



Regular Meeting

City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Thursday, February 19, 2026

2:00 P.M. until the conclusion of business

Edward R. Roybal Board of Public Works Session Room 350,
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Virtual Meeting Information

Join via Zoom: bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24

Dial by phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 896 4264 0290

Real-Time Captioning: bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod

Commissioners

Akiko Tagawa, President

Myrna Cabanban, Vice President

Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner

Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner

Robert Bitonte, Commissioner

Iran Hopkins, Commissioner

Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner

Robert Williams, Commissioner

Louis Herrera, Commissioner

Meeting Information

Commission on Disability regular meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM.

Virtual Attendance Information

Public participants may join the Commission meeting via the Zoom link or phone number provided above. Participants joining by phone will be asked for a meeting ID. Please enter 844-7583-0151 followed by the pound sign (#).

Public Comment

Comments by the public on agenda items and on non-agendized matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the "Public Comment" period of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to speak on Agendized items and Non-Agendized items shall be allowed to speak for up to two (2) minutes per Agendized item, and two (2) minutes on Non-Agendized items, up to a total of five (5) minutes per meeting. We request that each speaker announce their name before public comment. This is for the benefit of meeting captioners, interpreters, and attendees.

All in-person requests to address the Commission must be submitted to the Commission support staff prior to the Commission's consideration of the item through physical Public Comment cards available at the meeting room entrance.

During virtual meetings all attendees are automatically muted upon entry. Please use the RAISE HAND function to indicate your wish to speak on a specific agenda item. To use the RAISE HAND function, press star (*) and then 9 When called upon, you may UNMUTE by pressing star (*) and then 6.

If you wish to provide documents to the full Commission for consideration on an item, please present the COD Liaison with 20 copies. Otherwise, your material will simply be added to the official record.

Agenda Packet

This agenda packet is available on the Department on Disability Website at <https://disability.lacity.gov/about/commission-disability>. To request to be placed on the agenda packet mailing list, provide your email address to the Commission support staff at the Commission meeting or contact the Department on Disability: 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 202-2764; DOD.Contact@lacity.org.

Accommodations

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation are provided at each meeting. Upon request, materials in alternative formats and other reasonable accommodations are available for City-sponsored meetings and events. For additional information or to request an accommodation, please contact the Commission on Disability at least five business days in advance by calling 213-202-2764 (Voice), dial 711 for CA Relay, or email DOD.Contact@lacity.org.

Meeting Agenda

Item One (1) - Request for Remote Participation Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(f)(2)(A)

Item is for **Action**.

Item Two (2) - Public Comment

Item is for **Information**.

Item Three (3) - Approval of the January 15th, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

Item Four (4) - Presentation from the Office of Major Events (OME) and other transportation entities about games mobility

Item is for **Information**.

Item Five (5) - Discussion and Approval of the Commission on Disability's Letter of Support

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

Item Six (6) - Announcement of the 2026 Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award Nomination Period

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

Item Seven (7) - Commission on Disability FY 2025-26 Work Plan Updates

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

Item Eight (8) - Department on Disability Executive Director's Report

Item is for **Information**.

Item Nine (9) - Announcements

Item is for **Information**.

Item Ten (10) - Adjournment

Item is for **Action**.



Special Meeting Minutes

City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Thursday, January 15, 2025

2:05 P.M.

Edward R. Roybal Board of Public Works Session
Room 350
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom Video Conference

Commissioners Present

Akiko Tagawa, President
Myrna Cabanban, Vice President
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Robert Williams, Commissioner
Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner
Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent

Louis Herrera, Commissioner

City Staff Present

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability
Alison Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability
Heather Aubry, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
Kayvon Wroten, Department on Disability
Salina Goytia, Department on Disability
Peter Soto, Department on Disability

Item One (1) - Request for Remote Participation Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a)

Action Taken: There were no Commission members attending the Commission on Disability meeting remotely. No action required by the Commission on Disability.

Item Two (2) - Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment

Public comment was provided on the following topics applicable to the Commission's scope of work:

- There were no public comments.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Three (3) - Approval of the November 20th, 2025, Regular Minutes

The Commission reviewed the November 2025 Regular Meeting minutes.

