



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

[www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)



## Ocean Front Walk Committee Meeting Agenda

The Waterfront Restaurant

Monday February 2nd 2026

6:00-7:30 PM

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte, Secretaria, al por correo electrónico [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

### PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public may address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda within the Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter brought to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a public member may become the subject of a future Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 60 seconds per speaker unless adjusted by the Chair.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Fran Solomon (Chair)	Todd Eichenberger	Noel Johnson
Deborah Keaton	Clark Brown (Secretary)	Nick Antonicello

### 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES:

### 3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 4. CHAIR REPORT (1 min)

### 5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.

Each speaker will be allowed two (2) minutes unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the meeting. Speakers will be timed.

### 6. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Q&A with Sean Silva (CD11) on OFW issues.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS



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## **The Ocean Front Walk Cultural Preservation Plan**

**Description:** The Ocean Front Walk Cultural Preservation Plan establishes a comprehensive framework to preserve, restore, and protect the historic, cultural, and artistic character of Venice Beach's Boardwalk. The Plan addresses the restoration and long-term protection of historic infrastructure, including the Pagodas; the recognition and support of street performance and independent artistic expression; community-engaged and context-sensitive public-space improvements; and proactive preparation for increased global visitation associated with upcoming international events. The Plan seeks to balance public safety, accessibility, cleanliness, and enforcement with the preservation of Venice's unique cultural identity and historic legacy.

### **A: Restoration and Historic Protection of the Venice Boardwalk Pagodas Description:**

This motion addresses the urgent need to restore, reopen, and formally protect the historic Pagodas along Ocean Front Walk. Originally constructed in the early 1930s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Pagodas are defining architectural and cultural features of the Venice Boardwalk. This motion seeks immediate City action to assess their condition, fund necessary repairs or reconstruction in accordance with historically sensitive standards, and pursue formal historic designation to ensure long-term preservation and prevent demolition or neglect.

**WHEREAS**, Venice Beach is an internationally recognized neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles, known for its historic public spaces, cultural diversity, street performance traditions, and unique artistic character; and

**WHEREAS**, Venice's Ocean Front Walk ("Boardwalk") is one of Southern California's most iconic public spaces and among the region's most visited tourist destinations, receiving approximately 28,000–30,000 visitors per day and an estimated 10 million visitors annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boardwalk's historic hexagonal pergolas, commonly known as the "Pagodas," were originally constructed in the early 1930s, contributing to the distinctive architectural, cultural, and historical identity of Venice Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pagodas have previously been repaired or reconstructed through City-led efforts, but are currently reported to be in significant disrepair, with structures fenced off and at risk of permanent removal; and

**WHEREAS**, the deterioration or loss of the Pagodas would materially harm the historic, aesthetic, and cultural character of Venice Beach and undermine City policies supporting historic and cultural preservation, including Council File **CF 17-1524** and **CF 19-0600**;



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## **B: Preservation of Boardwalk Street Performance and Cultural Expression**

**Description:** This motion affirms street performers, musicians, and independent artists as essential contributors to Venice Beach’s cultural identity, tourism economy, and public life. It calls for a culturally sensitive and transparent approach to permitting and enforcement along Ocean Front Walk, ensuring that public safety and cleanliness are maintained without displacing long-standing performance traditions or destroying artistic property.

**WHEREAS**, Venice’s Boardwalk has historically supported a vibrant culture of street performers, musicians, artists, and independent creatives whose presence contributes significantly to tourism, local economic activity, and community life; and

**WHEREAS**, street performance and informal artistic expression are core elements of Venice Beach’s cultural identity and global reputation; and

**WHEREAS**, recent multi-agency enforcement and cleanup actions along Ocean Front Walk — including property confiscation and destruction — have disrupted long-standing performance practices and raised community concern regarding cultural displacement and lack of culturally sensitive enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, such enforcement actions risk conflicting with City policies supporting arts, cultural equity, and lawful public-space use, including **CF 11-0923** and **CF 15-1138**;

## **C: Community Engagement and Context-Sensitive Boardwalk Improvements**

**Description:** This motion emphasizes the importance of meaningful community engagement in the planning and implementation of improvements to Ocean Front Walk. It seeks to ensure that decisions regarding infrastructure, safety, cleanliness, and accessibility are developed collaboratively with Venice residents, stakeholders, and cultural advocates, and that such improvements respect Venice’s historic character and social fabric.

