

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

April 15, 2026
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 6:30 P.M. in Rooms C75 and C77 at the Culver City Senior Center.

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

Staff: Adam Ferguson, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation
and Community Services
Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager
Adrian Cobian, Senior Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Gordon Cain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Adrian Cobian, Senior Management Analyst, reported that no public comment had been received for Items NOT On the Agenda.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Adrian Cobian, Senior Management Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the inability to roll over funds left over after the MLK event in January; costs that PRCS can cover; potential recording of the event; clarification that unused funds go back to the General Fund; and the total amount of \$20,000 available for the Juneteenth Celebration.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE JUNETEENTH 2026 CELEBRATION.

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Item A-2

MLKJCC - (1) Discuss Recommended Entertainers for the Juneteenth 2026 Celebration from the Juneteenth PR, Marketing and Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (2) If Desired, Approval of Entertainers for the Juneteenth 2026 Celebration

Chair Bibbins-McKeever introduced the item noting that the Committee would be reviewing entertainment recommendations from the Juneteenth PR Marketing and Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee with the goal of selecting top choices from each category so that staff can proceed with the vendor negotiation process.

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, read through Subcommittee recommendations for discussion; discussed different programming available; projected costs; and reported that a run of show that designates the amount of time available had not yet been created.

Chair Bibbins-McKeever noted that the list being referenced was not the most recent list that had been submitted.

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, accessed the updated list and displayed supporting materials during the discussion; discussed recommended categories; and he noted that the Committee would select two top choices from each category to allow for a backup in the event that a first-choice vendor is unavailable.

Tanika Ray as the first-choice and Amina Smith as the backup; and staff agreement that the contracts specify the required dates for Instagram story posts before, during, and following the event, and that talent be featured on event promotional materials.

DJ

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Caleb Crunk as the Subcommittee recommendation for DJ, who performed at the prior MLK event and is already established as a Culver City vendor; demonstrated professionalism, quality equipment, and strong multigenerational engagement with community members at that prior event; and the Committee reached consensus to proceed with Caleb Crunk as the DJ for the event.

MUSICAL ARTISTS

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Subcommittee recommendations for musical performers; number of performance slots; budget allocation; providing ranked headliners and supporting acts with the intent to see how many can be funded and providing a backup if someone is not available; ensuring different genres are represented; industry recognition; Instagram followers; individual artists; a seven-woman world music ensemble representing multiple continents whose members sing and play their own instruments; Subcommittee intent to present a variety of genres reflecting the full breadth of Black artistic expression rather than a single-genre lineup; musical artist recommendations; support for featuring an artist with broad mass appeal; concern that the proposed acts, while accomplished within their respective genres, may appeal to narrower audiences; and reluctance to recommend a performer whose work is explicitly faith-based given the event's intention to be inclusive across religious backgrounds.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding high-profile artists with name recognition secured at reduced rates at prior events; practical constraints of the Juneteenth programming calendar; artists of a certain caliber that are frequently already booked on that date and typically command fees well above the available budget;

typically concludes their approximately twenty-minute set with a participatory segment in which audience members are invited to join in; concern with having time for all the components of the show; and general agreement with the Subcommittee recommendation to include LA Swing Dance Posse, with no objections raised.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding clarification on the total number of performance slots being proposed and whether all recommended categories could be accommodated within the event's run of show; the purpose of the Committee's vote to authorize staff to begin the vendor negotiation process; final programming decisions depending on budget, vendor availability, and the completed run of show; and the understanding that approval of a category does not guarantee a slot in the final program but allows staff to explore feasibility for each element.

STORYTELLING AND SONGWRITING POP-UP SPACE

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the Subcommittee recommendation for a storytelling and songwriting pop-up space to be integrated into the event; providing a designated seating area for an informal participatory workshop on songwriting and music production; strong interest in the concept expressed by a musician who previously performed at a prior City event as a bassist; development of logistics including registration, format, and placement within the venue; support for advance sign up to ensure the experience remains manageable in scale; expansion of the format to include a collective community songwriting exercise in which attendees contribute words or phrases that are assembled into a song by the facilitator; concern about the cost; and Committee consensus to support the storytelling and songwriting pop-up space recommendation, contingent on budget availability and venue space, and agreement that a musical performance would take precedence if funding constraints require a trade-off.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCES

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding supplemental experiences; costs for a 360-degree photo booth as a standalone item or in combination with a

large screen honoring noted Black Americans who passed away in 2025 or 2026; an updated Struggle for the Vote display previously featured at the MLK event; inviting City Clerk's Office representatives to be present at the event to offer guidance on obtaining birth certificates and updating voter registration to ensure one's legal name matches one's registration ahead of the November election; display of accomplished but not widely known Black Americans from past and present; a children's activity area stocked with one or two Juneteenth-themed paperback books to be distributed to children attending the event; and a multi-page color program to be distributed to all attendees.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the geographic and national scope of the accomplished individuals display; concern that framing the display exclusively as featuring African Americans could exclude Black community members who are not United States nationals; and support for Subcommittee consideration of expanding the display to include Black individuals from other countries.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding who would deliver the introductory address; the possibility of inviting an elected official such as a local or state representative; sharing of prepared remarks in advance to allow the speaker to become comfortable with the material and deliver it in their own voice; distribution of invitations to elected officials through the City's standard channels and confirmations that typically come two to three weeks before the event; Committee agreement that the Subcommittee prepare remarks and finalize the speaker once elected official availability is confirmed closer to the event date; and in-house printing of the programs once content is finalized by the Committee.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding technical feasibility of a live video appearance by Opal Lee; lack of Wi-Fi at park facilities; mobile hotspot connectivity that cannot be guaranteed; budget required to ensure a reliable live stream; clarification that Opal Lee would be attending a separate Juneteenth event in Chicago; and the Committee agreed that a downloaded YouTube video could be used.

preferences for different timeframes; and staff expressed support for whatever timeframe the Committee agreed to.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE HOLDING THE JUNETEENTH 2026 CELEBRATION FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

THE MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE HOLDING THE JUNETEENTH 2026 CELEBRATION FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

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Item A-5

MLKJCC - Receipt and File the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, with Adjustments, if any

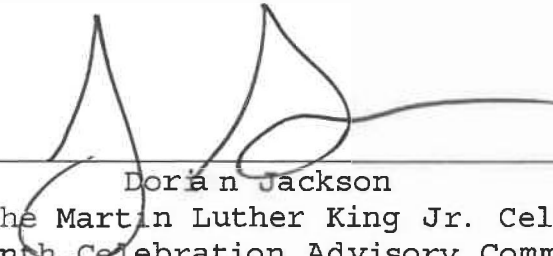
Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the draft calendar and upcoming agenda item list for the May 20th meeting; including a run of show draft and updates from the PR and Marketing Ad Hoc Subcommittee, the Non-Food and Food Vendor Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and the Student Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee; limited student engagement programming given that schools will be out of session during that period; continued work of the History and Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee to finalize specific selections for the in-memoriam and accomplished individuals displays before returning to the full Committee; and retention of the student engagement item on the agenda pending a subcommittee update.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding incorporation of budget line items and cost estimates alongside the run of show as vendor quotes are received; rough

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:40 P.M., the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration Advisory Committee adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on May 20, 2026.

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

APPROVED 5/20/2026



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.



Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

6/1/2024
Date