



## Philadelphia Art Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 09:30 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 Zacharjasz

Alex M. Smith  
Director

*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 July 9, 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).*

### **MEETING MINUTES**

- June 11, 2025

*Commission Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve Commission Meeting Minutes June 11, 2025 (00:06:33)*

*Consensus of the vote was carried all in favor to approve June 11, 2025 Art Commission Meeting Minutes, with no nays.*



## **REPORT OF THE SIGN & STREETERY COMMITTEE – June 25, 2025**

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### **Sign Applications**

#### *Return Reviews:*

1. **128-25**  
**Lucky Strike**  
1330-36 Chestnut Street

#### *First Reviews:*

1. **126-25**  
**Herman Miller**  
1615 Walnut Street
2. **151-25**  
**Time Mission**  
1530-32 Chestnut Street
3. **152-25**  
**Action Karate**  
11 W Mt Airy Avenue
4. **153-25**  
**Burger King**  
2037 S Broad Street
5. **154-25**  
**Moka & Co**  
1327-39 Chestnut Street
6. **155-25**  
**Mi Vida**  
34-40 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street
7. **156-25**  
**Connolly Dermatology**  
701 S Broad Street

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 (00:06:44).

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Sign Committee and Streeterly Committee of June 25, 2025*

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

### **1. 164-25**

#### **Health Center 3 - Phipps Building Renovation (Phase 2) 4217-21 Chester Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior and interior building improvements

Applicant: Department of Public Health / Capital Program Office (CPO)

Presenter: A K Architecture

Director Alex Smith presented three administrative Items to the Commission, beginning with Health Center 3- Phipps Building Renovation. All Administrative Items required a consensus vote (00:07:18)

Question and comments from Commission (00:10:30)

Commissioner Nasser asked if the current trees would be replaced ? Lisa Armstrong from AKA Architecture stated that on the Chester Ave side trees will remain.

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:12:30)

*The vote was taken by consensus. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the administrative item. Commissioner Lowe Recused himself from this vote.*

### **2. 165-25**

#### **Baker Recreation Center Playground Improvements 5433 Lansdowne Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Question and comments from Commission (00:15:30)

Commissioner Nasser asked if there were only two trees and what is the material of the slide ? The representative stated that the slide is metal per PPR standard. Also, no trees are to be removed and there are two trees being added. Commissioner Nasser also asked what type of tree and expressed his concerns about the metal slide.

Commissioner Osorio asked how much the furniture will affect the amount of space for the child to play. The representative stated that the project manager provided additional information for clarification later.

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Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:20:22).

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

### **3. 166-25**

#### **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))

Seeing no questions or comments from the Commission or the Public, Chair Nasser asked for a motion to approve (00:22:19).

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

## **PRESENTATIONS FOR FINAL REVIEW**

### **1. 167-25**

#### **The Cliffs Equestrian Stables (Phase 2) 3400 Reservoir Drive**

Review Type: Construction project on City property  
Project Details: Equestrian stables and barn  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation  
Presenter: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Applicant Representative started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:23:22)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (00:28:35)*

*Commissioner Osorio asked for the recommendations that were previously considered. Alex Smith clarified that this project was first seen in two-step review.*

*Commissioner Lowe asked about fire suppression? How Far away are hydrant ? The applicant team explained that there are sprinklers throughout the property.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair

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Roesch asked for a motion to approve (0:32:06 )

*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).*

## **2. 79-25**

### **Granahan Recreation Center 6500 Callowhill Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property  
Project Details: New building and exterior site improvements  
Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)  
Presenter: SITIO

Brooke Kirby from SITIO started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:33:07)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (00:40:09)*

*Commissioner Roesch asked what is the new fencing material? Presenters stated that they are using painted steel tubes for the gate and leaving the existing chain link for remainder of fencing machines.*

*Commissioner Nasser asked how tall is the fence at the basketball court? The presenter stated it is about 8-10 feet and that fencing will remain .*

*Commissioner Lowe asked about motion detectors and security; the presenter confirmed the camera will be included throughout the area.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (00:43:49)

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

*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).*

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### **3. 82-25**

#### **Logan Elementary Schoolyard Improvements 1700 Lindley Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project utilizing City funding

Project Details: Schoolyard and exterior site improvements

Applicant: Trust for Public Land

Presenter: AKRF

Presenters from AKRF started the presentation at the minute mark in video (00:44:55)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (00:50:53)*

*Commissioner Febo San Miguel expressed concerns that there will be overlapping / crowding in the design of the court and field. Presenters explain they would be separated by “buffer strip” which would include seating, and tree pits to separate the activities.*

*Commissioner Lowe wanted to confirm that after certain time the gates would be closed and locked and there is a perimeter fence on Ogontz Ave? The presenter confirmed.*

