



Minutes of April 8, 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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Carmen Febo San Miguel
Vice Chairperson

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

Katherine C. Liss, AIA,
AICP
Director

CALL TO ORDER				
START TIME:	09:34 AM			
COMMISSIONER	ROLE	PRESENT	ABSENT	COMMENT
Raed Nasser, Chairperson	Member of the Board of Parks and Recreation	X		
Carmen Febo San Miguel, Vice Chairperson	Businessperson	X		Virtual
Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta	Member of a School of Art or Architecture		X	
James Lowe	Designee of the Commissioner of Public Property	X		Left meeting at 01:32:00. Returned virtually at 02:00:50.
Pepón Osorio	Member of a School of Art or Architecture	X		Virtual
Rebecca Segall	Painter	X		
Troy Leonard	Architect	X		
Vacant	Sculptor			
Vacant	Landscape Architect			

Staff Members Present:

Katherine Liss, Acting Director of Art Commission

Henry Felsman, City Planner III

Sydney Conaway, City Planner III

Cindy LaRue, City Planner III

Toni Brown, IT Application Administrator

Alexandra Athanasiadis, Divisional Deputy City Solicitor

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Agenda Items

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REPORT OF THE SIGN AND STREETERY COMMITTEE (Consensus Vote)				
DATE	START TIME	MOTION	SECOND	COMMENT
March 25, 2026	00:04:10	Febo San Miguel to Accept Report Recommendations	Segall	Consensus vote. Unanimous support for the motion. Motion passes.

Items Presented for Administrative Review

46-26 OTIS Bus Shelter Locations

Director Liss presented the first administrative item to the Commission (00:05:00).

This is a continuation of the review initiated by the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems last month. Neil Garry is on the call today to speak to the questions raised in the last meeting. OTIS, in partnership with Intersection, has resubmitted 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.

New bus shelter locations include:

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			
CITY-OWNED LAND?	YES	X	NO	
	PERMANENT	X	TEMPORARY	
NEW OR EXISTING	NEW	X	EXISTING	
VISUAL IMPACT	Minor (overall design previously approved)			
OTHER REVIEWS	Department of Streets			
DESCRIPTION	Four (4) new bus shelter installations			
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>			

Director Liss requested that the project representative, Neil Garry, speak to address questions raised at the previous meeting. However, seeing that Mr. Garry was not in the audience, Director Liss suggested the Commission move on to the next project (00:05:30).

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While reviewing the next project, Director Liss noted that Mr. Garry was now present and invited him to speak (00:10:45). The Commission returned to its review of the bus shelter locations.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:11:00):

- The discussion focused on the location at Cottman Ave. and Glendale Ave., which Commissioners had expressed concerns about at the previous month's Art Commission meeting. Commissioner Lowe expressed continued concerns about pedestrian safety and the likelihood of vehicles passing in front of the bus shelter as they circulate around the gas station, asking why the shelter was set back so far from the curb. Mr. Garry replied that the gas station condition required an unorthodox bus shelter siting, including engineering standards for sightlines, which prohibits siting the shelter near the curb at this location.
- Commissioner Segall asked for confirmation on the distance from the shelter to the curb, which Mr. Garry confirmed to be 13 feet 5 inches as measured from the roof, and 16 feet 2 inches as measured from the bench.
- Commissioner Lowe asked what prevents a car from going in front of the bus shelter. Commissioner Leonard asked for clarification on where the curb cuts were located at the gas station. Commissioner Lowe suggested some kind of deterrent (such as planters) in front of the shelter, in addition to the bollards that surround its other three sides. Mr. Garry liked the idea but noted that would require a planter program that the city does not currently have, adding that the current bus shelter design is robust and provides a deterrence to cars with its own presence.
- Commissioner Segall asked for an example of a similar successful shelter in this configuration that could be referenced for comparison. Mr. Garry noted there were numerous examples he could look into and provide.
- Commissioner Lowe noted that a bus shelter at the corner of Stenton Ave. and Mt. Airy Ave. is in front of a gas station and is significantly closer to the curb, pointing out that cars cannot pass in front of this shelter (which creates a safer pedestrian condition), but can in the proposed one under review (creating a less safe condition), expressing concern over this apparent contradiction.
- Director Liss clarified that a motion can be made to disapprove just the shelter at Cottman Ave. and Glendale Ave., while approving the other three shelter locations. Commissioner Nasser asked for a motion.
- *00:29:20 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Lowe, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal with the removal of the location at Cottman Ave. and Glenside Ave.*

