



## Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - 9:30 AM

The Philadelphia Art  
Commission  
Established 1911

Robert Roesch  
Chair

José Almiñana  
Carmen Febo San Miguel  
Matthew Kenyatta  
James Lowe  
Raed Nasser  
Pepón Osorio  
Rebecca Segall  
Mario Zacharjusz

Alex M. Smith  
Director

*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**

*Alex Smith – Director of the Philadelphia Art Commission – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the May 14, 2025 Art Commission Meeting.*

*Alex Smith polled the commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Alex Smith provided information on the hybrid meeting format, how to participate as a member of the public and explained several building safety notes. Alex Smith then introduced Commission Chair Robert Roesch.*

*Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:04:33).*

### **MEETING MINUTES**

- March 12, 2025

*Commission Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve Art Commission Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025 (00:07:02).*

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

*Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve March 12, 2025, Art Commission Meeting Minutes, with no nays.*

### **REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – April 30, 2025**

#### **Sign Applications**

*Second Reviews:*

1. **27-25**  
**Saints**  
1901 Chestnut Street
2. **62-25**  
**Wonder**  
1600 Chestnut Street

One Parkway Building  
1515 Arch St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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3. **64-25**  
**Rockwell at The Curtis**  
601 Walnut Street

4. **70-25**  
**Veronica Beard**  
1709 Walnut Street

5. **72-25**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
1421 Walnut Street

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*First Reviews:*

1. **55-25**  
**The Mann Center for the Performing Arts**  
5201 Parkside Avenue

2. **90-25**  
**Philadelphia Ballet**  
323 N Broad Street

3. **93-25**  
**FS Investments**  
3025 JFK Boulevard

4. **91-25**  
**Verizon**  
1430 Walnut Street

5. **92-25**  
**Dunkin'**  
1204 Chestnut Street

6. **94-25**  
**Beach Street Landing**  
700 N Delaware Avenue

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

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 April 30, 2025 (00:07:40).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Segall. The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee of April 30, 2025*

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

### **1. 103-25**

#### **Clara Muhammed Playground – Playground Improvements 4700 Lancaster Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

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Director Alex Smith presented one administrative Item to the Commission, Clara Muhammad Playground Improvements. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:08:21).

Question and comments from Commission (00:09:52).

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

Commissioner Lowe asked if there was any restriction on the number of colors allowed in the new play equipment. He stated that previous proposals had at least three or more colors. And that is a very helpful way for children to learn. PPR representee stated that playground equipment has not been ordered yet so color can be discussed. She also stated that throughout the community meetings that were held there was no issues with the colors that were presented.

Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta expressed how that due to the nature of the location, the current color plate with the greens and golds is very symbolic to the black Islamic neighborhood. He suggested pulling some colors from nearby artwork and introduce them to the community to provide them with a larger color palette without letting people just choose any color. He also expressed concern about the fence structure around the playground and park.

Commissioner Lowe addressed that the type of fence has been used in the park since the mid 1960's and pointed out that the renderings show that pillar and pipe will be replaced as needed. The PPR representative confirmed that they will replace any deteriorated, broken or bent piping. The concrete pillars will be a smoother version than the existing which will lead to less breakdown over time.

Commissioner Osorio asked about a sign that was displayed near the play area. PPR representee stated that the sign is from the manufacture of the playground equipment and will host the age limits for use of equipment, safety information and the name of manufacture.

Commissioner Osorio asked if there could be some information about Clara Muhammad displayed on a sign at the park.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve for final with condition that applicant provides the Commission with information about what was discussed (00:23:00).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta 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.*

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Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

## **PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW**

### **1. 23-25**

#### **Holocaust Memorial Plaza – Mural 1631 Arch Street**

Review Type: Mural located within Parkway Buffer

Project Details: Mural

Applicant: Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation and Mural Arts

Presenter: Ella Ponizovsky Bergleson

Eszter Kutas, from the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation started the presentation by introducing artist Ella Ponizovsky Bergleson at the minute mark in video (00:24:05).

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:32:09).

