



Minutes of March 11, 2026, Meeting of the Philadelphia Art Commission

Room 18-029, 1515 Arch Street, with remote option on Zoom

Raed Nasser, Chairperson

Katherine Liss, Acting Director

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Commission**
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Vice Chairperson

Marni Burns, RLA, ASLA
Matthew Kenyatta
Troy Leonard, AIA
James Lowe
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Rebecca Segall

Katherine C. Liss, AIA,
AICP
Director

CALL TO ORDER				
START TIME:	(00:06:42)			
COMMISSIONER	ROLE	PRESENT	ABSENT	COMMENT
Raed Nasser, Chairperson	Member of the Board of Parks and Recreation	✓		
Carmen Febo San Miguel, Vice Chairperson	Businessperson	✓		
Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta	Member of a School of Art or Architecture		✓	
James Lowe	Designee of the Commissioner of Public Property	✓		
Pepón Osorio	Member of a School of Art or Architecture	✓		
Rebecca Segall	Painter	✓		Online – Left (Audio issues prevented from hearing her)
Troy Leonard	Architect	✓		
Vacant	Sculptor			
Vacant	Landscape Architect			

Commissioner Troy C. Leonard was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting to join the Commission as an Architect.

Staff Members Present:

Art & Design: Kacie Liss, Henry Felsman, Sydney Conaway, Cindy LaRue

Other: Toni Brown (IT), Alexandra Athanasiadis (Law)

Individuals Attending via Zoom platform:

Stephanie Pennypacker, Peter Kelsen, Sloan King-Wolf, Jim Dellipriscoli, gemma Tierney, Kim Chantry, Chris Densten, Liz Fuselier, Sharon Brandt, William Andes, Marguerite Anglin, Paige Phillips, gab`lavin, Haoyi Shang, Sherman Aronson, Rebekah Grimes, Edward Walker, Ibrahim Anse, Elizabeth Bradford, Cassandra Perry, Rebecca Segall, Mina Monavarian, Eliza Bower.

Agenda Items

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REPORT OF THE SIGN AND STREETERY COMMITTEE (Consensus Vote) – 9:43				
DATE	START TIME	MOTION	SECOND	COMMENT
February 25, 2026	(00:06:55)	Febo San Miguel	Osorio	Approved, All in favor

Items Presented for Administrative Review

46-26 OTIS Bus Shelter Locations

PROJECT DETAILS (00:07:45)

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS), in partnership with Intersection, has submitted a series of four (4) bus shelter upgrades as part of their on-going shelter improvement program. These new shelters are the original size rather than the narrow shelters. 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.

Castor Ave & Benner St SE

Overbrook Ave & Haverford Ave SE

Castor Ave & Rhawn St NW

Cheltenham Ave & Morton St NE

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 1: 46-26 OTIS Bus Shelter Locations	
APPLICANT	Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)
LOCATION	Various Locations (4)
PROJECT TYPE	Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
DESCRIPTION	Four (4) new bus shelter installations
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:08:55):

- Commissioner Lowe asked for confirmation on the location of the bus shelter #1 in relationship to the curb line noting inconsistency between the rendering and the site plan. He also noted concern about the bus shelter being pushed back, creating safety issues with cars driving in front of it. Miss Liss said while no one from OTIS was at the meeting to confirm, Art Commission staff would reach out to ask for that. She also noted that the dimensions on the site plans were generally more accurate than the renderings. Commissioner Lowe requested that the renderings be more accurately depicting the proposed condition.
- Chair Nasser also followed up on this point. Miss Liss noted that the applicant had responded in previous cases and Mr. Felsman from Art Commission staff read the applicant's response to the staff question regarding the determining factors in location of the bus shelters, in numbers 2 and 3 the bus shelters are closer to the curb and

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numbers 1 and 4 they are pushed back from the curb. For number 1, the bus shelter was placed at the property line due to sightline issues with the gas station driveway.

- Chair Nasser requested that bus stop markings be added to the street in front of the stop and Commissioner Osorio requested that bus stop poles be added.
- Commissioner Leonard asked if the shelters were all the same size, what determines the positioning of the bus shelters making sure the safety of the patrons, and in case of uneven pavements, how the shelters attachments and location are handled to avoid tripping hazards and accessibility issues.
- Commissioner Febo San Miguel clarified that there were two different sizes for the bus shelters overall, but in this application, they were all the same size. She also confirmed that it was noted in the application that any uneven pavement would be repaired through the installation process. She also reminded everyone that the main proposal had already been approved by the Art Commission including the installation details.
- Commissioner Osorio suggested that an element be added to the front of number 1 to deter the car traffic.
- Commissioner chair agreed at the request of Commissioner Febo San Miguel that bus shelter number 1 be excluded from the approval until someone from the applicant team responded to the Commission's questions.

