

***These Meetings Minutes are not official until approved by the  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration/Juneteenth Celebration  
Advisory Committee***

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND  
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 17, 2025  
6:30 P.M.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Bibbins-McKeever called the regular meeting of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee to order at 6:49 P.M. in the Rotunda Room at Veterans Memorial Building.

Present: Karena Bibbins-McKeever, Chair  
LaToya Hearn, Vice Chair  
Lisa Gordon Cain, Member  
Amber Kearney, Member\*  
Anasia Obioha, Member  
Curtis Raynor, Member  
Andrew Weiss, Member

Member Kearney exited the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Absent: Christian Green, Member  
Carissa Joy Smith, Member

Staff: Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst  
Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst  
Melanie Morales, Recreation and Community Services  
Coordinator

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda**

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reported that no public comment had been received for Items NOT On the Agenda.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting of July 16, 2025**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT  
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH  
CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF JULY 16, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, KEARNEY,  
OBIOHA, RAYNOR, WEISS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: GREEN, SMITH

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Item C-2

**Approval of the Minutes for the Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting of July 23, 2025**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT  
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL  
MEETING OF JULY 23, 2025.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, KEARNEY,  
OBIOHA, RAYNOR, WEISS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: GREEN, SMITH

Chair Bibbins-McKeever asked about Member absences and  
received clarification that staff would address the issue  
during Items from Staff.

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#### **Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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#### **Action Items**

Item A-1

**MLKJCC - (1) Approval of Finalizing the usage of Veterans  
Memorial Complex for the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration; and (2) Finalizing of the date(s) and time(s) for  
the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, introduced the Item.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members  
regarding finalizing the date(s) and location for the Martin  
Luther King, Jr. Celebration; consensus support for having a  
one day event; use of the different spaces; a potential history  
exhibit and exhibit of student artwork; providing a volunteer  
opportunity or volunteer recognition; a previous year where a  
volunteer opportunity was offered in the morning before the  
event; participation level in the volunteer portion of the  
event; leaving the morning open for a volunteer opportunity;  
use of the Teen Center and the Senior Center in the past;

parking; use of one location so people do not have to travel between two locations; and event time.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding length of the event; potential schedule; allowing flexibility with time; start time for the volunteer portion of the event; time for the actual event; being more clear with time after the schedule of events is defined; consensus for a one day event with a volunteer opportunity from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the actual event time from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; distribution of save the date notifications without a specific time; and including the volunteer opportunity in the save the date notification.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE 2026 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION EVENT WITH A POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. AT THE TEEN CENTER AND WITH THE MAIN EVENT AT VETERANS MEMORIAL COMPLEX FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, KEARNEY,  
OBIOHA, RAYNOR, WEISS  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: GREEN, SMITH

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Item A-2

**MLKJCC - (1) Discuss a Theme and Ideas for the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr Celebration; and (2) If Decided, Approval of the Theme for the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a suggestion for the theme to be Mentoring the Dream; alignment with the King Center; centering everything around the theme including the volunteer opportunity; current significance of the Voting Rights Act; background and significance of the King Center; a suggestion for a theme of Seeking Peace, Pursuing Justice, Spreading Compassion; the

possible student exhibit; the student prompt; concern with the proposed dream theme; reality vs. the dream; moving forward with the item vs. tabling it to the next meeting; the feeling that themes are not typically put on save the date notices; allowing ad hoc subcommittees and marketing to move forward; ensuring that items are approved by the Committee; concern with delaying planning; the feeling that having a theme will allow subcommittees to move forward; a suggestion for the theme to be Diversity Unites Us, Love Leads Us, Action Propels Us; and the theme used for 2025.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for the dream theme; the proclamation; education; the prompt; concern that the dream has lost its meaning; adding a more specific subtitle; progress made that has been lost; development of the theme by the King Center; moving along the mission of MLK; alignment on a theme; interpreting 2025's evolution of the dream; focusing on trying to make the dream a reality; the importance of being united; having tangible things for the volunteer opportunity and for the students to write about; support for the theme of Diversity Unites Us, Love Leads Us and Action Propels Us; the need to progress beyond the dream; the need to work together; agreeing to disagree; respecting differences; combining the themes into Diversity Unites Us: Activating the Dream through Peace, Justice, and Compassion; and a reminder that the official motto of the United States in Latin translates to: Out of Many Come One.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE THEME FOR THE 2026 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AS "DIVERSITY UNITES US, LOVE LEADS US AND ACTION PROPELS US."