Commissioner Lowe asked about the lighting that surrounds the mural. Eszter stated that there is already lighting there that makes the piece visible. They will check the budget and if more lighting is needed will look into it.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel stated that this was beautiful project. She also asked about how information about the mural will be presented. Eszter explained that signage will be used to explain about the Holocaust and a statement from the artist. More information will be provided on an accompanying website as well. Also depending on the budget, the team is looking into using AR technology or other options like QR codes to retrieve and relay information to viewers/visitors.

Commissioner Segall suggested if an open- ended response repository could be included to enhance the visitors' experience by allowing them to leave memories.

Commissioner Lowe asked what materials the panels are made of and if they are easy to clean or repair if damaged. A representative from Mural Arts stated that the panels are parachute cloth that has a five step process with primer and coating that protects the mural. They plan to address any vandalism immediately and will bring Ella back in to fix the mural, if needed.

Commissioner Osorio asked about the distance between the mural and the existing trees. Eszter responded that there is enough space for visitors to stand between the trees and mural for full viewsheds.

Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta stated that this is one of the most precious and impactful murals that has come before the Commission.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final (00:46:40).

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*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel and seconded by Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta.*

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*Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

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Mario Zacharjasz

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

## **2. 205-24**

### **Happy Hollow Recreation Center – Update 4800 Wayne Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: New spray ground and front entry modifications  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: SMP Architects

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

Stephan Rafferty from SMP Architects started presentation at the minute mark in video (00:48:45)

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final (00:56:05).

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

*Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller 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. 104-25**

#### **Hillside Recreation Center – Pool Improvements 201 Fountain Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: Pool replacement and new equipment storage building  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: Tran Systems

Jim Branch, Architect, from Tran Systems started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:57:03).

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:04:00).

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*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta.*

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

Alex M. Smith  
Director

**2. 105-25**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Street Station – ADA Improvements**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> & Market Streets**

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way  
Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements  
Applicant: SEPTA  
Presenter: CDM Smith and Sowinski Sullivan

Scott Kelner from CDM Smith started presentation at the minute mark in video (01:05:24).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:11:45).

Commissioner Roesch asked what is the diameter of the aircraft cables? Will Kunkle from SEPTA stated that it was less than a quarter inch.

Commissioner Segall asked about the yellow tripping hazard in the photos. Scott Kelner stated that SEPTA has already fixed and addressed this condition.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve as final (01:13:26).

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

*Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

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

**3. 106-25**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Street Station – ADA Improvements**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> & Market Streets**

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way  
Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements  
Applicant: SEPTA  
Presenter: CDM Smith and Sowinski Sullivan

Scott Kelner introduced James Bush to start presentation at the minute mark in video (01:41:06).

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Questions and comments from the Commission (01:19:42).

Commissioner Roesch asked if the glass block proposals are being eliminated from future designs. Scott Kelner stated that there is a combination of brick and square style glass blocks that have been used in the past. They are not eliminating the glass. The goal is to use less to make the design simpler.

Commissioner Nasser asked if bike racks were going to be installed. Will Kunkle stated that there are bike racks on the mezzanine level of the station.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve. (01:25:06)

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Nasser and seconded by Commissioner Segall*

*Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Jordan-Miller Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.*

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

#### **4. 107-25**

##### **36<sup>th</sup> Street Station – ADA Improvements**

##### **36<sup>th</sup> & Ludlow Streets**

Review Type: Encroachment located within City Right-of-Way

Project Details: New ADA elevator and headhouse improvements

Applicant: SEPTA

Presenter: CDM Smith and Sowinski Sullivan

Scott Kelner continued presentation at the minute mark in video (01:25:42).

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:30:41).

Commissioner Lowe questioned why the barrel vault was not used. Will Kunkle stated that the barrel vault design is standard for the system, but the Universities have asked for a slight variation of the designs.

Commissioner Nasser asked about advertising panels and added lights to the space. Scott Kelner stated that the advertising panels could be added in the future. Also, there is interior lighting. Mr. Smith clarified that signage would be reviewed under a separate Art Commission review.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:34:48).

*Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osorio and seconded by Commissioner Segall.*

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

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Chair Roesch asked for a motion to adjourn May 14, 2025, Philadelphia Art Commission.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osorio and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel the motion was unanimously carried (01:35: 44).

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

**The next Philadelphia Art Commission meeting will be held on June 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** at One Parkway Building -1515 Arch Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom.