



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

December 22, 2023

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Mario Melendez to the Cannabis Regulation Commission for the term ending June 30, 2025.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Melendez is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. Melendez will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Sandra Figueroa-Villa.

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:** Mario Melendez  
**Commission:** Cannabis Regulation Commission  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2025

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Latinx, Native American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 5 - Central
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:**
7. **Occupation/profession:** Creative Producer and Principal Owner, King King
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
Nash, David	South Valley	2	Caucasian	M	6/30/2025
VACANT					6/30/2025
Mason, Thryeris	South LA	8	African American	F	6/30/2027
Lim, Shi Young	West LA	11	API	M	6/30/2026
Farmby, Anton	South Valley	2	African American	M	6/30/2027

# MARIO MELENDEZ

Mario Melendez is a Creative Producer and principal owner of Hollywood's renowned King King - an established arts-based venue famous for showcasing a variety of entertainment from live music, DJ nights and interpretive concerts to musical theater, cabarets and rock operas.

His 30 years of nightlife experience in Hollywood, Miami, Mexico City, and Barcelona, has equipped him to build venues from the ground up, incorporating unique space design and high-quality production value to elevate the entertainment experience for a diverse clientele.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Mario has established himself as an integral part of the avant-garde arts landscape and has been a champion of the city's nightlife and music scene since his youth: *"Our community is comprised of a striking mix of people whose personalities fuel the creation of great art. I have thrived personally and professionally being a part of that energy since I was a teenager."*

## VENUE CONSULTANT

- Space Design
- Technical Planning: Lighting + Audio
- Infrastructure: Licenses, Equipment, Staffing, Policies + Procedures
- Food + Beverage: Inventory + Sales

## CREATIVE PRODUCER

- Entertainment Director/Curator: DJ's, Live Music, Performers, Original Shows
- Technical Director: Lighting + Audio
- Event Planning: Staffing, Ticket Sales, Seat Planning, Logistics

# MARIO MELENDEZ

## VENUE EXPERIENCE

### **KING KING I: 1988-1993 - La Brea and 6th**

Featuring mostly Jazz and Blues, Mario's first venue created a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for well-known musicians to come jam with the likes of like U2, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Funkadelics, Blondie and Roy Gains. It was here that he collaborated to establish various LA bands such as: Sono-Lux (King King Records), Royal Crown Revue (Warner Bros.), Solsonics (EMI/Polygram), Jump With Joey (Quatro, Japan), and Red Devils (American Records).

### **KING KING II: 1998-2016 - 6555 Hollywood Blvd.**

With the opening of the second King King location, Mario was one of the first entrepreneurs to contribute to the resurgence of Hollywood nightlife on the Boulevard. The historical building was originally a restaurant and retail space remodeled to feature a state-of-the-art sound system and exceptional acoustics, suited to showcase live music with multiple instruments and solos...a rarity in L.A. clubs.

The spatial design also presented unique flexibility that could mutate to the will of the creatives inhabiting the space, pushing the limits of their productions to be as unique as the next. Moveable staging, booths and bars on wheels that could migrate from a center square to two bars along the wall, demonstrated that on any given night, King King could be a live band venue, cabaret, DJ-driven party or an alternative theater; earning the title, "Best Night Club" in LA Weekly's "2013 Best of LA."

### **MIAMI / MEXICO CITY / BARCELONA**

Between building his two venues, Mario was called to other cities to collaborate on multiple club projects. In Miami and Barcelona, he consulted on club architecture, art direction, stage design and multi-media events with long-time friend and colleague, Chu Uroz, that included a string of programming for MTV Latino. In Mexico City, he produced shows with production company, Casa Del Dragon, that included "A Night at the KING KING."

## CREATIVE PRODUCER EXPERIENCE

Mario's producing background of 15+ years aided the launch of numerous original shows directly from the King King. Some of the most successful shows include: "Rock of Ages" (Rock Musical); "Tougher Than Grace" and "Taking the Jesus Pill" (Southern Gothic Rock Operas); "Mortified" (Live Storytelling); "Girl Next Door" (Pole Show); "Lucha Vavoom" (Mexican Wrestling and Burlesque); "Follies King King" (Cabaret with choreographer, Lisa Eaton); critically acclaimed, "L'Effleur des Sens" (French-style Cabaret with choreographer, Cati Jean); "Mental Head Circus" (Aerial Cabaret with choreographer, Terry Beeman); and recently sold-out "The Floor Show," co-produced with Floor Productions and Goldenvoice.

## MARIO MELENDEZ

Mario's passion of interpreting musical works in a contemporary setting inspired him to create and produce, "Wake Not The Dead" (Rock Opera), and a trilogy of David Bowie interpretive concerts that include "Hunky Dory," and "Diamond Dogs," and is currently in production for "Aladdin Sane," the third production, set to open this Fall.



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

December 22, 2023

Dear Mr. Melendez:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Cannabis Regulation Commission for the term ending June 30, 2025, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

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 Personnel's 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 via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at [nicole.enriquez@lacity.org](mailto:nicole.enriquez@lacity.org).

As part of the appointment process, Katy Yaroslavsky, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. Mario Melendez  
December 22, 2023  
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email address listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).

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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Bass" clearly legible.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I  
Mr. Mario Melendez  
December 22, 2023

## **Nominee Check List**

### **I. Within 7 days:**

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org) OR mail them to:  
Office of the Mayor  
Attn: Thomas Arechiga  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012
  - Remuneration Form
  - Undated Separation Letters (2)
  
- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

### **II. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):**

- 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. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.
  - 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 Katy Yaroslavsky
  
- Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

### **IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:**

- Planning and Land Use Management Committee Hearing
  
- Full Council Hearing