66-26 Annual Art Conservation Maintenance

Director Liss presented the second administrative item to the Commission (00:06:00).

The Association for Public Art is requesting administrative approval for the conservation of 28 outdoor sculptures. For each artwork, an image and precise location have been included in

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response to previous Commissioner comments. The work is to be performed by Tatti Art Conservation, the Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Kreilick Conservation. The work will commence in May 2026 if approved. Copies of the maintenance/condition reports will be submitted to the city's Public Art Office upon their completion.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 2: Annual Art Conservation Maintenance	
APPLICANT	Association for Public Art
LOCATION	Various Locations – Fairmount Park
PROJECT TYPE	Public Art
DESCRIPTION	Conservation of 28 outdoor sculptures
RECOMMENDATION	Director's recommendation is for approval.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:07:00)

- Commissioner Febo San Miguel expressed appreciation for the images included in the submission and Commissioner Nasser concurred.
- Commissioner Lowe asked for clarification on what constitutes “appropriate treatment” for stone sculptures as noted in the proposal. Commissioner Osorio suggested this would depend on the condition.
- Director Liss noted that the representative from the OTIS Bus Shelter Locations project, Neil Garry, was now present and invited Mr. Garry to speak, pausing review of the current item (00:10:45).
- The Commission returned to the review of Annual Conservation Maintenance (00:31:30). Director Liss invited Marguerite Anglin, Public Art Director of Creative Philadelphia, to speak. Ms. Anglin noted that Charlotte Cohen, Executive Director of the Association for Public Art, may be in attendance virtually to answer any questions.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:32:30)

- Commissioner Lowe asked again what constitutes “appropriate treatment” for stone sculptures as noted in the proposal. Ms. Cohen explained that treatment is specialized and varies for each material; general maintenance can include power washing at the appropriate level by a trained conservator, applying a protective coating, mortar replacement, or other treatments depending on the object.
- Commissioner Lowe asked about how the Fingerspan bridge was preserved, given the material is weathering steel. Ms. Cohen replied that the sculpture is also a functioning pedestrian bridge. Graffiti removal occurs with power washing. The weathering steel means that it is meant to change with the weather; this is an intentional aesthetic. Ms. Cohen added that a couple of the screen panels have been damaged by trees, so they are working with a conservator to get an estimate. Ms. Cohen also clarified that funded by the Association for Public Art, not grant-funded.
- Commissioner Leonard asked if a structural inspection of the Fingerspan bridge had been done since the noted tree damage. Ms. Cohen replied that the City removed the trees and that their conservator inspected the bridge and deemed it structurally sound;

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the conservator is scheduled to return in the summer of 2026 to inspect again and provide an estimate for the damaged panels.

- Commissioner Leonard asked if the treatment for The Labor Monument was mostly power-washing. Ms. Cohen clarified that each element in the space requires different treatments given the variety of materials.
- Commissioner Lowe asked if there was a plan specific for functional artwork, such as the Fingerspan bridge. Ms. Anglin and Ms. Cohen provided additional background about the partnership between Creative Philadelphia and the Association for Public Art, and their respective annual maintenance programs.
- Commissioner Segall asked about where the conservators were from, noting that Tatti was from New York. Ms. Anglin noted that the conservators that the City has on retainer are from the area. Ms. Cohen added that the APA has worked with Tatti on annual conservation maintenance for 40 years and developed a close relationship.