**WHEREAS**, Ocean Front Walk functions as both a critical public safety corridor and a culturally significant public space requiring careful balance between cleanliness, accessibility, enforcement, and cultural preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, meaningful engagement with Venice residents, neighborhood councils, local businesses, artists, and cultural advocates is essential to achieving durable and community-supported improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, past top-down approaches to Boardwalk modifications have contributed to community distrust and outcomes misaligned with Venice’s historic and cultural identity;



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## **D: Global Event Readiness and Long-Term Cultural Infrastructure Investment**

**Description:** This motion addresses the need for proactive investment in Venice Beach's infrastructure and cultural amenities in advance of major international events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games. It recognizes Venice Beach as a global destination neighborhood and calls for coordinated planning and resource allocation to ensure the Boardwalk remains safe, accessible, welcoming, and culturally authentic during periods of increased global attention.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Los Angeles is preparing to host major international events, including the **2026 FIFA World Cup** and the **2028 Summer Olympic Games**, which will place unprecedented global attention on Venice Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Files **CF 20-0317** and **CF 21-1246** emphasize the importance of advance infrastructure investment, visitor experience, and cultural readiness in high-profile destination areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Venice Beach is expected to experience a substantial increase in visitation associated with these events, necessitating proactive investment in historic assets, cultural amenities, and public-space infrastructure to ensure Venice remains safe, welcoming, and culturally authentic;

## **E: Restoration and Preservation of the Venice Boardwalk Art Tiles**

**Description:** This motion addresses the preservation, restoration, and long-term protection of the decorative art tiles embedded along Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk. These tiles represent decades of community-driven artistic expression and contribute to the Boardwalk's distinctive visual identity. Many tiles are currently cracked, missing, obscured, or deteriorating due to age, heavy foot traffic, environmental exposure, and inconsistent maintenance. This motion seeks coordinated City action to assess, restore, and preserve the art tiles in a manner that respects their artistic integrity and cultural significance.

**WHEREAS**, Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk contains numerous decorative art tiles created and installed over many decades by artists, community members, and City-supported programs, forming a unique and recognizable public art feature of the Boardwalk; and

**WHEREAS**, the art tiles contribute to Venice Beach's cultural identity, pedestrian experience, and reputation as a center for public art, creativity, and community expression; and



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**WHEREAS**, many of the art tiles are currently damaged, cracked, missing, covered, or in advanced stages of deterioration due to environmental exposure, heavy public use, and deferred maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss or neglect of these art tiles diminishes the artistic, cultural, and historic character of Ocean Front Walk and conflicts with City policies supporting public art preservation and cultural resources, including the City's Public Art Program and relevant Council Files related to cultural preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, restoration of the art tiles requires coordination among multiple City entities, including the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Street Services, and the Office of Historic Resources, to ensure appropriate conservation methods, public safety, and long-term maintenance;

## **MOTION 1**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Venice Neighborhood Council formally requests the City Council, through the appropriate committees, to instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), in coordination with the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) and the Department of Public Works, to:

- Conduct an immediate structural and historic-condition assessment of the Venice Boardwalk Pagodas.
- Identify required repairs, restoration, or reconstruction consistent with historically sensitive design standards; and
- Report back to Council with cost estimates, funding options, and an implementation timeline.
- Conduct an immediate structural and historic-conduit assessment of the Venice Boardwalk Pagodas
- Identify required repairs, restoration, or reconstruction consistent with historically sensitive design standards; and
- Report back to the Council with cost estimates, funding options, and an implemented timeline.

Initiation and completion of the report shall take priority over all other items in this resolution and shall not be delayed pending initiation and completion of any other matter identified herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Venice Neighborhood Council requests the City Council to instruct the **Office of Historic Resources (OHR)**, in coordination with RAP, to evaluate the Pagodas for **Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) designation** or equivalent protective status, and to report findings and recommendations under **CF 19-0600** or a successor Council File.



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**, in coordination with RAP, LAPD, and relevant enforcement agencies, to develop a **Boardwalk Cultural Preservation Plan**, which shall include:

- Recognition of street performers and independent artists as cultural assets;
- A transparent and equitable permitting or use framework consistent with **CF 11-0923**;
- Clear enforcement guidelines designed to avoid unnecessary confiscation or destruction of artistic property; and
- Community input from Venice stakeholders and cultural practitioners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the **Mayor's Office**, in coordination with the **Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)** and **City Administrative Officer (CAO)**, identify funding opportunities — including capital funds, grants, or event-related allocations — to support Pagoda restoration and Boardwalk cultural infrastructure in advance of the 2026 and 2028 international events referenced in **CF 20-0317** and **CF 21-1246**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Venice Neighborhood Council urges the City to meaningfully engage Venice residents, neighborhood councils, local businesses, and cultural advocates in the planning and implementation of Boardwalk improvements to ensure alignment with Venice's historic and cultural identity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon passage of this motion, the Venice Neighborhood Council directs that a formal transmittal letter be sent to:

