



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 Zacharjasz

Alex M. Smith
Director

Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 – 09:30 AM

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

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Art Director Alex Smith – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the August 13, 2025 Art Commission Meeting.

*Alex Smith 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 (00:06:00).

REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – July 30, 2025

Streeter Structure Application

First Review:

1. **177-25**
Rouge
205 S 18th Street

Sign Applications

Returning Reviews:

1. **131-25**
Roxborough Hospital
505-15 Jamestown Avenue
2. **286-23**
UPS
1735 Market Street

First Reviews:

1. **178-25**
Xfinity Mobile Arena
3601 S Broad Street

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1515 Arch St., 13th Floor
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2. **179-25**
Nomura
100 S Independence Mall West
3. **180-25**
Chase Bank
123-29 Chestnut Street
4. **181-25**
Old City Kava Company
40 S 2nd Street

Legalizations:

1. **157-25**
Ritten House Deli & Juice Bar
1039 Chestnut Street

Question and Comment from commission:

Commissioner Nasser asked for clarification on the signage facing 1-95 would only be projection the events and no commercials? Applicant confirmed that what was being mentioned was not part of this submission as it was previously

Seeing no questions or comments from the Public or Commission, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the Sign Committee and Streeterly Committee of June 24, 2025, 2025 (00:08:07).

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

The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeterly Committee of July 30, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **182-25**
Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks
Various Locations (4)
Review Type: Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: Four new Indego IKE Smart City Kiosk installations
Applicant: Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS) (on behalf of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS))

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Director Alex Smith presented three administrative Items to the Commission, beginning with Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:08:40)

Question and comments from Commission (00:10:10)

Commissioner Lowe asked why sites were split by trees or other objects? Applicant stated there is an obstacle in the furnishing zone. Due to the new modular technology, the docking stations do not need to connect. However, the actual will be able to be more seamless than what is currently being depicted.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel requested an updated rendering with the new technology to understand final installation. Applicant agreed.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:12:19)

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

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

2. 190-25

Mander Playground

2140 North 33rd Street

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) and Langan

Question and comments from Commission (00:14:10)

Commissioner Lowe asked in the original signage whether Joseph Mander will be retained? Jane Anderson stated it will remain. It tells an important community story.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if for Joesph Mander signage could be translated into various languages? Jane Anderson is a great idea and will investigate it.

Commissioner Nasser asked if more trees could be added. Ruth from Langan stated that the plan includes four new trees.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:18:32).

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

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

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3. 198-25

Frank Rizzo – Deaccession

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Deaccessioning of sculpture from City collection

Applicant: Frank L. Rizzo Monument Committee

Question and comments from Commission (00:20:10)

Alex M. Smith
Director

Commissioner Nasser asked the applicant what the final disposition is on where they would like to display the statue. Mathhew Minskey, attorney for the applicant, stated they want the statues to be returned to them to be updated. They currently do not have a location in mind. They are looking to take full responsibility for the statue once the litigation process is completed.

Commission carried out conversation to confirm and clarify the Art Commission in the process to remove from City governance.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:28:08).

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

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

PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 119-24

Venice Island – Vehicular and Pedestrian Bridges

4432, 4436-42, 4400R and 4436R Main Street

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

Project Details: Pedestrian and Vehicular Bridge installation

Applicant: JKRP Architects

Presenter: JKRP Architects

Jerry from JKRP Architects started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:32:35)

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:37:26)

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Commissioner Nasser asked questions about bridge clearances and accommodations for kayaks and trail users.

Commissioner Osorio asked for the recommendations that were previously considered.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:40:35)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lowe and seconded by Commissioner Osorio

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Kenyatta, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Nasser, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 192-25

Chinatown Stitch

10th and Vine Streets

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: OTIS

Presenter: WSP

Chris from OTIS started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:30:10)

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:46:30)

Commissioner Roesch asked about existing funding. He also asked about existing shade elements. He expressed concern about water feature details. Applicant team stated that the current existing shade structures will be replaced with the water feature and will be shallow, however looking to come back with more details.

Commissioner Lowe asked how maintenance responsibility will function. Applicant stated that they are currently working on a business plan and do not have the City fund the maintenance plan.

Commissioner Nasser asked about that safely of the crosswalk in this area. He also asked about a playground area. Applicant explained plan for addressing crosswalk area and reviewed that there is a playground area.