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00:49:00 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Segall, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried to Approve the proposal. Commissioner Osorio abstained.

67-26 Falls Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Director Liss presented the first administrative item to the Commission (00:49:45).

Philadelphia Streets Department and JMT engineering are requesting administrative review of rehabilitation work to the Falls Bridge over the Schuylkill River. The Falls bridge was built in 1895 and was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 2022. The scope of work includes:

- *Removal of the existing sidewalk, deck, stringers, floor beams, and bottom lateral bracing of the existing bridge.*
- *The reconstruction of the concrete sidewalks and deck atop replacement floor beams (the new deck system will not require stringers).*
- *The replacement bottom lateral bracing and replacement bearings.*
- *Steel repairs to select truss members and pins.*
- *Repainting the existing superstructure steel in uniform color.*
- *Minor substructure rehabilitation throughout.*
- *Full depth roadway reconstruction and limited repaving, curb, and sidewalk reconstruction.*
- *Riprap at pier bases and below water level to prevent scour.*
- *Guide rail replacement at the southwest corner.*
- *Restoration of the existing ornamental pedestrian railing on the structure and along the approaches. The restoration will include removing, cleaning, repairing, replacing parts in-kind as needed, repainting, and reinstallation at the same height as existing.*
- *Street lighting improvements.*

The bridge will be closed during the repairs. A vehicular traffic detour plan and aids to navigation for boat project have been developed for the project. The work is in coordination with the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 3: 67-26 Falls Bridge Rehabilitation Project	
APPLICANT	Streets Department
LOCATION	4268 Ridge Ave

PROJECT TYPE	Reconstruction project located on City property
DESCRIPTION	Bridge rehabilitation
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:51:00)

- Commissioner Lowe asked why the bridge had to be closed so long during construction. Michael Grabenstein, of JMT representing the applicant team, elaborated on the complexity of working with such an old bridge over such a wide expanse of river, while being sensitive to the bridge's historic nature.
- Commissioner Nasser asked for clarification on the bicycle detour. Mr. Grabenstein confirmed the bridge would be closed to bicyclists during construction.
- Commissioner Lowe asked about other required reviews. Mr. Grabenstein confirmed the plans will be reviewed by the Historical Commission.
- Commissioner Lowe asked whether a marine unit inspected the pier foundations. Mr. Grabenstein described the measures that will be taken to protect the piers, including large boulders below the water line to prevent further erosion.
- Commissioner Segall asked whether the proposed color is the original color. Mr. Grabenstein confirmed it is close to the original color.
- Commissioner Osorio asked for further clarification on the detours. Mr. Grabenstein noted the detours have been worked out and vetted by the City and PennDOT.
- Commissioner Leonard asked whether existing stringers would be removed but not replaced. Mr. Grabenstein replied that the goal of the project is preservation; if a stringer needs to be removed, it will be replaced in kind.
- Commissioner Leonard asked for clarification on proposed lighting. Mr. Grabenstein confirmed replacement-in-kind lighting with newer and brighter fixtures.
- Commissioner Segall asked about the status of the Historical Commission process. Director Liss confirmed the bridge is on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if bike stands can be incorporated. Mr. Grabenstein said this was not part of the scope and would defer to the city about adding stands along the detour route.
- Commissioner Lowe asked about interdepartmental coordination, such as with the Fire Department and other life safety vehicles. Mr. Grabenstein responded that the project has been in planning and development for ten years

PUBLIC COMMENTS (01:04:30)

- Timothy Reimer noted that as a cyclist he expects he would be able to use the City Ave. Bridge or Strawberry Mansion Bridge during the detour, which is manageable by bike, but that the 8-mile detour shown on in the plans is not viable for pedestrians. Mr. Reimer added that the bridge is really in need of repair and something that needs to be done.
- Sloan of the Legacy Roots Housing Initiative noted that her organization would be interested in opportunities to support this project.

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01:08:00 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Lowe, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.

