



**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, September 10th– 09:30 AM

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

MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ART COMMISSION

Katherine Liss -Acting Director of Art Commission – began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the September 10th, 2025 Art Commission Meeting.

Katherine Liss polled the commission via roll call, then stated a few instructions for the public. Katherine Liss provided information on the hybrid meeting format, how to participate as a member of the public and explained several building safety rules. Katherine Liss acknowledged the departure of Alex Smith from the role of Art Director. Katherine Liss then introduced Commission Chair Roesch.

Commission Chair Roesch called the meeting to order and announced a quorum at the minute mark in video (00:08:09).

REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – August 27, 2025

APPEAL

1. 180-25

Chase Bank – Projecting Sign 123-29 Chestnut Street

Review Type: Signage within Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

Project Details: Appeal of Signage Denial

Applicant: PermEx

PermEx started presentation for the appeal of Chase Bank Projecting Sign at 123-29 Chestnut Street (00:09:18)

Question and comments from Commission (00:11:50)

Katherine Liss advised that the applicant should present revised proposal to Sign and Streeterly Committee on September 17, 2025. Staff will reach out to the applicant for next steps.

Commission discussed procedural requirements

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to reject appeal (00:16:45)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously to reject appeal (7-0).

Streeterly Structure Application

First Review:

- 1. 206-25**
Bonk's Bar

Sign Applications

Returning Reviews:

- 1. 131-25**
Roxborough Hospital Monument Sign
505-15 Jamestown Avenue
- 2. 155-25**
Mi Vida
34-40 S 11th Street

First Reviews:

- 1. 207-25**
Stateside Live!
1300 Pattison Avenue
- 2. 208-25**
Popeye's Chicken
800 S Broad Street
- 3. 209-25**
The Bread Room by High Street
834 Chestnut Street, Suite 101
- 4. 210-25**
Ross Dress for Less

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1026-44 Market Street

- 5. 211-25
Dancerobot**
1710-12 Sansom Street

- 6. 212-25
PWR BLD Gym**
1 S Broad Street

Returning Legalizations:

- 1. 157-25
Ritten House Deli & Juice Bar**
1039 Chestnut 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 August 27, 2025. (00:17:33)

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 recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streetery Committee of August 27, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- 1. 213-25
OTIS Bus Shelter Locations
Various Locations (7)**
Review Type: Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
Project Details: Seven new bus shelter installations
Applicant: Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Acting Director Katherine Liss presented four administrative Items to the Commission, beginning OTIS Bus Shelter Locations. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:18:04)

Question and comments from Commission (00:19:28)

Commissioner Nasser asked if the shelter located at 78th street would be placed on top of grass?

Commissioner Lowe expressed concern for ADA accessibility of the station. He recommends that concrete be extended to the curb for easier accessibility.

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Commissioner Roesch recommended that a letter be sent to the applicant to as the plan states concrete, but the rendering is showing grass. Ask for clarification.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:25:29)

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

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

**2. 214-25
Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks
Various Locations (5)**

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))

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:27:35).

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

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

**3. 215-25
Chew Playground Improvements
1800 Washington Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Site improvements
Applicant: Capital Program Office – PPR Team

Question and comments from Commission (00:29:13)

Commissioner Kenyatta asked for clarification of the lighting in this space. He also expressed concerns about heat absorption on the circle bench as it is colored to be black. He suggested using a color that does not absorb heat.

Megan Funk, Architectural Coordinator for the Capital Programs Office, informed commission that there are only two options, as the other is wood. The wood option would be more costly. The concern for heat is none due to the circle bench being placed

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under trees. As far as lighting is concerned, there are no direct lights in the playground, however there are field lights surrounding the area.

Commissioner Nasser asked if there was any community engagement on this project. Applicant stated that City Council District 2 (Council President Johnson) office is conducting community engagement.

Commissioner Osorio expressed concern of wheelchairs potentially getting stuck between concrete and grass at ADA tables. Applicants reference the plan to show that two new ADA tables will be placed on ne concrete pad.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:33:13)

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

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

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4. 216-25

Philadelphia Zoological Gardens Shelly Building Window Replacement 3400 W Girard Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Replacement of existing windows and canopy protection over exterior stairs

Applicant: Seiler & Drury Architecture

Question and comments from Commission (00:34:55)

Commissioner Lowe asked if they were mimicking the profile of the existing windows? Applicant stated that it is not exact 1x1 window placement, but idea is to match best way possible.

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if the windows are bird safe? Applicant stated yes.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:40:44).

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

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

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PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW

1. 235-24

Phillies Team Store Expansion 1 Citizens Bank Park Way

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: New building addition

Applicant: The Philadelphia Phillies

Presenter: Ballard Spahr

Meredith Trego from Ballard Spahr on behalf of the Philadelphia Phillies started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:41:56)

Questions and comments from the Commission (00:49:50)

Commissioner Kenyatta asked about entry flow and the energy use of material for this project. Applicant explained how the flow of entry and existing will be mapped out for security purposes. He also addresses energy use as that there will be installation to avoid excessive energy consumption.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:53:26)

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

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

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

2. 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

Leeann Suen from Capital Program Office started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:54:25)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:02:55)

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Commissioner Segall expressed concerns about the crowded furniture layout as there seemed to be not a lot of space for people to pass by. Applicant stated that the layout is adjustable and about 5 ft between tables and chaise lounge.