Commission carried conversation address multiple areas they would like to see be developed for when applicants come back to commission for final approval.

Questions and Comments from Public (00:55:50)

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John Chin, Executive Director of Chinatown Development Corporation, expressed that OTIS and others have been great partners in this project. He also acknowledges how this project could help Vine Street become the Main Street of Chinatown (00:55:50)

Commissioners Lowe and Nasser asked about restroom and park hours. Applicant reviewed where the restrooms would be located. Applicant stated the park is open but there will be no 24hr access. (01:01:59)

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the concept (01:03:30)

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

2. 193-25

Avenue of the Arts – Broad Street Median

South Broad & Spruce/Pine Streets

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

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Avenue of the Arts Inc. (AIA)

Presenter: Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg

Grace Reynolds from Aegis, started presentation at the minute mark in video (01:04:35)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:12:13)

Commissioner Roesch asked how tall the trees are being placed? Applicant stated that at installation it will be 10-14 feet high. Some are intended to grow larger but will be constricted due to area.

Commissioner Lowe asked who will maintain the landscaping? Applicant stated that they are working with the city and PennDOT to have maintenance agreements put in place. Each entity will have their own agreement.

Commissioner Segall raised questions about how the landscaping would have access to be performed and also water irrigation. Applicant ensured that those details would be written out within the agreements and that there had been water irrigation integrated landscape.

Commissioner Osorio asked about any additional lighting to be added to protect the pedestrians while navigating? The applicant stated that the lighting infrastructure will be included, however the design will be part of later phase.

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Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve concept (01:54:03)

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

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Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

Alex M. Smith
Director

3. 194-25

1421 Arch Street Mural

1421 Arch Street

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Exterior site improvements within Parkway Buffer

Applicant: Mural Arts Philadelphia

Presenter: Mural Arts

Jane Golden and Brian Camplem from Mural Arts started presentation at the minute mark in video (01:24:25)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:30:45)

Commissioner Roesch asked if murals were painted on directly to building. Applicant confirmed yes and described the process.

Alex Smith clarified that the signage was previously approved by the Sign and Streeter committee.

Commissioner Segall stated that she would like to see some reference from PAFA in the imagery.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel expressed that this is a beautiful design. She wanted to know how to get the public to be more aware of the significance of the imagery. Jane expressed to potentially include street level or QR codes.

Commissioner Osorio suggested to provide signage to provide information about the previous mural transitioning to this new mural.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about lighting, Jane stated that mural is not lit.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve for final (01:40:04)

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

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Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

Alex M. Smith
Director

4. 195-25

Lawncrest Recreation Center – Pool Replacement 6000 Rising Sun Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Rebuild

Presenter: TransSystems

Presenters from Trans Systems started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:43:12)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:48:36)

Commissioner Lowe asked about the installation and deinstallation of the artwork at this site. Marquerite Anglin from Philadelphia Creative spoke about this process.

Commissioner Lowe also asked why the pool size was changed and what type of material was being used to control temperature and non-slip? Applicant provided information on how the pool is currently not being used at its maximal capacity. The pool material being used will be concrete as there was no previous conversation about nonslip material being used.

The commissioner asked to see lighting and a report of pool materials that have been used recently in nearby areas.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve final (01:58:24)

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

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5. 196-25

**Overbrook Elementary Schoolyard Improvements
6201-6231 Lebanon Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Trust for Public Land

Presenter: AKRF

Ed Confair and Courtney from AKRF started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:59:39)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:11:53)

Commissioner Roesch commended the team on the student-led design.

Commissioner Lowe questioned that use of plants that attracted bees. Applicant expressed that main pollinator to attract are butterflies.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve final (02:13:39)

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

6. 197-25

**PHL Airport Rocky Statue
8500 Essington Avenue**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Installation of statuary on City property

Applicant: PHL Airport

Presenter: PHL Airport

John representing the PHL Airport started the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:14:48)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:24:34)

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Commissioner asked if a QR code would be provided since the site is on an international floor in the Airport. Presenter stated that there will be QR code to access varies languages.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve final (02:31:03)

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

Mr. Smith polled the Commission: Commissioner Febo San Miguel, Commissioner Lowe, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Osorio, Commissioner Segall, and Commission Chair Roesch.

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

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After unanimous consent, Commission Chair Roesch *adjourned the August 13, 2025 meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission.* (02:41:33)

The next Art Commission will be held September 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. on the One Parkway Building 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom

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