68-26 Love Park Welcome Center – Ramp Enclosure

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is requesting administrative approval for work to the existing access ramp at the Love Park Saucer. The scope is to enclose the area under the ramp on all sides and install new doors on either end lengthwise to allow for storage of park items. All newly installed materials will match existing designs along the edge of the building and will not extend beyond the ramp's existing area.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 4: 68-26 Love Park Welcome Center – Ramp Enclosure	
APPLICANT	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
LOCATION	1501 JFK Blvd
PROJECT TYPE	Minor construction project on City property
DESCRIPTION	Ramp alterations
RECOMMENDATION	Director's recommendation is for approval.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (01:09:50)

- Commissioner Nasser said that the ramp was needed.
- Commissioner Segall asked what the storage space would be used for. Andrew Emma, of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR), replied that the concessionaire selection is in-process. The park's play items and work items, such as power washers, are currently stored in rooms promised to the concessionaire. The new storage area would be used by PPR to store things that are okay to get a little dirty, comparable with storage in an outdoor shed, such as rakes, brooms, cornhole boards, etc.
- Commissioner Leonard asked if the ramp was part of the original design of the building. Director Liss noted she had reached out to the Historical Commission and confirmed that the ramp was not original to the building. Commissioner Leonard noted that the current ramp, while a different aesthetic than the building, does allow one to see the complete form of the building due to the transparency beneath the ramp, expressing concern that the new storage area would change the integrity of the building, obstructing the circular building form with the added solid wall. Mr. Emma noted that the ramp was added when the park was renovated in 2015-2018, to address the need to allow handicap access into the building. He added that there is currently a portion of the ramp that overhangs further than what is considered safe from an ADA compliance perspective, which this project would correct. Regarding the concern about visual obstruction, Mr. Emma added that the ramp already obstructs the visibility of the building form's continuity with the shade it casts beneath it.
- Commissioner Nasser noted that the side facing the middle of the park is preserved, whereas the side with the ramp faces the street. He added that he has noticed homeless people occupying the space beneath the ramp.
- Commissioner Leonard agreed with the need for something to prevent people from going underneath the ramp but questioned whether closing it with a solid panel was the most appropriate treatment. He asked if it was possible to clad the sides of the ramp with a more transparent material. Mr. Emma replied that perforation is being explored,

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but seems to be much more expensive, as well as more susceptible to allowing dirt, debris, and water to get into the space. Commissioner Leonard maintained that some perforation in the panels would be a preferred solution, although Commissioner Nasser expressed concern about weather penetration through perforated paneling. Mr. Emma added that the perforated paneling would not allow visibility of the building beneath the ramp; and even if it were transparent, the visibility of the building would still be obstructed by the materials being stored. The preference is to use paneling that matches what is existing on the main stairs. Commissioner Nasser agreed that matching the existing panel would be preferable.

- Commissioner Segall asked if there would be any lighting. Mr. Emma replied that there were no plans to add wired-in lighting.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if this was a designated Historic Place. Mr. Emma confirmed it was and that the team was working with the Historical Commission. Commissioner Osorio commented that the original building and the ramp do not seem to complement each other. Commissioner Segall noted that the verticality of the proposed ramp enclosure panels do seem to complement the verticality of the building's window panels and is an improvement over the current ramp stilts. She added that three-quarters of the building's original circular form will still be preserved.
- It was noted by commissioners that the building is on the Philadelphia Historical Commission list

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01:26:45 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Segall, and seconded by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.

65-26 Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks

Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS), contracted by the City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) is seeking administrative approval to deploy IKE Smart City kiosks at ten locations. The Art Commission provided final approval for the deployment of IKE Smart City Kiosks on Indego bike share stations, with the understanding that the locations be reviewed administratively.