*Commissioner Nasser expressed concerns about children getting hurt by the soccer balls if there was no fencing.*

*Richard Washington from Logan School Community stated that since he has been there over the years, he has not seen a ball go out in the street to address concerns of the commission. This is expounded on how this project creates more open space for activity.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve (01:00:06)

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

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

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (5-0).*



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## **PRESENTATIONS FOR CONCEPT REVIEW**

### **1. 80-25**

#### **Nicetown Low Line Site Improvements**

#### **4300-4400 Germantown Avenue**

Review Type: Construction project utilizing City funding

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Nicetown Community Development Corporation (NTCDC)

Presenter: SALT Design Studio

Katrina Landscape Architect and Studio Director from SALT Design Studio started the presentation at the minute mark in video (01:00:50)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (01:16:19)*

*Commissioner Roesch asked to confirm fencing , seating and percent for art requirements. The Presenter would have to get additional information about percent to art requirements. The fencing will be metal picket fence along the North , west and south side and some chain link near the court . There will be stacked spectator seating near courts. Commissioner asked for dimension plans to be brought back at next review.*

*Commissioner Lowe asked what the dimensions are from paved area to underside of the structure . The presenter stated that it is at least 20'-0"*

The presenter explains more in depth about the community wanting to be able to host pop up shops event in vendor stalls. They will have shade, coverage and electricity.

Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if the Nicetown CDC will provide administration support . The presenter stated that they currently hold offices down the street.

Commissioner Osorio expressed concerns about lighting and proposal to reconsider the current lighting plan. He stated that this was a wonderful project for the community.

Commissioner Nasser asked how many bike racks will be available and where the trees would be placed. The presents showed the three areas where bikes are located and stated that the canopy trees will be far away from the underpass and showed where new trees would be placed on diagram.

Commissioner Osorio suggested adding lighting to the Nicetown Signage.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve the concept (01:30:04)

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

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

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*Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (5-0).*

## **2. 168-25**

### **Commerce Connector**

#### **Commerce Street (4<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets)**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Presenter: Ground Reconsidered

Alex M. Smith  
*Director*

Julie Bush , from Ground Reconsider started presentation at the minute mark in video (01:31:30)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (01:42:57)*

*Commissioner Roesch asked If the artist was contacted about the sculpture. Presenter stated that there have been attempts to locate the artist, however, there has not been any success.*

*Commissioner Osorio asked about wheelchair accessibility for the site. Presenter explained that the ramp that was shown is attached to existing apartment building. Commissioner Osorio also asked about percent to art, presenter explained that once they identify the artist then they can figure out what that would look like.*

*Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if there would be a temperature concern with you metal vs wood for the seating. Presenters stated that they do not believe that it will not be a concern. Commissioner Roesch suggested doing additional research.*

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

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

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

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for concept approval (5-0)*

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**3. 169-25**

**Bartram's Garden - Play Space  
5400 Lindbergh Boulevard**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Bartram's Garden

Presenter: Tiny WPA

Alex and Lauren from Tiny WPA team started presentation at the minute mark in video (01:55:47)

*Questions and comments from the Commission (02:07:35)*

*Commissioner Osorio asked if there was a story behind the project. Presenters stated that there is no direct story that is being depicted. However, children will be able to learn about the type of water nearby and living organisms in that area.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve for final (02:11:59)

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

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

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (5-0).*

**4. 170-25**

**Malcolm X Park - Play Space  
5100 Pine Street**

Review Type: Construction project located on City property

Project Details: Exterior site improvements

Applicant: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)

Presenter: Tiny WPA

Alex from Tiny WPA started the presentation at the minute mark in video (02:13:38)

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*Questions and comments from the Commission (02:24:49)*

*Commissioner Nasser expressed appreciation for the project.*

*Commsioenr Osorio stated the project was attractive . However, he expressed his concern for the longevity of the materials that are being used. Presenters acknowledged maintenance concerns and ongoing testing strategies.*

*Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked how children would be learning? Would there be interactions with educators ? Presenters stated that most of the learning would be within the hand of them helping to build the playground “ The tools to use tools”.*

*Commission carried conversation about the project concept and potentially being a trend throughout the city.*

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Commission or the public, Chair Roesch asked for a motion to approve final (02:40:50)

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

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

*Motion carried unanimously to approve for final approval (5-0).*

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Commission, Chair Nasser adjourn July 9 , 2025 Philadelphia Art Commission.  
(02:41:33)

**The next Art Commission will be held August 13 , 2025, at 9:30 a.m. on the One Parkway Building**  
1515 Arch Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 18-029 Philadelphia, PA 19102 and via Zoom

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