



City of Arts & Innovation

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, 5 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Williams, Vice Chair Vandenberg, Commissioners Weinrich, Bello, Hutchins, Thomas, Benavidez, Scott-Coe, Ward, Wroten and Langner

ABSENT: Commissioner Holley

STAFF PRESENT: Lee Withers, Angela King, Kristie Thomas, Sean Murphy, Michelle Davis, Ryan Carter, Sergio Aguilar, Gilbert Hernandez, Jeff McLaughlin, Chief McKinster, Chief Gonzalez Edward Enriquez, Julie Nemes, Hector Villegas, Mike Futrell and others

The Budget Engagement Commission meeting was convened at 5:05 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION PER ASSEMBLY BILL 2449

Commissioner Weinrich participated remotely.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Aram Ayra, Hugh Carter, Claire Jefferson, Sabrina Gonzales spoke regarding the Monetary support to nonprofit organizations item.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Coe to approve the Consent Calendar as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each item. The motion was carried with Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Vandenberg, Commissioners Benavidez, Weinrich, Wroten, Hutchins, Thomas, Langner, and Scott-Coe voting aye, Commissioner Bello voting nay, and Commissioner Holley absent.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2025, and April 10, 2025, were approved as presented.

ATTENDANCE

The absence of Commissioner Ward and Holley was excused from the March 13, 2025, meeting. The absence of Commissioner Wroten and Holley was excused from April 10, 2025. The motion was carried unanimously with Commissioner Holley absent.



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DISCUSSION CALENDAR

ABSENCE

It was moved by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Benavidez to excuse the Absence of Commissioner Weinrich from the April 10, 2025, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously with Commissioner Holley absent.

Chair Williams requested that the Monetary Support to nonprofit organizations item be moved as the second item of discussion.

MONETARY SUPPORT TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Vandenberg that the Budget Engagement Commission recommend; (1) the inclusion of a dedicated five hundred-thousand-dollar line item in the Measure Z budget to fund nonprofit organizations that provide youth focused services aimed at prevention, early intervention, and long-term community wellbeing; (a) to be awarded annually by a competitive grant process with eligibility limited to nonprofits serving Riverside youth; (b) each recipient would enter into an agreement with the city outlining their use of funds, expected outcomes and; (c) a requirement to submit an annual report measuring their impact, and continued funding would be based on demonstrated effectiveness in alignment with the city's goals especially in the area of homelessness prevention. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Hutchins provided a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Ward to consider the creation of a subcommittee to discuss the creation of a new line item in Measure Z for youth homeless prevention and to review the current Measure Z item geared to members with disabilities. The motion was carried with Chair Williams, Commissioners Benavidez, Weinrich, Hutchins, Bello, Ward, Thomas, and Langner, voting aye, and Vice Chair Vandenberg, Commissioner Wroten and Scott-Coe voting nay, and Commissioner Holley absent.

During the following item, Commissioner Thomas stepped away and the meeting was paused while quorum was reestablished.



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ASSESSING THE CITY'S FINANCIAL HEALTH THROUGH THE USE OF FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS TO MAINTAIN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Following discussion and without formal motion, the Budget Engagement Commission received and ordered filed the update

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 OF THE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to; (1) Receive and provide input on the proposed amendment of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 of the previously adopted Fiscal Year 2024-2026 Biennial Budget; and; (2) Set a public hearing for the adoption of the Amended Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget on June 17, 2025. The motion was carried unanimously with Commissioner Holley absent.

COMMISSION MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER UPDATE

Kristie Thomas, Finance Director, provided the Chief Financial Officer update.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Weinrich an item from the Police Department in September or October showing a comparison of how the budget is impacted compared to other City's similar in size regarding to crime levels.

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH MARTINEZ
Senior Administrative Assistant