New kiosk locations include:

(2) Existing Indego stations:

- *Corinthian & Poplar*
- *4th & Christian*

(8) Proposed new stations:

- *Fairmount & Delaware*
- *20th & Hamilton*
- *15th & Packer*
- *41st & Market*
- *Broad & Tioga*
- *Water & Snyder*
- *19th & Ridge*
- *Ridge & College*

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The IKE Smart City Kiosk is an interactive digital kiosk that will be attached to the Indego bikeshare station. The kiosks generate advertising revenue to support the operations and expansion of Indego while also delivering public service information, resources, and local art.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM 5: 65-26 Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks	
APPLICANT	Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS) / Bicycle Transit Systems (BTS)
LOCATION	Various Locations (10)
PROJECT TYPE	Encroachments located within City Right-of-Way
DESCRIPTION	Ten (10) new kiosks at Indego bike share stations
RECOMMENDATION	<i>Director's recommendation is for approval.</i>

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (01:29:00)

- Commissioner Nasser expressed concerns about the kiosk at Corinthian Ave. and Poplar St. regarding potential impacts on the stone wall, asking if the location could be moved to the furnishing zone of the sidewalk.
- Commissioner Leonard questioned why some stations were closer to the curb, whereas others were set back.
- Nate Bowman-Johnston, from Indego, clarified that the location at Corinthian Ave. and Poplar St. was an already an existing station and that only the kiosk would be new.
- He confirmed that if there were interference with the wall, the station would be shifted to ensure adequate space.

01:30:50 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Segall, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.

Vote Summary

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (Consensus Vote)				
ITEM	START TIME	MOTION	SECOND	COMMENT
46-26 OTIS Bus Shelter Locations	00:29:20	Lowe	Leonard	Motion Passed 6-0
66-26 Annual Art Conservation Maintenance	00:49:00	Segall	Leonard	Motion Passed 5-0 (1 abstention)
67-26 Falls Bridge Rehabilitation Project	01:08:00	Lowe	Leonard	Motion Passed 6-0
68-26 Love Park Welcome Center – Ramp Enclosure	01:26:45	Segall	Febo San Miguel	Motion Passed 6-0
65-26 Indego IKE Smart City Kiosks	01:30:50	Segall	Leonard	Motion Passed 6-0

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Items Presented for Final Review

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

START TIME: 01:32:00

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

Presenter: Joe Horan, Kimmel Architecture

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS 01:38:00

- Commissioner Nasser thanked the applicant team for including the information about outreach to local schools.
- Commissioner Segall commented that the project looks terrific.
- Commissioner Leonard thanked the applicant team for the revised renderings and floor plans, complimenting the building materials, color palette, and landscaping plan.
- For clarification, he asked if the building materials in the rear would match what is existing. Mr. Horan clarified which portions of the building on the rear elevation were existing and which were proposed.

01:40:00 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Segall, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.

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ACTION (Roll Call Vote) (01:40:00)						
ITEM:	47-26 John F. Byrne Clubhouse Expansion					
MOTION:	FINAL APPROVAL					
MOVED BY:	Segall					
SECONDED BY:	Leonard					
VOTE						
COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT	
NASSER, Raed	X					
FEBO SAN MIGUEL, Carmen	X					
JORDAN-MILLER KENYATTA, Matthew					X	
LOWE, James					X	
OSORIO, Pepin	X					
SEGALL, Rebecca	X					
LEONARD, Troy	X					
VACANT						
VACANT						
TOTAL:	5				2	
REMARKS:						
OUTCOME:	Motion passed (5-0)					

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71-26 Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park - Mural

START TIME: 01:41:40

ADDRESS: 1538 Belmont Avenue

APPLICANT: Mural Arts Philadelphia

PRESENTER: David McShane (artist)

REVIEW TYPE: Public Art

PROJECT DETAILS: Mural on City property

Presenter: Kate Jacobi, Mural Arts Philadelphia; David McShane, Mural Arts Philadelphia (artist)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (01:50:00)

