



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

June 1, 2026

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Branka Knezevic to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2030.

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

Ms. Knezevic will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Kirkpatrick Tyler.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Branka Knezevic  
**Commission:** Rent Adjustment Commission  
**End of Term:** 5/20/2030

### Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** F
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 4 - South Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Doctor of Architecture (ArchD) – University of Hawaii at Mānoa,
7. **Occupation/profession:** Founder, Architect, Plāna Architects
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
Gunsberg, Jerod	East LA	14	C	M	5/20/2026
Lundquist, Loraine	North Valley	12	C	F	5/20/2026
Sandoval, Presiliano	North Valley	12	L	M	5/20/2026
Leftwich, Paula	South LA	8	AA	F	5/20/2026
Tyler, Kirkpatrick	Central	10	AA	M	5/20/2026
Brogdon, Carole	Central	4	C	F	5/20/2026
Stolarz, Dash	South Valley	3	C	F	5/20/2026

# BRANKA KNEZEVIC

*Architect, educator, and entrepreneur with nearly two decades of experience leading innovative projects in Los Angeles and beyond. Founder of **Plāna Architects**, a practice rooted in ecological and social sustainability, and **NOVA by Vireo**, an ed-tech platform advancing professional education in design, development, and the built environment. Experienced in shaping policy through sustainable design leadership, community service, and public engagement. Recognized for bridging architecture, planning, and education to improve cities, empower communities, and prepare the next generation of civic and design leaders.*

## **PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Founder | Architect - Plāna Architects**

*Los Angeles, CA | Oct 2016 - Present*

- Lead a design practice dedicated to sustainable, community-focused projects across academic, cultural, residential, and adaptive reuse sectors.
- Provide full architectural and interior design services as well as project management and owner's representation on complex, high-profile projects.
- Champion ecological and social sustainability in architecture, integrating wellness and resilient strategies into the built environment.
- Mentor teams and young professionals, embedding training and professional development into practice culture.

### **Founder & CEO - NOVA by Vireo**

*Los Angeles, CA | 2025 - Present*

- Established a large-scale educational technology platform delivering **50+ courses** (expanding to 150+) in design, construction, sustainability, and professional development.
- Built a scalable digital infrastructure with features such as searchable courses, certification programs, and live events to engage both individual learners and institutional clients.
- Partner with enterprises, universities, and civic organizations to strengthen professional education pipelines in the built environment and adjacent creative industries.

- Advance equity and access by creating affordable and impactful learning opportunities for diverse communities and professionals.

### **Instructor | Industry Expert - LinkedIn Learning (Microsoft)**

*Global | Oct 2018 - Present*

- