

Commission on Human Relations  
April 13, 2023  
<https://zoom.us/j/94694318482?from=addon>  
MINUTES

PRESENT

Blanshay, Linda	Museum of Tolerance
D'Alessandro, Valentina	LA County HRC
Jacobs, Bud	Superintendent
Kakassy, Allan	McKenna (1)
Rivlin, Shelley	Schmerelson (3)
Robledo, Olivia	Gonez (6)
Watts, Joyce	selected
Williams, Jamaal	LACOE

STAFF

Chiasson, Judy	HRDE
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ABSENT

Abelsson, Mark	selected
Crouch, Perry	Franklin (7)
De La Rosa, Gary	At large
Richardson, Joan	CSEA
Friedman, Matthew	ADL
Garcia, Jeronimo	Melvoin (4)
Tooley, Skye	UTLA

VACANT

Rivas (2)
Goldberg (5)
AALA

Meeting convened at 6:40 pm

March minutes approved.

Reports of standing committees, standing updates/reports/Commissioner proposed items:

**Housing Task Force Rivlin** – Progress on the hygiene initiative at Reseda is stalled due to lack of response from the LAUSD's Homeless Services. Director of Facilities Mark Hovatter is retiring soon.

**Action Item** – Shelly is meeting with Dr. Baca on next steps for the Housing Taskforce. Will report on the outcome next meeting

**Human Relations Awards**, Nearly 100 submissions thus far. Commissioners discussed how many awards should be issued – recognizing all who meet minimum requirements or have a competitive rubric. Kakassy questioned the subjectivity of a rubric. Rivlin suggested that every applicant should be mentioned, but only the highest ranking ones will be recognized. The event is on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jacobs will meet with Chiasson and Zoeker to review the to send letters to Board after March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Item** – Bud will meet with Susie Zoekler & Judy Chiasson to select the award recipients.

**Action Item ALL** – save June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-5pm for the awards.

**Ethnic Studies** – Kakassy is very pleased with that the first class is culminating with a required Ethnic Studies class. This is a new era for our society! There is proposed legislation to require ethnic studies training/credential for teachers. Commission should position itself as ongoing support for this important initiative. Curious how teachers are being trained.

Consider inviting guests to speak on the proposed legislation and teacher preparation

[AB1703](#) AB-1703 California Indian Education Act: California Indian Education Task Forces – requires district to set up a California Indian Task Force to review all documents, and look at student data

LACOE has an ethnic studies toolkit.

**Retreat** - Joyce Germaine Watts Align our work with the priorities of the commission. Watts wondered about the progress of the strategic plan. Linda Blanshay will request new dates from the commission as to when we want another session. Linda Questions: 1. When can we commit to a day together; 2. What will happen during that time?

Watts recommends that the Executive Committee establish dates, facilitator and agenda for a retreat. Per the By-Laws, "The Executive Committee of the Commission shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two Members at large."

**Action Item** – Shelly will convene the Executive Committee to offer dates and an agenda for next retreat.

**Office of Human Relations, Diversity & Equity**

Piloting *Proud to Be Me/Project 10* groups at schools  
HR Awards

Meeting schedule (subject to change by commission vote) *Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.:*

- May 11, June 8

Adjourned at 7:36 pm