- Commissioner Nasser asked for clarification about the relationship with the other artwork project on the wall reviewed previously by Art Commission. Mr. McShane clarified that the other artwork is being done by a different artist on a different section of the wall. The mural will be located between two portions of metal fence where the other artwork project (sculptural cut-outs) will be installed.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if there would be any exterior label telling the story of both the site and the mural. Mr. McShane noted the green box on the mural indicates where there will be credits and information, adding that a QR code for more information could also theoretically be added, and that there are existing stone walls (installed in 2005, when the park was dedicated) near the existing statue that already include information about the Philadelphia Stars and site. Mr. McShane added that all the names of players and dates are on the mural itself.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if the prior mural was professionally documented and sent to a City archival agency. Ms. Jacobi replied that the mural has been documented by Mural Arts and sent to the archives at Temple University. She added that the QR code could provide an opportunity to link additional archival information such as photos of the original mural. Commissioner Osorio recommended that the archival information be sent to Temple's Blockson Afro-American Collection.
- Commissioner Febo San Miguel recommended that the QR code include the ability for information to be translated into multiple languages.
- Commissioner Leonard regretted the loss of the old mural but said it was good that it was being replaced in another incarnation. He asked for clarification on new landscaping. Ms. Jacobi noted that the new landscaping shown in renderings is part of a separate project for overall park improvements. Director Liss clarified that the current review is for the mural only; the overall park improvement project received Concept Approval from the Art Commission and will return at a future date for Final Review.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if lighting was being considered. Ms. Jacobie replied that the first priority is to get the mural up and then assess lighting needs in tandem with additional lighting that may be included in overall park improvements project.

01:59:50 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Segall, and seconded by Commissioner Leonard, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.



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ACTION (Roll Call Vote) time of motion (00:00:00)						
ITEM:	71-26 Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park – Mural					
MOTION:	FINAL APPROVAL					
MOVED BY:	Segall					
SECONDED BY:	Leonard					
VOTE						
COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT	
NASSER	X					
FEBO SAN MIGUEL	X					
KENYATTA					X	
LOWE					X	
OSORIO	X					
SEGALL	X					
LEONARD	X					
VACANT						
VACANT						
TOTAL:	5				2	
REMARKS:						
OUTCOME:	Motion passed (5-0)					

Items Presented for Concept Review

69-26 Francis J. Myers Recreation Center – Percent for Art

START TIME: 02:00:50

ADDRESS: 5801 Kingsessing Avenue

APPLICANT: Creative Philadelphia

PRESENTER (if different from applicant): Reginald Adams

REVIEW TYPE: Public Art

PROJECT DETAILS: Mosaic artworks

Presenter: Marguerite Anglin, Creative Philadelphia; Reginald Adams (artist)

Artwork titled “We Are Stronger Together” by Reginald Adams.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (02:15:10)

- Commissioner Febo San Miguel commended the project, asking for clarification about lighting. Mr. Adams replied that the interior mural faces the glass entryway, which will provide ample lighting; the exterior mural will be lit by two lights mounted on the building itself and lighting on surrounding grounds, though there will be no directional lighting pointing directly to the mural. Mr. Adams added that one of the benefits of the mosaic material is that it is highly reflective, so it doesn't require a tremendous amount of light for the mural to be visible at night. Ms. Anglin added that the exterior lighting is part of the Rebuild project previously approved by the Art Commission and currently under construction.

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- Commissioner Febo San Miguel asked if there would be a plaque and QR code that would allow for information to be translated into multiple languages. Ms. Anglin confirmed that there would be.
- Commissioner Leonard commended the project, while asking for clarification on how the mosaics would be physically constructed, such as in sections or as one panel. Mr. Adams replied that the murals are produced on sheets of fiberglass mesh that can be trimmed as needed, with the mural imagery printed on vinyl banner material that lies under the mesh and used as a reference for the mosaic tile placement. Mr. Adams continued to describe the technical process of installing the tiled mesh panels on the building.
- Commissioner Leonard asked if there was any concern about the mural being so close to the ground where it could be touched by people. Mr. Adams replied that this was a consideration in determining that the mural should be raised up to the line of sight with the window framing, at a height (about four feet above grade) that would mitigate weathering impacts. He added that the mosaic material is highly durable and would also have an anti-graffiti sealant.
- Commissioner Osorio asked if the images being presented were conceptual or final. Mr. Adams replied that these were conceptual images that would be refined; the intention is to maintain the general architecture of the conceptual designs while the actual features and likeness of the individuals will be refined based on ongoing engagement. Commissioner Osorio appreciated the large-scale presence of the bodies. Ms. Anglin clarified that she doesn't expect the design to largely change, as this was the design selected by the Percent for Art Committee.
- Commissioner Segall suggested that if the black tiles have some reflective nature, one could see their own reflection in the darker tiles. Mr. Adams appreciated the idea, noting that the tiles were too small to create such a reflection, but that this could be considered through the use of some larger tiles.

