



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Asantewa Olatunji to the Cultural Affairs Commission for the term ending June 30, 2027. Ms. Olatunji will fill the vacancy created by Charmaine Jefferson, whom I removed effective May 5, 2023 or at the time Ms. Jefferson's successor is confirmed by the City Council.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Olatunji is qualified for the work that will devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Asantewa Olatunji
Commission: Cultural Affairs Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2027

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** African American
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 10 - South LA
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** J.D., Southwestern University School of Law
7. **Occupation/profession:**
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

CURRICULUM VITAE

Asantewa Olatunji, Esq.



Asantewa Olatunji began her career as an entertainment lawyer on the staff of Paramount Pictures Entertainment Corporation. She has enjoyed a diversified legal career in the areas of entertainment law, civil litigation, immigration law and labor law. Besides managing a private law practice, Ms. Olatunji has been on the legal staff of Wausau Insurance Companies and was General Counsel for the Los Angeles Black Employees Association. She has been involved in multiple community projects, including the Nelson Mandela Reception Committee, Les Ballets Africains de la République de Guinée performance at the 1984 Olympics Arts Festival, the Youth Program for the South-Central People's Federal Credit Union and the South-Central People's Coalition.

One of the founders of the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF), Ms. Olatunji has been integrally involved with its management and programming since its inception in 1992. With a pre-pandemic attendance of over 35,000 people and annually screening over 200+ Black films from the U.S., Africa, and its Diaspora, as PAFF's general manager and director of programming, Ms. Olatunji has helped to grow PAFF into the largest and most prestigious Black film festival in the United States.

She has served on several film festival juries, and she was the chairperson for the 2012 and 2019 AMAA jury. Also, in 2012, she was the guest programmer for the Zanzibar International Film Festival. She has also served as a guest programmer for films from the African Diaspora for several years at the Rwanda International Film Festival. She has been consulted for programming African American and African Diaspora films by numerous museums, colleges and universities and arts organizations.

As a supporter of fine artists, Ms. Olatunji originated the annual fine arts show presented by PAFF. Annually attracting an estimated 75,000 people, the PAFF art show, presented every February in conjunction with PAFF during the US Black History Month was one of the largest Black fine art markets and shows pre-pandemic in the United States.

Ms. Olatunji holds a BA Degree in History from the University of Southern California and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Southwestern University, School of Law. She is a member of the California State Bar Association.



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

March 21, 2023

Dear Ms. Olatunji:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Cultural Affairs Commission for the term ending June 30, 2027, subject to confirmation by the City Council. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org, to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and Undated Separation Letters **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open, and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions Team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your Commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission at 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Ms. Asantewa Olatunji
March 21, 2023
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As part of the City Council confirmation process, meetings will be offered to Heather Hutt, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, the Chair of the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, to answer any questions they may have.

You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall.

Per the City Charter, Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Ms. Asantewa Olatunji
March 21, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

_____ Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

_____ Email the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to: Commissions Team, Office of the Mayor, City Hall – Room 303, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters

II. Within 21 days:

_____ File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.*

- **Statement of Economic Interest (“Form 700”)**
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- **CEC Form 60**

III. The Mayor’s Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

_____ Your City Councilmember Heather Hutt

_____ Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination