

***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

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.

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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 Meeting of March 18, 2026

Chair Bibbins-McKeever received agreement from staff that previous minutes for 2026 would be brought to the next meeting for her to sign off on.

MOVED BY MEMBER RAYNOR, SECONDED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2026.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Discuss and Approve the Allocation of the Funds for the Juneteenth 2026 Celebration

Edgar Varela, Special Events Manager, discussed the allocation of funds for Juneteenth 2026.

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.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding number of slots to fill; consideration of entertainment section by section; and fitting recommendations within budget.

MURAL EXPERIENCE

Chair Bivens-McKeever described the Subcommittee's recommendation for a live mural artist who would paint on site during the event and gift the completed work to the City; she presented background of and examples from the artist recommended by the Subcommittee; discussed the budget as determining the size of the mural; flexibility with content; and the collaborative experience.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the inability of the City to accept gifts; temporary display of the mural by the City; determination of a permanent location for the art; logistics; a similar mural experience at a prior City event using constructed triangular frames with panels; cost; siting requirements; event venue layout as determining the appropriate placement; appreciation for the artist's work; support for incorporating both the name of the city and imagery reflecting the Juneteenth theme as producing a strong and impactful result; and the Committee reached consensus to proceed with negotiating with the recommended live mural artist, with the understanding that the size of the mural, the cost, and the permanent placement of the completed artwork would be confirmed through further discussion prior to finalizing the vendor agreement.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the five candidates proposed for the master of ceremonies role; dependability and strong industry relationships; personal ties to Culver City; key criteria for the selection including the ability to engage a broad audience, fill time effectively, and bring energy to the program; preference for female representation in the MC role given that the musical performer recommendations feature a higher proportion of male artists; process; social media reach as a differentiating factor; Committee consensus to proceed with

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;

specific examples of artists who had declined or requested amounts exceeding ten thousand dollars; support for a multi-act lineup representing diverse genres as a means of serving a broader cross-section of the community; better application of the budget to fewer, higher-profile acts rather than a larger number of lesser-known performers; quality over quantity; having one person fill the slot; the feeling that a two-hour program featuring only one act performing two to three songs would not constitute a sufficient event experience; concern with not having strong contenders; consideration of traditional music; acts that were vetted but did not get on the list based on budget; variety and reach; appropriateness for the event; and Committee consensus to provide the Special Events Manager with a prioritized ranked list for him to contact the acts in order of preference, and book as many as the approved budget allows, treating the first two choices as the primary acts and the remaining as backups for each respective slot.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding bringing in a younger performer; finding someone with mass appeal; ensuring representation of the diversity of African Americans; support for Adaawe, Nelo, and Mickey Guyton as representing maximally distinct genres; and a suggestion for a separate formal motion and vote on the musical artist selections given the range of perspectives expressed.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER GORDON CAIN THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND MICKEY GUYTON, NELO, AND ADAWE WITH DANA VAUGHN SERVING AS A BACKUP FOR MICKEY GUYTON IF SHE IS UNAVAILABLE OR EXCEEDS THE BUDGET ALLOCATION.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BIBBNS-MCKEEVER, GORDON-CAIN, OBIOHA, RAYOR, WEISS
NOES: HEARNS

DANCE

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding previous performances by LA Swing Dance Posse at a local venue in the area; the group's performance style; narration by the group's leader; clarification that the group

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

traditional photo booth; inclusion of a videographer which would not come from the event budget; providing a screen for displaying curated visual and historical content related to the significance of Juneteenth and Black American culture; addressing gaps observed in prior events; screen content; setting up a television in the kids' area; screen cost; lawn games; the importance of securing photography coverage for the event; typical coverage by the City photographer pending availability; budgeting for an outside photographer in the event that the City photographer is unavailable; the importance of capturing visual content for the City website and social media channels to promote future events; development of branded hashtags for the photo experiences; and the event's distribution list of contacts as representing a significant promotional opportunity for ongoing growth of the event.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY MEMBER RAYNOR AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ENTERTAINMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PR MARKETING AND ENTERTAINMENT AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE AS PRESENTED, ENCOMPASSING THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: LIVE MURAL EXPERIENCE: MIKE NORRIS; MASTERS OF CEREMONY: TANIKA RAY AS FIRST CHOICE AND AMINA SMITH AS SECOND CHOICE; DJ: CALEB CRUNK; DANCE PERFORMANCE: LA SWING DANCE POSSE; STORYTELLING AND SONGWRITING POP-UP SPACE: SARAH CREIGHTON; AND SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCES INCLUDING A 360-DEGREE PHOTO BOOTH, VIDEOGRAPHER, AND EVENT SCREENS.

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Item A-3

MLKJCC - (1) Discuss the Recommendations from the Juneteenth History and Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (2) If Desired, Approval of the Recommended Elements for the Juneteenth 2026 Celebration

Member Raynor presented the History and Education Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendations for the Juneteenth 2026 celebration; discussed providing an introductory address prepared by the Subcommittee to be read by a public figure; a live appearance via Zoom or FaceTime on the large event screen by Opal Lee; an in-memoriam segment to be displayed on the

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.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for the voter guidance element; passports as acceptable documentation under certain voter identification requirements; a suggestion that the guidance provided at the event clarify all relevant documentation options; staff communication with the City Clerk's Office to invite representatives to be present to provide authoritative guidance on what documentation is required and where it can be obtained locally; anticipated program format; in-house printing capabilities to avoid outside printing costs; Subcommittee agreement to develop and provide all program content to staff for production; and enthusiasm for the full set of Subcommittee recommendations.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCEEVER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE ELEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE JUNETEENTH HISTORY AND EDUCATION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE JUNETEENTH 2006 CELEBRATION.

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Item A-4

MLKJCC - Approve the Draft of the Run of Show for Juneteenth 2026 Celebration

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members resulting in Committee consensus to defer the draft run of show to the next scheduled Committee meeting when confirmations on entertainment would make the conversation more productive.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the need to confirm event time; the three-hour event duration that worked well for prior events; appropriate start and end time for the event; alignment with a lunchtime picnic format; encouraging families to bring food and arrive during the midday meal period; accommodating performers who may have prior commitments in the morning; the need for setup one hour before the event regardless of start time; greater heat exposure with a later start times; alignment with typical attendance patterns; Members expressed

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

estimates from the Food and Non-Food Vendor Subcommittee available at the next meeting; and update of the PR Marketing agenda item to confirm the attendance of a City representative.

MOVED BY CHAIR BIBBINS-MCKEEVER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR HEARNS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, 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 MEETING CALENDAR AND UPCOMING AGENDA ITEM LIST, WITH THE NOTED ADJUSTMENTS THAT BUDGET ITEMS AND FOOD AND NON-FOOD VENDOR ESTIMATES BE INCORPORATED INTO THE MAY 20TH RUN OF SHOW DISCUSSION.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Bibbins-McKeever invited public comment.

Adrian Cobian, Senior Management 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

Vice Chair Hearn reported being unable to attend the Juneteenth event due to a loss in her family; acknowledged consistent attendance and support throughout the planning process; and shared that her cousin was a multi-disciplinary artist and Renaissance man who built guitars from everyday objects, performed avant-garde music, and authored a book of children's stories.

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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 _____

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

Date