02:34:30 - Upon motion made by Commissioner Febo San Miguel, and seconded by Commissioner Segall, the motion carried unanimously to Approve the proposal.

ACTION (Roll Call Vote) (02:34:30)						
ITEM:	69-26 Francis J. Myers Recreation Center – Percent for Art					
MOTION:	FINAL APPROVAL					
MOVED BY:	Febo San Miguel					
SECONDED BY:	Segall					
VOTE						
COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	ABSENT	
NASSER	X					
FEBO SAN MIGUEL	X					
KENYATTA					X	
LOWE	X					
OSORIO	X					
SEGALL	X					
LEONARD	X					

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VACANT					
VACANT					
TOTAL:	6				1
REMARKS:					
OUTCOME:	Motion passed (6-0)				

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Items Included for Record

Report of the Sign and Streetery Committee
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Second Reviews

- 9-26
Haraz Coffee House
1822 Chestnut Street
Zoning: CMX-5 within /CTR Center City Overlay District –
Center City Commercial Area

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for a 13'X3' wall sign reading "HARAZ COFFEE HOUSE" in gold letters against a wood grain backer.

Remarks: The Committee appreciated the revisions to remove the projecting sign and to change the backer color from black to wood grain.

First Reviews:

- 53-26
National Constitution Center
525 Arch Street
Zoning: SP-PO-A /CTR Center City Overlay District – Independence Hall Area

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for a total of four (4) signs, including: a 16'-8"X1'-5" aluminum panel parking directional sign atop the existing fence along Race St.; a 8'-4"-tall parking identification pylon sign; a 19'-10"X1'-2" parking directional wall sign above the parking entrance; and perforated window vinyl signs, each 4'-4" tall, by the museum entrance.

Remarks: The Committee requested details on the level of transparency of the window vinyl signage. The applicant confirmed the vinyl was transparent and provided details to Art Commission staff following the presentation. The Committee noted that the parking wall sign was the only sign on the building masonry and suggested exploring an alternative placement.

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2. 54-26

The Juice Pod

1845 Walnut Street

Zoning: CMX-5; /CTR Center City Overlay District – Center City Commercial Area,
Rittenhouse Square

Recommendation Updated to Approval.

The proposal is for a 8'X15" illuminated wall sign reading "The JUICE POD".

Remarks:

The Committee initially recommended Revisions Needed, requesting greater consistency in letter spacing and kerning and that the letter illumination be of a warmer white or amber glow. *The applicant submitted revisions consistent with Committee requests.*

3. 55-26

Trumark

1701 Market Street

Zoning: CMX-5; Signage encroachment in Right-of-Way

Recommendation for Revisions Needed.

The proposal is for a 9'X3' marquee sign to be placed at the front edge of the existing marquee that extends 7' over the sidewalk. The sign consists of a stainless steel backer and halo-illuminated purple channel letters. The existing wall sign above the marquee would be removed.

Remarks: Wall sign included for context in submission not subject to Art Commission review. The Committee disapproved the marquee sign, suggesting that a new wall sign replacing the current wall sign would be a better approach. The Committee noted that if a marquee sign was desired, a redesign consisting of channel letters above the marquee could be considered. The Committee had questions about the sign's illumination, including whether the letters change colors at night and the level of illumination.

