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**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**



**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

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**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

**Hon. Keith Powers, Chairperson**

**December 21, 2022**

City Hall Chambers

New York, NY

**M. 101-2022** Communication from the Mayor – Submitting the name of Isabel Castilla to the Council for its advice and consent regarding her appointment to the New York City Public Design Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter.

**M. 102-2022** Communication from the Mayor – Submitting the name of James Van Bramer to the Council for its advice and consent regarding his appointment to the New York City Public Design Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter.

**Introduction**

On Wednesday, December 21st, the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections will meet to consider the Mayor’s nominations of former Council Member James Van Bramer and Isabel Castilla to the New York City Public Design Commission. The Committee held a public hearing on these nominations on December 7th, 2022.

The Committee will also conduct any other business that may be necessary.

**Topic I:** **New York Public Design Commission – (Candidates for appointment by the Mayor upon the advice and consent of the Council)**

* **Isabel Castilla [M-101]**
* **James Van Bramer [M-102]**

The New York City Public Design Commission, also known as the New York City Art Commission[[1]](#footnote-1) (“Commission”) reviews permanent works of art, architecture and landscape architecture proposed on or over City-owned property. Projects include construction, renovation or restoration of buildings, such as museums and libraries; creation or rehabilitation of parks and playgrounds; installation of lighting and other streetscape elements; and design, installation and conservation of artwork.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The Commission itself does not contract for any artwork, nor does it select contractors, negotiate fees, or otherwise involve itself in the selection or approval of contracts. The Commission brings its expertise to the process by reviewing submitted plans or work in accordance with standards enumerated in the *Charter*. Commission members have no say in what projects are initiated, or how City funds are allocated. The *Charter* states that the Commission has general advisory oversight over all works of art belonging to the City, and advises agencies having jurisdiction over them as to methods and procedures for their proper maintenance. [*Charter* § 857 (a).]

The Commission is composed of the Mayor or his representative, the President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the President of the New York Public Library, the President of the Brooklyn Museum, one painter, one sculptor, one architect, one landscape architect, all of whom shall be residents of the City, and three other residents of the City who cannot be painters, sculptors, architects, landscape architects, or active members of any other profession in the fine arts. Charter § 851 (a). The Mayor and the museum and library presidents serve in an ex-officio capacity. Section 31 of the *Charter* states that the Council performs an advice and consent review of mayoral appointees for membership on the Commission. The Council does not review ex-officio members. [*Charter* § 851 (a).]

The appointive members whose service is not ex-officio are chosen from a list submitted by the Fine Arts Federation of not less than three times the number to be appointed. If the Federation fails to present a list of nominees within three months from the time when a vacancy occurs, the Mayor may appoint an individual without such input. In case the Mayor fails to appoint within one year from the time when a vacancy occurs, the Commission is authorized to fill such vacancy for any balance of the un-expired term without the Council’s advice and consent review. [*Charter* § 851 (b).]

All members serve on the Commission without compensation. Members serve for three-year terms, or until a successor has been appointed and qualified. [*Charter* § 851 (b).]

Upon appointment by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, Ms. Castilla, will fill a vacancy and serve as the “Landscape Architect” Member for the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024. The report and resolution for her nomination are annexed to this briefing paper.

Upon appointment by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, Mr. Van Bramer, a resident of Queens, will fill a vacancy and serve as a “Lay Member” for the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024. The report and resolution for his nomination are annexed to this briefing paper.

**M 0101-2022**

Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections

approving the appointment of

**Isabel Castilla**

as a member of the

**New York City Public Design Commission**

The Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections respectfully reports:

Pursuant to Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter, the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, hereby approves the appointment by the Mayor of **Isabel Castilla** as a member of the New York City Public Design Commission to serve the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024 (M. 101-2022).

This matter was heard December 7, 2022

**Res. No. \_\_\_**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF **ISABEL CASTILLA** AS A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC DESIGN COMMISSION (M. 101-2022).

By Council Member Powers

RESOLVED, pursuant Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter, the Council hereby approves the appointment by the Mayor of **Isabel Castilla** as a member of the New York City Public Design Commission to serve the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024 (M. 101-2022).

**M 0102-2022**

Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections

approving the appointment of

**James Van Bramer**

as a member of the

**New York City Public Design Commission**

The Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections respectfully reports:

Pursuant to Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter, the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, hereby approves the appointment by the Mayor of **James Van Bramer** as a member of the New York City Public Design Commission to serve the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024. (M. 102-2022).

This matter was heard December 7, 2022

**Res. No. \_\_\_**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF **JAMES VAN BRAMER** AS A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC DESIGN COMMISSION (M. 102-2022).

By Council Member Powers

RESOLVED, pursuant Sections 31 and 851 of the City Charter, the Council hereby approves the appointment by the Mayor of **James Van Bramer** as a member of the New York City Public Design Commission to serve the remainder of a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024 (M. 102-2022).

1. On July 21, 2008, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg issued Executive Order No. 119, which changed the name of the Art Commission of the City of New York to the Public Design Commission of the City of New York, except in court documents, contracts and any other situation where the name “Art Commission” is legally required. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.nyc.gov/html/artcom/html/about/about.shtml [↑](#footnote-ref-2)