CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Business & Innovation Committee

Payas Parab
CHAIR

Heera Kapoor
Paul Kaufman
Jeremy Masys
Damion Wagner
Lori Aliksanian
Andrew Wong
Jens Midthun (Ex-Officio)

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

WWW.DLANC.COM

EMAIL: INFO@DLANC.COM

DRAFT

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Ad Hoc Business & Innovation Committee
IN-PERSON MEETING MINUTES

Los Angeles Central Library,
Meeting Room B 630 W 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - 6:00 PM

Contact: payas.parab@dlanc.com for more information. You can also reach the entire committee via bic@dlanc.com

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Secretaria Terin Ngo por correo electrónico terin.ngo@dlanc.com para avisar al Concejo Vecinal. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board'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 that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** 6:07 pm

   7 Present (P), 1 Absent (A)

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Payas Parab (Chair)	P	Paul Kaufman	P
Damion Wagner	P	Andrew Wong	P
Heera Kapoor	A	Jeremy Masys	P
Lori Aliksanian	P	Jens Midthun (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting)	P

2. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
   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 that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. **Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Committee meeting.** Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker with a total time of ten minutes. (The chair, depending on the number of speakers and time considerations, may change these parameters.) (20 min. cap).

Unnamed Public Commenter: He knows this is the first meeting, but he's really interested in BIC- says we need to get rid of any bumps first before attracting business. Locals are turned away from coming to businesses in DTLA due to environmental factors: homelessness, dirty, traffic etc. The committee should address & deal with environmental factors before attracting businesses. No customers means business won't thrive.

3. **Chair's Welcome**
4. **New Business (All items for discussion and possible action)**
   a. **Discussion and possible action: Committee Overview & Mission Statement:**
      review of mission statement and setting key goals/milestones/rules for the committee for 2026 and present at next BOD meeting

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Mission Statement: Our mission is to amplify the voices of local small business owners and advocate for their long-term success. We aim to conduct hybrid interviews to document & systemetize common answers into tangible deliverables.

b. Discussion and possible action: Business Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement

i. Discussion and possible action to conduct Business Conditions Survey and review questions

ii. Discussion and possible action on Recruitment of business owners, entrepreneurs, and community partners to sit on the committee, begin outreach

iii. Discussion and possible action on oral interviews for local business interviewers

iv. Discussion and possible action on coordinating logistics for Business Walks with BIC Committee and DLANC Board

Update: Committee agreed on what questions will be present on oral and written (online) interviews for local small business owners. Committee members to go out in pairs and scope out local businesses to make them aware of committee & mission statement. Hybrid interviews will be conducted to get full scope. Goal is to speak to at least 5 local businesses each month, for each pair.

c. Discussion: Outline drafting/brainstorming Small Business Resource guide

i. Outline of content (start-up resources, city contacts, permitting resources, financing, etc)

ii. Compilation and review of existing content known by community members

Committee discussed compiling available resources for small businesses and creating a guide that could be distributed. Committee to review existing material to implement, and potentially write a report discussing what makes some businesses successful or able to “weather the storm”.

d. Discussion: Possibilities and community action around a vacancy tax

Tabled for next meeting

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Unnamed Public Commenter: Thinks we should reform restrictions. Says that we should focus on the things that "work" for DTLA: hospitality, restaurants, retail, sports & financial district. Commenter says we should arrest taggers, and think rioters hurt businesses. City needs to find a way to mitigate or actually enforce peaceful protests. Commenter states pharmacies in DTLA shut down bc homeless people steal from businesses.

5. Other Committee Comments and Announcements - BIC is a standing committee that meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

6. Next Meeting: 2/24/2026

7. Adjournment 7:56pm

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: *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 that are within the committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.*

CONSENT ITEMS: *There will be no separate discussion of Consent items as they are considered routine and will be adopted by one motion. If a member of the Board, Committee, or a stakeholder requests discussion on a particular item, that item will be removed from Consent and considered separately. Such items will be moved to the end of the agenda.*

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 §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics@lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or 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 members in advance of a meeting may be viewed on our website by clicking on the following link: www.dlanc.com, 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 secretary, terin.ngo@dlanc.com*

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POSTING: *In compliance with Government Code section 54954.2(a), Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review at Department of Recreation & Parks - Pershing Square Office, 532 S. Olive and at www.dlanc.com. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at: https://www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/neighborhood-councils.*

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: *For information on the DLANC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the DLANC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.dlanc.com.*

DISABILITY POLICY: *The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations 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 prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 or email NCSupport@lacity.org.*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 403 *(Amended by Stats, 1994, Ch. 923, Sec. 159. Effective January 1, 1995.) Every person who, without authority of law willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor.*