

Committee Chair: Joe DeCenzo

Committee Members: Gerardo Barrientos, Joanna Gates,

Dawn Jenkins, Corey Stein, KT Travers

Quorum = 4



**SUNLAND-TUJUNGA
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**



www.empowerla.org

200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Website: www.stnc.org

www.ncsupport@lacity.org

Arts, Recreation & Culture Committee (STARC)

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

Bolton Hall Museum

10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga 91042

MINUTES (Draft)

In Attendance: Joe DeCenzo, Dawn Jenkins, Joanna Gates, Corey Stein, KT Travers (zoom) Guests: Monica Sotelo, Javier Palare, Jennifer Zapp, Lucy Berman, Barbara DeVall, Christine Villegas, Maria Kerrigan, Dillon Dorothy, Crystal Palera, Debby Beck

1. **Call To Order; Introductions**, Committee chair, Joe DeCenzo, convened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and introduced the committee members to the guests.
2. **Review mission statement; Code of Conduct; Quorum requirements:** Joe DeCenzo stated the quorum as 4, reviewed the mission statement and directed the attendees to www.empowerla.org for the full wording of the code of conduct.
3. **Public Comments/Updates for Non-Agenda Items:** Dawn Jenkins announced the Verdugo Hills Pools Re-opened on October 25th. KT Travers read an update of the "Land Acknowledgment" by the City of Los Angeles. It adopts accepted wording that can now be used to open meetings of the city and county. It recognizes the Tongva, Tataviam, Chumash and several other tribes as being the original inhabitants of the area. It admits to land seizure, slavery and genocide. It hopes to promote truth healing and reconciliation of atrocities. Joe announced the next meeting of Village Poets will be January 25, 2026 at Bolton Hall.
4. Guest Speaker: Javier Palare- **¡Día de los Muertos! Celebrating the souls of our loved ones.** The speaker provided a colorful display of objects created by his students that honor ancestors and loved on the holiday typically celebrated on November 1 & 2. Valley Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (VOCES) held their festival on November 3rd to accommodate the school's schedule. More than 400 people attended. Local community resource tables were available for information. The entry arch was adorned with marigold's whose vibrant colors and potent fragrance are believed to guide the souls of the deceased back to their ofrendas (Altars). 7' tall paper mache skeletons (Calacas) lined the walkway to greet visitors.
5. Approval of minutes of September 23, 2025: Joe DeCenzo read the minutes of the prior month's meeting. Dawn Jenkins moved to approve the minutes as written. Joanna Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.
6. Update: **McGroarty Arts Center:** Joe DeCenzo spoke on behalf of executive director Bethers. He stated the "Chili Bowl/Holiday craft festival is scheduled for December 6 & 7. Vendor applications are still being accepted and McGroarty is seeking volunteers to make it all happen.
7. Discussion/Action: Hanukkah in the Foothills – Lucy Berman stated the 10th annual event is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on December 18th. They are seeking donations and volunteers. A special entertainment program is being developed to celebrate this 10th anniversary.
8. **Discussion:/Action:** Community projects, events, murals, gardens - TABLED
9. **Adjourn 9:08 p.m.**