Segall suggested that if the current furniture selection does not work to look into benches. Applicant stated that it is great suggestion, however the furniture being selected is not part of the capital budget.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:06:04)

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 Osorio, Commissioner Nasser, Commissioner Segall and Commissioner Chair Roesch.

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

3. 221-25

Deaccessioning of “Underwater Sunscreen” by Harold Kimmelman 6000 Rising Sun Avenue

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Deaccessioning of sculpture from City collection

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Presenter: Creative Philadelphia

Margurite Anglin, Public Art Director from Creative Philadelphia, started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:07:02)

Questions and comments from the Commission (01:15:41)

Commissioner Osorio asked if there had been any report of fatality or danger caused by the artwork. Applicant stated that there was no report of fatality, there has been efforts to document safety risk that this artwork proposes.

Commissioner Kenyatta expressed that he appreciates seeing the process before deaccessioning is made.

Commissioner Osorio asked if the city owned any other work by this artist. Applicant states yes.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if there was any consideration to relocate this piece. The applicant stated that there were many attempts to find a place where it could be accessible to the public that made sense.

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The Commission carried conversation of ways to repurpose the art piece. Also, what will happen to the art piece once it is deaccessioned.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve deaccession (01:52:14)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously to approve for Final approval (3-4).

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PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW

1. 220-25

**Dr. Sadie T.M. Alexander Statue
1401 JFK Plaza – Thomas Paine Plaza**

Review Type: Public Art

Project Details: Installation of permanent statue

Applicant: Creative Philadelphia

Presenter: Creative Philadelphia

Marquerite Anglin, Public Art Director of Creative Philadelphia, started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:54:28). Artist Vinnie Bagwell continued presentation at (01:56:34)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:08:07)

Commissioner Roesch said that this is brilliant! And he is excited for this art piece.

Commissioner Lowe asked how people would know about Dr. Alexander's history, her connection to the city which ties things together with the location at Thomas Paine Plaza.

Vinnie Bagwell stated that additional signage can be installed with a QR code to provide additional information. This has not been designed yet; we are working with Dr. Alexanders biographer that will help with the information provided.

Commissioner Osorio expressed that this artistry is a must in our time and his concern about placing signage too close to sculpture could take away the mobility of the sculpture.

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Commissioner Kenyatta asked if there could be additional languages that could be added? Can the book here be used to host the QR code?
Vinnie Bagwell clarified that size of the statute and that the QR code would be needed to even know the information that is written in the book.

Vinnie Bagwell discussed maintenance and why Bronze is the most durable material. Vandalism is inevitable but this piece will age well.

Commissioner Lowe raised the question on how to prevent deaccession in the future. Commission carried out a discussion on how this could possibly be proposed to the city.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the concept (02:24:45)

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

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

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

2. 218-25

Webster Schoolyard Improvements 3400 Frankford Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Exterior site improvements
Applicant: Trust for Public Land (TPL), School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)
Presenter: Ground Reconsidered

Julie Bus, Principal at Ground Reconsidered, started presentation at the minute mark in video (02:25:55)

Questions and comments from the Commission (02:33:52)

Commissioner Roesch asked about forever chemicals due to the amount of plastic that is being used. Juile Bush stated that she is not an expert on the play material and would contact the manufacture to gain that information. She also stated that it was not recommended to use plastic ball under the artificial turf as infill.

Commissioner Osorio asked how wide the tracks are. Julie stated that they are believed to be 5-6' wide.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve concept as final (02:36:24)

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

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

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

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3. 217-25

Philadelphia Zoo Ferris Wheel 3400 W Girard Avenue

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Temporary installation of Ferris Wheel

Applicant: Philadelphia Zoo

Presenter: Philadelphia Zoo

Kristen Lewis-Waldrom, Chief Integrated Operations Officer of the Philadelphia Zoo, started presentation at the minute mark in video (02:37:30)

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

Commissioner Nasser asked if the city skyline would be visible? Kristen stated yes

Commissioner Osorio asked what the effect on wildlife at night would be. Kristen stated that lighting is programmed with a soft glow and will mostly be off during nighttime when not in use.

Commissioner Lowe asked if this is regulated by L&I. The answer is Yes.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about pricing. The applicants stated about \$8 per ride, and it will be offered in packages as well.

Commissioner Kenyatta asked if this could be a permanent option. Answer yes.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the concept for final (02:47:18)

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

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

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

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**4. 219-25
McPherson Square Library & Site Improvements
601 E Indiana Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property
Project Details: Building and exterior site improvements
Applicant: Rebuild, Capital Program Office (CPO)
Presenter: SMP Architects

Cassie O'Connell, Senior Program, Capital Program Office started the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:48:30)

Questions and comments from the Commission (03:01:18)

Commissioner Nasser stated that this is a very well-designed project. He also commented to please find a way to avoid needles all over the park.

Commissioner Osorio commented about signage in park. McPherson Square is a challenging site, and the community group is very active and present in the evening.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked about park hours? Presenters stated that official times would have to be confirmed by Parks and Recreation. The gate would be locked at 8pm around play equipment.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve concept for final (03:02:58)

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

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

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

Commission, Chair Roesch adjourn September 10, 2025, Philadelphia Art Commission.
(03:05:5033)

**The next Art Commission will be held October 8 , 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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