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, KEARNEY,  
OBIOHA, RAYNOR, WEISS  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: GREEN, SMITH

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the volunteer event; looking at what is needed in

the community; unhoused communities; voter registration; ideas outside of what has been discussed in subcommittee meetings; the need for a subcommittee to take a deeper dive into whatever volunteer event is chosen; assistance from the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union); voter registration; subcommittee reports; protocol; subcommittee assignments; direction provided to the subcommittee on what to focus on; service projects vs. an activity; providing an activity that pertains to children; providing credit to high schoolers for their required service hours; a suggestion for a food or jacket drive; partnership with non-profits; WalkGoodLA; consideration of partnerships by the Vendor Subcommittee; opportunities for student involvement; offering prizes; FeedCulver; support for partnering with a Black run organization; logistics; agreement to have a booth for voting rights; collecting food; African-American vendors; ensuring that the volunteer opportunity is open to anyone; and creating a Volunteer Ad Hoc Subcommittee to work things out.

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Item A-3

**MLKJCC – (1) Approval of the Areas of Involvement for Students Within the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration; and, (2) Approval of Which Current Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be the Point of Contact**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding categories of involvement; point of contact for student groups; student entertainment; the Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee; reason for having the item on the agenda; and cross-talking between subcommittees.

Member Kearney left the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee; Brown Act issues; finding other ways to have students involved in the event; an instance where a subcommittee created an email chain and then consulted a different subcommittee so there were five people on the email in violation of the Brown Act; student outreach; the student engagement task; confusion; being clear that the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee does everything

related to students except for entertainment; delayed response; expansion of the initial role of the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee to contact the School District; increasing participation; clarification on what people are engaging in; considering anything on the stage to be entertainment; supporting service hours; the point of contact; formation of a Volunteer Service Project Ad Hoc Subcommittee; potential coordination of students; the inability to mix duties of subcommittees; the task of the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee in practice that caused a violation of the Brown Act; passing along information between subcommittees; the particular purpose of the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee; a recommendation to dissolve the ad hoc subcommittee if there is confusion as to the proposed task; and reinterpretation of the charge of the ad hoc subcommittee.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for increased student engagement; report outs to the full Committee; bringing items that are out of the purview of the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee to the full Committee to be taken up by another ad hoc subcommittee; the charge to act as a liaison between the School District and the full Committee; members who sit on multiple subcommittees; daisy chain communication that violates the Brown Act; encouragement for Committee Members to wait until full Committee meetings to discuss their subcommittee work; the Run of Show conversation; cross contamination of subcommittees; and being clear with the charge of different subcommittees.

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Item A-4

**MLKJCC - Approval of the Selection of a Member to Represent the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration & Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee to Speak in Support of the Budget letter for FY26/27 at a City Council Budget Meeting**

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, recommended tabling the item until the dates are available noting that the meeting typically happened in November.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS  
THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: TABLE SELECTION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION & JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET LETTER FOR FY26/27 AT A CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, OBIOHA, RAYNOR, WEISS  
NOES: HEARNS  
ABSENT: GREEN, KEARNEY, SMITH

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Item A-5

**MLKJCC - Adoption of Motions to (1) Appoint/Reappoint Members to Serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration & Juneteenth Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittees; and (2) Provide Updates, if any**

Chair Bibbins-McKeever reported that the Public Relations, Marketing and Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met with staff to determine next steps, and she questioned whether the call for entertainers had gone out and whether any submissions were received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the item would be sent to subcommittee members for final review before it goes out; review of submissions once received for recommendation to the full Committee; the media list; calendar listings for Black events in the area; posting event information; outreach to other organizations and schools; performances by student ensembles; providing something relevant to younger audiences that still connects to MLK Day; interest in participation from the Middle School Choir Director; potential scenarios for participation; involvement of High School students; participation of a gospel singer; ensuring that vetting a singer is built into the timeline; building in rehearsal time; the teacher involved; students who regularly perform; integration of the choir with the students from Bloom Arts; matching the level of professionalism and amount of production; song selection; and blending of groups.