4. 57-26

Holt's Cigar Company

1522 Walnut Street

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

Recommendation for Approval.

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The proposal is for two (2) signs, including: a 6'-2"x2'-8" wall sign reading "HOLT'S CIGAR COMPANY" on two lines of text against a wood backer; and a 3'-4"x2' wall sign reading "CIGAR BAR" with logo.

Remarks: The Committee suggested moving a third line of text reading "Since 1898" to the window or door, to reduce the lines of text in the sign and giving the text more breathing room. *The applicant submitted revisions consistent with the Committee requests.*

5. 58-26

Bank of America

615 Chestnut Street

Zoning: CMX-5 /CTR Center City Overlay District – Center City Commercial Area, Independence Hall Area

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for the replacement of one awning sign reading "BANK OF AMERICA" with logo in white letters against a black fabric. The sign is located on the awning valence and measures 6'-8 1/4"x8". Proposal also includes the reskinning of a second awning for which no signage is proposed.

Remarks: Existing sign includes blue letters against a red fabric.

6. 59-26

Sayre Morris Recreation Center

5800 Walnut Street

Zoning: RM-1; Signage on City property

Recommendation for Approval.

The proposal is for a total of six (6) non-illuminated wall signs, including: three (3) painted wall signs that each rise to the top of the building, reading (from west to east) "REC", "SAYRE", and "POOL"; and three (3) aluminum pin-mounted wall signs placed within the recessed building entry.

Remarks: The Committee appreciated the signage design as an improvement to the building façade, requesting that the applicant ensure high-quality installation of the painted portions and that the final color selection provide an appropriate level of contrast with the brick.

7. 60-26

The Chocolate Factory

2201 Margaret Street

Zoning: ICMX; Signage encroachment in Right-of-Way

Recommendation for Approval.

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The proposal is for a total of six (6) projecting signs, each measuring 1'-10"X6'-4" and elevated 9' above grade. The signs are intended to provide wayfinding along the street for the various tenants, some of which are accessed from entrances in the rear or side of the building not clearly visible from the street.

Remarks: The Committee appreciated the minimalist yet effective design, noting it adds a touch of color without imposing too much. The Committee noted the arrows on the signage were somewhat confusing, including those conflicting with the arrows in the "Gateway" logo, and suggested a consistent format for the arrows, such as a backer color and/or consistent placement at the top or bottom of each sign. The Committee also suggested that the wall sign reading "The Madden School", while not in the purview of the Art Commission, could be livened up with a color palette closer to the projecting signs.

8. 61-26

The Josephine
1608-34 Sansom Street
Zoning: CMX-5; /CTR Center City Overlay District – Center City Commercial Area

Recommendation for Revisions Needed.

The proposal is for a total of five (5) signs, including: a 29'-2"X3'-3" illuminated vertical wall sign; and four (4) non-illuminated wall signs (two (2) on Moravian St. identifying loading zones, and two (2) on Sansom St. identifying the parking garage). The proposal also includes window vinyl.

Remarks: The vertical wall sign along Sansom St. is above the 2nd story windowsill and will require ZBA approval. The Committee requested that the applicant reconsider the placement of the first floor wall sign affixed to the brick above the resident parking garage entrance, suggesting that the sign be lowered to more of a pedestrian scale, such as on the transom area.

9. 62-26

Qahwah House
224 Market Street
Zoning: CMX-3; /CTR Center City Overlay District – Center City Commercial Area

Recommendation for Revisions Needed.

The proposal is for a 13'-4"X1'-10" non-illuminated channel letter sign reading "QAHWAH HOUSE PREMIUM ORGANIC COFFEE" on two lines of text.

Remarks: The Committee requested the channel letter signage be revised to reduce the number of holes required for it to be attached to the building façade, noting that the building is on the historic register, suggesting either: the use of a raceway; or the use of a backer panel that could also provide more color contrast with the letters to improve legibility.

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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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