 49-25

The Mann Center – Entry Plaza and Welcome Center 5201 Parkside Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Presenter: Aegis Property Group

Brian Heller from Aegis Property Group and Pat Sander the VP of Special Projects at the Mann started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:40:20)

Questions and comments from the Commission (0:02:04:04)

Commissioner Nasser asked if the Mann was being given land from Parks and Recreation and asked how affordable it is going to be to attend The Mann after the renovation. The applicant team clarified that land is leased and that renovation is not intended to change the ticket price.

Commissioner Nasser asked if parking was going to be addressed a well – Applicant team noted that is currently not in budget and is looking to do so in the future.

Commissioner Lowe stated that this was a classy project.

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Commissioners had some discussion of the digital signage, which will be reviewed separately by the Sign and Streetery Committee. The Applicant Team noted that none of the digital signage will have advertising.

Commissioner Roesch asked if the lion statues would lose their magnificence due to new placement. The applicant team noted that they moved them down to their own gardens and will have prominence.

Commissioner Lowe asked if benches would be included in the proposed plaza. The team noted some were incorporated into the walls of the design, but that they may also add more in the future.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if trees are being removed from the site. The team responded that while they are losing three rows of trees, however they would be planting more trees than are being removed and not planning to remove heritage trees. The goal is to landscape / reforest the plaza

Commission continued conversation about specific elements in the project (02:13:05)

Commissioner Segall asked what the ideal opening date would be. It was confirmed that the hope is to begin preconstruction in August for an opening date of May 19, 2026. The applicant team acknowledged that the schedule is ambitious.

Commissioner Kenyatta inquired about sustainable design approaches such as LEED certification. He noted a concern for how the material palette performs in high temperatures and energy usage, encouraging holistic consideration for sustainable strategies.

Commissioner Kenyatta went on to discuss the proposed digital signage, inquiring about the intended audience and asking more additional details as to its intended usage and potential connection to the surrounding community.

Comment from public (02:25:07)

Ben She stated that he appreciates and is excited about the project. He suggested having dedicated space for bike racks also if a bus shelter could be added would promote less car usage to The Mann. The applicant team stated that there are bike racks in the current plan.

Commissioner Osorio highlighted the need to make sure the design includes spaces for rest throughout.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:38:45)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta. Commissioners requested additional details be shared for the record about the passive strategies incorporated in the design to address sustainability

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and for a plan showing the location of proposed bike racks to be furnished as a condition of the approval.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval upon receipts for strategies and location of bike racks (7-0).

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2. 50-25

Delaware River Trail – Penn Treaty Park to Battery Connection 1301 N Beach Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC)

Presenter: NV5

Presenter from NV5 started presentation at the minute mark in video (02:36:52)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:48:53)

Commissioner Kenyatta spoke to the intention to connecting people from Penn Treaty to the Battery to Graffiti Pier which is less than ¼ mile away.

Commissioners Febo San Miguel and Commissioner Lowe asked about tree preservation and lighting. The presenter displayed and explained the renderings.

Applicant team confirmed the funding source will not trigger a percent for art requirement following a question from Commissioner Kenyatta.

Commissioner Osorio noted that seated opportunities should be provided where possible.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (02:53:59)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Kenyatta.

Ms. Liss polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (7-0).

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Commission, Chair Roesch adjourn *the March 12, 2025, Philadelphia Art Commission.*
(002:54:52).

The next Art Commission will be held April 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the One Parkway Building 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom

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