



Community Services
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Benjamin Johnson Appointed New Arts & Culture Manager for the City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department

Beverly Hills, Calif. – The City of Beverly Hills has named Benjamin Johnson as the new Manager of the Arts & Culture Division for the Community Services Department effective January 4, 2022. Johnson comes to the City with an extensive background in arts administration, arts education, presentation and curation of the performing arts, and an experienced director of multi-disciplinary, community-based arts & culture performing arts centers and programs rooted in diversity, equity and inclusionary practices.

Having previously served as the Director of Performing Arts for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs since 2016, Johnson relaunched the Performing Arts Division/Program of the City of Los Angeles. He oversaw seven city-owned theaters, relaunched a festival platform, developed cultural exchange programs with venues and artists in Los Angeles, and advocated on behalf of LA artists on a national and international level by working extensively with national services organizations and global consulates intersecting with the city.

At the City of Los Angeles, Johnson launched several major initiatives including Compose LA, Los Angeles Dance Platform, Black Arts @WAA, State of Theatre in LA Symposium, The Future of Music in LA, and ArtsChangesUS: ReMap LA. Prior to that, Johnson worked as Program Manager for the Center for the Art of Performance (CAP-UCLA); Director of Programs for United States Artists, Inc.; Executive Artistic Director for Northrop Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota; and, Director of Education and Audience Development for the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

“With over 30 years of professional experience in arts administration and presentation, and as a national leader in the arts field for decades, we are thrilled to welcome Ben to the City of Beverly Hills as our new Arts & Culture Manager,” said Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services. “We look forward to Ben applying his considerable professional talents and expertise, his creativity, and passion for collaboration and partnerships, to best support the City’s Arts & Cultural programming and the expansion of Arts & Culture within the City as directed by our City Council.”

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Johnson will be responsible for oversight of the Community Services Department's busy Arts & Culture Division including arts programming, special events, and city facilities with arts and culture amenities (like the recently renovated Greystone Theater at Greystone Mansion and Gardens), and will report to the Director of Community Services.

"I'm thrilled and honored to join the Arts and Culture team at the City of Beverly Hills, said Benjamin Johnson. "I am beyond excited by all of the wonderful work that is already being created in the city, and I look forward to amplifying this important work in the years ahead. My dream is to turn the City of Beverly Hills into a major hub of forward-looking creativity, innovation, and experimentation that in turn will serve all artists, audiences, visitors, and community members on a local, national and international level. I see the City of Beverly Hills as a fresh canvas for bridge building, and I am excited to celebrate the creativity, histories, stories, and people that make this city great!

Johnson graduated from St. Mary's University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts and Mass Communications and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration.

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