Action Taken: Commissioner Bitonte moved, and Commissioner Barrios seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 20th, 2025, Regular Minutes with amendments. The motion passed.

Item Four (4) - Presentation from Throne Labs about the services they provide and their recommendations for providing services during the Paralympic and Olympic Games

Jessica Heinzelman, Co-Founder and COO of Throne Labs, presented on their mission to provide accessible, clean bathrooms. Their smart, self-contained, ADA-compliant restroom units feature flushing toilets and running water sinks, plus amenities like baby-changing stations and optional menstrual product dispensers. There are 40 existing publicly accessible units in the LA Metro area, and they plan to expand to 64 units by June 2026. The speaker noted this is an opportunity to improve general restroom access, as "bathroom needs do not go away when the Olympic games end." The units integrate NaviLens technology to assist people with visual impairments. To manage misuse, an anti-loitering system warns users before a 10-minute occupancy limit is reached, with the product team developing a system for extended time limits for users with mobility issues. Throne Labs seeks further city collaboration on expanding semi-permanent restroom access.

Questions from the Commissioners followed.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Five (5) - Presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs, (DCA) about the City's policies to install murals

Arts Manager Yami Duarte presented on the City's mural policies, services, and stewardship for over 2,000 murals. The 2013 Mural Ordinance allows legal original art murals on private property, distinct from commercial signage, defined as one-of-a-kind exterior images without commercial messages. The DCA also manages "Mural Works," a social justice-funded program restoring historic murals and creating new cultural markers, targeting socioeconomically impacted areas and including youth apprenticeships.

Questions from the Commissioners followed.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Six (6) - Establishment of the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence

The Commission reviewed the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence nomination form, criteria, and timeline and approved its establishment.

Action Taken: President Tagawa moved, and Commissioner Cabanban seconded the motion to approve the establishment of the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence. The motion passed.

Item Seven (7) - Discuss and Select the Commission on Disability's Fiscal Year 25-26 Public Hearing Topic

The Commission discussed potential topics for its Fiscal Year 25-26 Public Hearing and selected Rideshare Accessibility/Transportation.

Action Taken: Commissioner Williams moved, and Commissioner Hopkins seconded the motion to approve Rideshare Accessibility/Transportation as the Commission on Disability's Fiscal Year 25-26 Public Hearing Topic. The motion passed.

Item Eight (8) - Commission on Disability FY 2025-26 Work Plan Updates

The Ad Hoc Committees provided the following updates:

- Ad Hoc Committee 1 (LA28 Games Support):
 - President Tagawa appointed herself as the representative from the Commission to serve on the City's Major Events Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee 2 (Disability Cultural Impact):

- The Commission approved the establishment of the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award. President Tagawa appointed herself, Vice President Cabanban, and Commissioner Williams to the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award ad hoc committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee 3 (Healthcare and Social Security Access):
 - No updates given.
- Ad Hoc Committee 4 (Affordable and Accessible Housing):
 - No updates given.

No action taken, for information purposes only.

Item Nine (9) - Department on Disability Executive Director's Report

The Department on Disability (DOD) Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, provided the following information as part of his Executive Director's Report:

- Highlighted the legacy of former commissioner Betty Wilson (1936–2023), describing her as a pioneering advocate whose work justified the establishment of the newly approved award in her name.
- Noted that the Department on Disability would be presenting its special study on the LA28 Games to the City Council's Committee on Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability (CREIAD) the following day.
- Noted a key focus was the Department's request for resolved authority and funding for the current fiscal year to begin activities related to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Mentioned ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Office, the CAO, and the City Council regarding which department activities for LA28 would be reimbursable by LA28.
- Noted that the registration for the LA28 Olympic Games ticket draw had recently opened, with the actual draw scheduled to occur two months later.
- Noted that the next quarterly meeting for the collaborative would take place on February 12, 2026, at the California Endowment.
- Noted that the Abilities Expo would be held from March 27–29, 2026, at the Long Beach Convention Center.

No action taken, for information and discussion only.

Item Ten (10) - Announcements

Announcements from Commissioners and City staff and requested agenda items for future Commission meetings.