- (00:19:53) vote for disapproval

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comment

45-26 Wharton Square Playground

PROJECT DETAILS (00:20:20)

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is requesting administrative approval for site improvements at Wharton Square playground. This project includes the installation of one new piece of playground equipment and new site furnishings as requested by council. The project budget is \$136,000, which will not trigger a percent for art requirement.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 2: 45-26 Wharton Square - Playground	
APPLICANT	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR)
LOCATION	1300 S 23 rd St.
PROJECT TYPE	Playground
DESCRIPTION	Minor expansion of existing playground to add new play equipment
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:21:20)

- Commissioner Carmen asked if the spinner and the quiet corner are outside of the fenced area. Appears that spinner is outside the fence. Angela Fleegle from Capital Program office explained that there was an existing fence around most of the playground. No new fences are added; however, some of the existing fences were removed around the new equipment and the community requested two new gates.

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- Commissioners suggested that for future presentations, more details on sensory station and labels for 2-5 or 5-12 play areas be added. Are there design standards that provide plaque to suggest play age area. It was explained that the intention is to keep the equipment physically separated and usually the equipment manufacturer may provide some sort of plaque or signage to show the age group.
- The new piece of equipment which is the spinner is expected to be accessible. The ground covering will be poured-in-place safety surface in beige color. Since it was not possible to match existing, the team chose a neutral color. In response to the concerns about lighting, it was noted that no new lighting was proposed as there was enough lighting throughout the park and the lighting was expected to be upgraded as part of a separate effort.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:28:36)

No public comments

Approved, all in favor (00:28:44)

47-26 Public Art Conservation

PROJECT DETAILS (00:29:05)

Creative Philadelphia is submitting this letter to the Art Commission for Administrative approval of conservation work for the following City of Philadelphia owned public art sculptures. Note that items identified by asterisk (), required time-sensitive conservation work that is either in process or completed, and are included in this letter for record/notification.*

1. **AMOR, by Robert Indiana, Sister Cities Park, 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway*
2. **Government of the People by Jacques Lipchitz, Municipal Services Building, Broad St and JFK Blvd*
3. *Washington Monument by Rudolf Siemering, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at Eakins Oval*
4. *Benjamin Franklin, Craftsman by Joseph Brown, Broad St and JFK Blvd*
5. *LOVE, by Robert Indiana, 15th Street and JFK Boulevard*
6. *Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Memorial by Hermon Atkins MacNeil, Benjamin Franklin Parkway and 20th Street*
7. **Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial, by Various Artists, Kelly Drive*
8. **Decline and Rise, by Harold Kimmelman, West Mill Creek Playground, 51st and Reno*
9. **John Wister, Raffaello Romanelli, Vernon Park, 5700 Germantown Ave*
10. **Richardson Dilworth Plaque, PHL International Airport*
11. **A Quest for Parity: The Octavius V. Catto Memorial by Branly Cadet, City Hall (South Apron)*

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 3: 47-26 Public Art Conservation	
APPLICANT	Creative Philadelphia
LOCATION	Various Locations
PROJECT TYPE	Public Art Conservation
DESCRIPTION	Conservation work for 11 public works of art
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:30:03)

- The Commissioners asked for the locations to be shown and to include pictures in the submission for future art conservation proposals.
- Marguerite Anglin explained that some of the art pieces needed frequent repair and all would be done on-site except for "AMOR" which would be uninstalled for conservation purposes off-site and would be re-installed in May.
- Creative Philadelphia will be supervising the work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:35:55)

No public comments

Approved, all in favor (00:36:09)

Vote Summary

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (Consensus Vote)				
ITEM	START TIME	MOTION	SECOND	COMMENT
46-26 OTIS Bus Shelter Locations	00:07:45	Febo San-Miguel	-	Disapproval
45-26 Wharton Square - Playground	00:20:20	-	-	Consensus approval vote carries, no nays
47-26 Public Art Conservation	00:29:05	-	-	Consensus approval vote carries, no nays

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Items Presented for Concept Review

48-26 John F. Byrne Clubhouse Expansion – Phase II

START TIME: (00:37:10)

ADDRESS: 9550 Leon St.

APPLICANT: The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia

PRESENTER (if different from applicant): Kimmel Architecture

REVIEW TYPE: Construction project on City property

PROJECT DETAILS: New major addition to existing building

Presenters' names: Joe Horan, Bill Hyndman

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:47:38)

- Commissioner Febo San-Miguel commended the project and asked about hours of operation, lighting, if the clubhouse glasses were resistant to golf balls, and the percent for Art requirement. The hours were mostly daylight hours, but the latest programs would run until 9 pm. Lighting was to remain what it currently was. Lighting to remain on as long as basketball lights remain on, which is 9 pm, but it would change during a year.

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The clubhouse was located far back so the glass would not hit. The project would not require Percent for Art as it would use private funding exclusively.