Member Raynor discussed the work of the History and Culture for Juneteenth and MLK Ad Hoc Subcommittee; the importance of the Voting Rights Act; using the lobby to display the history; actions of the Supreme Court; student involvement; and having an education focus for the event.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a big moment in American History when President Johnson spoke to Congress using the phrase "We shall overcome"; ideals for the country; highlighting different milestones in the history of voting rights; social events and legislation; the importance of allies; recurring themes of the white savior; the need for people in power to help; clarification that there are no subcommittee recommendations yet; a suggestion to have students dress up and mimic famous historic figures; creating engagement; ensuring proper execution; and setting up things to represent what people went through before the Voting Rights Act.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding use of the Rotunda Room, the lobby, and outside space; putting entertainment outside if weather permits; being flexible; feedback from the previous year that the space was dark and there was no engagement from the audience; conversation within the ad hoc subcommittee; and staff agreement to reserve the field.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification that the Sponsorship Donation Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met; the 2028 Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met; and no information was available as to when the City Council Olympic Committee would be meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee; possible activities that are not on the stage; contact with teachers to explore having an exhibit with student creative expressions; connections to organizations that focus on student artists; agreement to email information to staff; providing the date to the School District to be added to the master calendar of local events; outreach to elected officials; timing of the winter break for the schools; outreach by the PR and Marketing Ad Hoc

Subcommittee; and sharing a save the date with the external community.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding efforts to coordinate a meeting with the Food and Vendor Ad Hoc Subcommittee; clarification that one person can meet with staff and share updates with the Committee afterwards; a request to remove the word Member from the appointee column on the subcommittee chart; forming a Volunteer Ad Hoc Subcommittee vs. using the Non-Vendor Ad Hoc Subcommittee to handle the tasks; collaborators vs. vendors; purview of the Volunteer Ad Hoc Subcommittee; consolidation of subcommittees; consistency; the ability to make changes; and the service project.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: FORM A VOLUNTEER AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE MLK JR. CELEBRATION AND THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION TO CONDUCT OUTREACH TO POTENTIAL PARTNERS, WORK WITH STAFF DIRECTLY TO CREATE SERVICE PROJECTS, AND PROVIDE CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, OBIOHA,  
RAYNOR, WEISS  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: GREEN, KEARNEY, SMITH

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding willingness to serve.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPOINT CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, VICE CHAIR HEARNS, AND MEMBER GORDON CAIN TO SERVE ON THE VOLUNTEER AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE MLK JR. CELEBRATION AND THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, OBIOHA,  
RAYNOR, WEISS

NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: GREEN, KEARNEY, SMITH

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Item A-6

**MLKJCC - Receipt and Filing of the Martin Luther King Jr.  
Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee 2025  
Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With  
Adjustments, If Any**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding agendaizing selection of a representative to speak in support of the budget letter for fiscal year 2026-2027 at a City Council budget meeting; subcommittees that need to provide updates; a suggestion to move the update from the Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee and Non-Vendors Ad Hoc Subcommittee to the November meeting; tentative reservation of space for volunteer activities; providing a stand-alone update in October on the direction the Volunteer Ad Hoc Subcommittee is going; the goal to meet before October 15 to get more direction; the ability to remove the item from the agenda if needed; discussion of a service project; the draft Run of Show document; and timing for staff to receive information from subcommittees.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECEIVE AND FILE THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025 MEETING CALENDAR AND AGENDA WITH ADJUSTMENTS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, GORDON CAIN, HEARNS, OBIOHA,  
RAYNOR, WEISS  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: GREEN, KEARNEY, SMITH

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**Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Bibbins-McKeever invited public comment.

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received for Public Comment – Items NOT On the Agenda.

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**Items from Members/Staff**

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reiterated the importance of starting the meeting on time and noted that Members could come in late.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding opening meeting business; the importance of showing up on time, being engaged, and participating in discussion; letting staff know if Members are going to be absent or late; attendance policy; loss of a seat with absence from three consecutive regular meetings; Committee bylaws; City policy; providing the benefit of the doubt to everyone; ensuring there is a quorum at meetings; respect for everybody's time; and Member availability for upcoming meetings.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:45 P.M., the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee adjourned to a meeting to be held on October 15, 2025.

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Dorian Jackson  
SECRETARY of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and  
Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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KARENA BIBBINS-MCKEEVER  
CHAIR of the Culver City Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration  
and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

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Date