**cc:**

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)

City Administrative Officer (CAO)

Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

Office of Historic Resources (OHR)

Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)

Los Angeles Police Department, Pacific Area (as applicable)

Business Improvement District (BID)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)

Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)

County of Los Angeles

VOTE: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0



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## **8. MOTION: IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND ENABLE CONTINUED CULTURAL VITALITY OF VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK (LISA REDMOND/SARAH MAHIR)**

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) respectfully communicates to our Councilmember Traci Park (CD-11), the Los Angeles City Council, and Mayor Karen Bass that Venice is not only a neighborhood community in Los Angeles — it is an internationally recognized symbol of creativity, freedom, diversity, and unique public-space culture. The Boardwalk, its historic Pagodas, its street performers, and its distinctive social fabric are integral to that identity. As the City prepares for major events and rising tourism, there is a profound opportunity — and responsibility — to preserve what makes Venice irreplaceable.

Therefore, the VNC requests that the City: Immediately prioritize the restoration and reopening of the historic Pagodas along Ocean Front Walk — providing funding, permits, and resources via the relevant city agencies (e.g., Department of Recreation & Parks, Bureau of Street Services, Office of Historic Resources) to refurbish, repair, or, where necessary, rebuild the Pagodas to original or appropriate historically sensitive design standards.

Undertake formal designation of the Pagodas as a protected historic and cultural resource (e.g., Historic-Cultural Monument status), to safeguard them against demolition or neglect.

Develop and implement a Boardwalk cultural preservation plan that supports street performers, buskers, and other independent artists — recognizing their role in Venice's character and tourism appeal. This should include a transparent, fair, and culturally sensitive enforcement and permitting framework that allows performers to continue contributing to the Boardwalk's vibrancy, rather than displacing them through sweeps or blanket confiscations.

Engage with the local Venice community, stakeholders, and cultural advocates to co-design improvements to Ocean Front Walk that balance public safety, cleanliness, and respect for Venice's historic and cultural identity. Recognize the strategic importance of Venice Beach as a global destination neighborhood and allocate resources in advance of the upcoming international events (2026 FIFA World Cup, 2028 Summer Olympics) to ensure the Boardwalk's infrastructure and cultural amenities are maintained, accessible, safe, and welcoming. Be it further resolved that the VNC urges Councilmember Park, the City Council, and the Mayor to act now, decisively, and collaboratively to safeguard Venice's cultural heritage, restore its historic landmarks, and support the community of artists and performers who make Venice come alive. Additionally, upon passage of this motion, the prepared letter will be sent.

**DESCRIPTION:** Venice's Ocean Front Walk ("Boardwalk") is not only a jewel in the City of Los Angeles' crown but one of Southern California's iconic public spaces and the second- most visited tourist destination in the region, attracting approximately 28,000–30,000 visitors per day and roughly 10 million per year. Along the Boardwalk stand the historic "Pagodas" — hexagonal umbrellas/ pergolas — originally constructed in the early 1930s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), giving Venice Boardwalk a distinctive architectural and cultural character. These Pagodas have been long-cherished as landmarks, and have been repaired or rebuilt in earlier refurbishment efforts, But now all Pagodas are reportedly in disrepair — some fenced off — and at risk of permanent removal, despite strong community support for their restoration. The Pagodas' deterioration threatens not just physical structures, but the very aesthetic, historical, and social fabric that makes Venice Beach globally unique and beloved.





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Of late, enforcement and cleanup actions along the Boardwalk have disrupted street performance culture. Recently, a longtime Venice street performer (the “Venice Piano Man,” Nathan Pino) had his pianos destroyed/impounded during a multi-agency sweep, despite decades of performing on the Boardwalk — an action that struck many in the community as undermining Venice’s cultural legacy. The Boardwalk’s cultural vitality — including street artists, musicians, and performers — contributes significantly to Venice’s identity, draws tourists, supports local businesses, and fosters community life.

With upcoming major global events — notably the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles — tourism and visitor demand in Venice is expected to surge significantly.

## **Not voted on or seconded**

VOTE: Yes \_\_\_\_\_. No \_\_\_\_\_. Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. ADJOURNMENT (Minutes need to include ending time)

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

### Public Posting of Agendas -

The Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City’s [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

### Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

### Public Access of Records -

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC Secretary, email at: [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org).

### Reconsideration and Grievance Process -

For information on the NC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)