- There were additional conversations about the landscaping of the site and working with an arborist for the replacement of the removed trees. The project is expected to include a landscape plan in the future submission showing larger area for site plan that would show how landscape would tie into new construction. It was also suggested that the existing and proposed area on the floor plans be color-coded for clarity.
- Commissioner Leonard believed the material palette to be a good selection, however suggested to see real samples (photographic for example) as it was confusing to look at elevations and renderings.
- Commissioner chair asked if the names of high schools that First Tee was working with could be submitted. It was clarified that the storage facility approved in 2024 was built but not shown on the aerial view.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS (01:01:16)

No public comments

Troy motion, Carmen second – Concept Approval with notes

ACTION (Roll Call Vote) (01:01:37)						
ITEM:	47-26 John F. Byrne Clubhouse Expansion					
MOTION:						
MOVED BY:						
SECONDED BY:						
VOTE						
COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT	
NASSER	✓					
FEBO SAN MIGUEL	✓					
KENYATTA					✓	
LOWE	✓					
OSORIO	✓					
SEGALL					✓	
LEONARD	✓					
VACANT						
VACANT						
TOTAL:	5				2	
REMARKS:	Overall site plan with more detail on landscaping Updated building plans that more clearly differentiate existing and proposed More info on tree removal / replacement More info on building material palette including samples					

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	Names of schools that First Tee is coordinating with
OUTCOME:	Concept Approval

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Commission Chair Nasser adjourn March 11, 2026, Philadelphia Art Commission. (01:02:45)

Items Included for Record

Report of the Sign and Streeter Committee - Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 9:30

Second Reviews

286-23
UPS - Projecting Sign
1735 Market Street
Zoning: CMX-5; Encroachment

Recommendation for Revisions Needed.

The proposal is for a 40"x12" double-faced projecting sign including internally illuminated white LED letter reading "THE UPS STORE" with logo. The overall projection is 12" from the building facade with a minimum of 9'-4" clearance to grade.

Remarks: The Committee was comfortable with the proposal overall, appreciating that the existing light was going to remain. The Committee recommended using the gray background shown in the previous proposal, which better complement the building façade. The Committee also suggested that the logo be oriented horizontally for legibility.

First Reviews:

33-26
CHOP Building ID Signs
3501 Civic Center Boulevard
Zoning: CMX-5; Building Identification Sign

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for two (2) illuminated building ID signs for a new building at the CHOP campus, each reading "Roberts Children's Health" with logo, with one facing Civic Center Boulevard, and the other facing East Service Drive.

Remarks: The letters are attached through the curtainwall system.

35-26
North Central Public Safety Building
2100 W Diamond Street

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Zoning: RM-1; Signage on City property

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for a total of three (3) signs, including: a 35'X18" illuminated wall sign on top of the brick wall that is the location for a future mural, with white letters reading "NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING"; and two (2) canopy signs at each entrance.

Remarks: Planned mural will be subject to separate future Art Commission review.

36-26

SEPTA Headhouse Advertisement Space

16th & Market Streets

Zoning: Encroachment within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Parkway Buffer

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for non-illuminated advertising on the glass headhouses at the east corners of 16th and Market Streets. The material will be perforated self-adhesive vinyl and removable without residue. The bottom of the glass will remain clear for visibility.

Remarks:

Headhouses previously approved by Art Commission in 2015 with condition that glass enclosures remain free of any type of advertising in perpetuity. The Committee noted that despite this condition, circumstances had evolved. The Committee appreciated the semi-transparency of the material and bottom clearance, encouraging maximizing transparency where possible. It was also suggested that future advertising follow the placeholder example presented, in terms of simplicity, graphics and text.

34-26

Capital One Café

135 S 17th Street

Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

Recommendation Updated to Approval.

The proposal is for two (2) channel letter signs, one above each of the Walnut St. and S 17th St. entrances, each reading as "Capital One Cafe" with logo. The signs are installed 10'-5" above the sidewalk.

Remarks: The Committee initially recommended Revisions Needed, requesting that the signs be kept within the architectural features of the building façade, including framing both signs horizontally within the window bays. *The applicant submitted revisions consistent with the Committee's suggestion, reducing the size of the signs to fit within the window bays.*

37-26

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The Dermatology Specialists
1000 S Broad Street
Zoning: CMX-3 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

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Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for one (1) 22 3/4"X335" channel letter signage reading "THE DERMATOLOGY SPECIALISTS" with logo. The proposal also includes the replacement of two (2) 18"X84" tenant panels on the existing freestanding tenant panel sign.

Remarks: The window vinyl shown in the existing conditions photos is temporary and will be removed.

Updates on applications heard previously at SSC:

8-26
SEV
1525 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

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Art Commission Decision Letter Updated to Approval.

The proposal is for a 4'X2'-11" illuminated aluminum wall sign reading "SEV" above the business entrance.

At the February 11, 2026 Art Commission meeting, the Commission accepted the Committee's recommendation of Revisions Needed, with questions related to façade work, the fixture near the sign, and additional window signage. The applicant provided Art Commission staff with updated materials consistent with Committee requests, including: planned façade work to cover up existing holes that has been approved by the Philadelphia Historical Commission; confirming the fixture to be a mechanical vent; additional window signage reading "Laser Aesthetics"; and confirming that existing window sign reading "SEV" is temporary and will be removed.

Minutes prepared by Art Commission staff. Please note the Minutes the Philadelphia Art Commission meetings are formatted to capture Commission actions rather than as a transcription of the full conversation. Additional information is available in the meeting recording on the Commission website.

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