County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session Legislative day # 12

RESOLUTION NO. 176 - 2026

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Appointment - Francesca Valencia- LGBTQIA+ Commission

Title: A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Francesca Valencia to the LGBTQIA+ Commission.

Introduced and read first time on OCT 5, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on OCT 19, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ✓, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn ___ by the County Council on OCT 30, 2026.

Certified by Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

WHEREAS, Section 404 of the Howard County Charter and Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code provide for the County Executive to appoint and for the County Council to confirm nominees to Howard County Boards and Commissions created by law; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6.347 and 12.218 of the Howard County Code provide for a LGBTQIA+ Commission in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has proposed the appointment of Francesca Valencia as a member of the LGBTQIA+ Commission; and

WHEREAS, the County Council ratifies the County Executive's special trust and confidence in the abilities of the nominee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 30 day of October, 2026 that the following person is appointed as a member of the LGBTQIA+ Commission to serve from the passage of this Resolution to October 30, 2029 or until a successor is appointed and confirmed:

Francesca Valencia
Laurel, Maryland

Francesca V.

Professional Summary

Community Advocate | Arts Entrepreneur | Civic Leader | Teacher

Dedicated community advocate with experience in community leadership, public engagement, arts participation, and educational programming. Demonstrated ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, foster inclusive environments, and support initiatives that strengthen community connections. Passionate about advancing equity, accessibility, and meaningful opportunities for participation among residents of all backgrounds. Brings a strong commitment to public service, lifelong learning, and community-centered leadership.

Leadership & Community Service

Property Management

- Served as an elected representative for community residents and neighborhood interests.
- Facilitated communication between residents, board members, and management representatives.
- Participated in governance discussions, policy review, and community decision-making processes.
- Addressed resident concerns through collaboration, advocacy, and problem-solving.
- Promoted transparency, accountability, and constructive community engagement.

Arts, Culture, & Community Engagement

Silhouettes Theatre

Active participant in community theatre productions and arts programming.

- Collaborate with performers, volunteers, directors, and production teams to support theatrical productions and community engagement initiatives.
- Contribute to creative environments that encourage collaboration, inclusion, and artistic expression.
- Support arts programming that strengthens community connections and cultural participation.
- Engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds while fostering teamwork and mutual respect.

Laurel Arts Council

Community member and supporter of local arts and cultural initiatives.

- Participate in programs and events that promote arts education, cultural enrichment, and public engagement.
- Support efforts to expand access to creative opportunities within the community.
- Engage with artists, educators, and community members through local cultural initiatives.
- Advocate for the value of arts and culture as tools for education, connection, and community development.

Community Advocacy & Public Engagement

- Engage in community discussions focused on inclusion, accessibility, and resident well-being.
- Support initiatives that encourage civic participation and community involvement.
- Foster welcoming environments where individuals from diverse backgrounds feel respected and represented.
- Promote collaboration and dialogue among community members and local organizations.

Education

Howard Community College & Fullerton College

Studies in Art Psychology, Child Development, and Human Services.

- Academic experiences have strengthened skills in leadership, communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and working with diverse populations.

Core Skills & Knowledge

- Community Outreach & Engagement
- Public Service & Civic Participation
- Leadership & Governance
- Public Communication
- Stakeholder Collaboration
- Program Development
- Event Planning & Coordination
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility
- Conflict Resolution
- Relationship Building
- Strategic Planning
- Arts & Cultural Advocacy

Additional Experience

Entrepreneurship & Community Development

- Exploring community-centered approaches to arts, education, and family engagement through future creative initiatives.
- Researching sustainable models for expanding access to educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities.
- Collaborated organized communities and upcoming artists entrepreneurs for community impact, innovation, and economic development.
- Former President of, Latina Leadership Network - 3 Year Term
- Former President of, Hold On Pain Ends: H.O.P.E Sexual Violence Prevention Group - 4 Year Term
- LGBTQIA+ Representative, Advocate, Ally

Professional Objective

To contribute my experience in community engagement, leadership, arts advocacy, and public service to initiatives that promote inclusion, accessibility, and meaningful participation for all residents. I am committed to supporting efforts that strengthen community connections, amplify diverse voices, and advance equitable opportunities throughout Howard County.