- Commissioner Barrios reported issues with wheelchair users being segregated at LAX and requested the Department investigate.
- Commissioner Hopkins requested the Department issue a press release urging media to use inclusive phrasing (e.g., "LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games").
- Kayvon Wroten announced A \$1 million City fund is open for testing new ideas; information is available online.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Eleven (11) - Adjournment

Action Taken: President Tagawa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Bitonte seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.



City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan

The Commission on Disability provides a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by Disabled persons in our society, and makes recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on measures which the Federal, State, and local governments may undertake to assure that persons with disabilities may participate without hindrance in the life of our community.

Powers and Duties

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Department on Disability on the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.
2. Hold public hearings at least once a year as a regular or special meeting to take testimony from persons with disabilities and others regarding issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles, and report the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.
3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the Disability community and provide persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.
4. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on funding disability access for City programs and services.
5. Maintain active liaisons with Disability community stakeholders interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.
6. Promote greater awareness of Disability culture, as well as civic and community engagement of persons with disabilities.

7. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as ableism and attitudinal barriers in areas including housing, transportation, employment, recreation, public information, health and social services, civil and human rights, and legislation.
8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of persons with disabilities when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.
9. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.

FY 2025-2026 Ad Hoc Committees

[Ad Hoc Committee #1 - LA28 Games Support](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Cultural Impact](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Healthcare and Social Security Access](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Affordable and Accessible Housing](#)

Ad Hoc Committee #1 - LA28 Games Support

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Commissioner Acevedo (Chair)
- Commissioner Hopkins
- President Tagawa

Objectives and Action Items

1. Monitor the progress of naming a street to "Paralympic," including requesting an update from the Office of Major Events.
2. Provide a representative from the Commission to serve on the City's Major Events Accessibility Advisory Committee and provide updates on the activities of that Committee at each Commission meeting.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #1

- Presentation by the Office of Major Events about the Games Mobility Plan.
- Presentation by Throne Labs about the process to participate as a games vendor.

Work Plan Updates

September

- President Tagawa appointed herself, Commissioner Hopkins, and Commissioner Acevedo to the LA28 Games Support ad hoc committee.
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items.

October

- No updates provided.

November

- No updates provided.

December

- Meeting Canceled.

January

- President Tagawa appointed herself as the representative from the Commission to serve on the City's Major Events Accessibility Advisory Committee.

- The Committee reported that it completed its objective of receiving a presentation from Throne Labs about the services they provide and expected expansion in advance of upcoming major events.

Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Cultural Impact

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Vice President Cabanban (Chair)
- Commissioner Hopkins
- Commissioner Williams
- President Tagawa

Objectives and Action Items

1. Establish the "Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence"
 - To be awarded by the Commission on Disability to recognize work advancing the interests of persons with disabilities, including developing award criteria and processes for nomination and selection. The award recipient is to be announced annually in October to spotlight Disability Awareness month.
2. Prepare a letter to the Mayor's Office recommending the City adopt Atkinson Hyperlegible Font as the City's primary font.
3. Prepare a letter to the Mayor's Office recommending the City create a mural commemorating LA28 and the Paralympics.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #2

- Presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) about the process to install a mural and what steps are necessary to ensure this process functions effectively.

Work Plan Updates

September

- President Tagawa appointed herself, Commissioners Hopkins, Cabanban, and Commissioner Williams to the Disability Cultural Impact ad hoc committee.
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items.

October

- No updates provided.

November

- Commissioner Cabanban identified a potential candidate for the first Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award.

December

- Meeting Canceled.

January

- The Commission approved the establishment of the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award. President Tagawa appointed herself, Vice President Cabanban, and Commissioner Williams to the Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award ad hoc committee.
- The Committee reported that it completed its objective of receiving a presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs, (DCA) about the City's policies to install murals

Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Healthcare and Social Security Access

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Commissioner Bitonte (Chair)
- Commissioner Schlesinger
- Commissioner Williams

Objectives and Action Items

1. Review and recommend the Commission readopt the previous [policy memorandum](#) issued by the Commission regarding the provision of a mobile Social Security Disability Office.
2. Submit a recommendation to the Mayor that the City support the development of a mobile Social Security Disability Office.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #3

- Presentation from a Healthcare provider about the healthcare benefit denial process and the types of disabilities that are most frequently denied.

Work Plan Updates

September

- President Tagawa appointed Commissioners Bitonte, Schlesinger, and Commissioner Williams to the Healthcare and Social Security Access ad hoc committee.
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items.

October

- No updates provided.

November

- Commissioner Bitonte informed the Commission that he would like to invite LA Care to a future meeting to discuss how many enrollees they are expected to lose due to diminished healthcare subsidies after the first of the year.

December

- Meeting Canceled.

January

- No updates provided.

Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Affordable and Accessible Housing

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Vice President Cabanban (Chair)
- President Tagawa
- Commissioner Acevedo

Objectives and Action Items

1. Submit a recommendation to the Mayor regarding the allocation of additional funding to support people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.
2. Make a recommendation to the Mayor that the City adopt the policy of referring to affordable housing as “affordable accessible housing.”
3. Submit a recommendation to City Council offices regarding possible strategies to support people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #4

- Presentation from the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) about an update and overview of the Accessible Housing Program (AHP), noting how funding allocations are determined for these programs and what factors influence the process.
- Presentation from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) about people with disabilities experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.

Work Plan Updates

September

- President Tagawa appointed herself and Commissioners Acevedo and Cabanban to the Affordable and Accessible Housing ad hoc committee.
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items.

October

- The Commission received a presentation from the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) about an update and overview of the Accessible Housing Program (AHP).

November

- The Committee reported that it completed its objective of receiving a presentation from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

December

- Meeting Canceled.

January

- No updates provided.

Presentation Schedule

FY 2025-2026

September 2025 - Regular Meeting

- Presentation by **Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)** on the plan for the LAX Automated People Mover Train System with an emphasis on accessibility for people with disabilities.

October 2025 - Regular Meeting

- Presentation from the **Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)** about an update and overview of the Accessible Housing Program (AcHP).

November 2025 - Regular Meeting

- Presentation from the **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)** about people with disabilities experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.
- Presentation from the **Los Angeles County Regional Coordinating Council on Aging and Disability's Community Engagement and Communications Workgroup** on their Communications Guide.

December 2025

- **Meeting Cancelled**

January 2026 - Special Meeting

- Presentation from **Throne Labs** about the services they provide and their recommendations for providing services during the Paralympic and Olympic Games.
- Presentation from the **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** about the City's policies to install murals.

February 2026 - Regular Meeting

- Presentation from the **Office of Major Events (OME)** and other transportation entities about games mobility.

March 2026

- Public Hearing

April 2026

- Regular Meeting

May 2026

- Regular Meeting

June 2026

- Officer Nominations

July 2026

- Officer Elections

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY

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STEPHEN DAVID SIMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALI EVERETT
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 300, City Hall

RE: Paralympic Representation in Los Angeles

Greetings Mayor Bass:

On behalf of the Commission on Disability, I write in strong support of the City Council motion (CF26-0123) to designate “Wheelchair Basketball Square” at Victory Boulevard and Balboa Boulevard as a historical tribute.

The Commission on Disability also appeals to the City to pursue a grander recognition of its first Paralympic Games, and take action to name a street in honor of the Paralympics, and in recognition of past, present, and future Paralympians. This would be similar to the naming of Olympic Boulevard when our City hosted the Olympic Games for the first time in 1932.

It is our hope that both proposals can proceed as a reflection of your commitment to an accessible and inclusive Games for All.

If we can be of any assistance in moving either process forward, or should you have any

questions, please reach out to me at any time via Kayvon Wroten of the Department on Disability by phone at (213) 202-2765 or by email at kayvon.wroten@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

Commission on Disability President
Akiko Tagawa

AK:kw

cc: Brenda Shockley, Deputy Mayor, Economic Empowerment
Stephen David Simon, General Manager, City of LA Department on Disability

Nomination Form

([Google Form Link](#))

The Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence is presented to a person who has increased disability awareness and made significant contributions to accessibility and quality of life for people with disabilities and in the City of Los Angeles Disability communities.

Nominee's Contact Information

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Has the Nominee lived or worked in the City of Los Angeles? Yes / No

Nomination Submitted By

Commissioner Name:

Tell Us About The Nominee

Please detail your nominee's significant contributions to enhancing accessibility and quality of life for individuals with disabilities within the City of Los Angeles. Additionally, explain how your nominee exemplifies the core values, vision, and dedication necessary to support inclusion for the broader Disability Communities.

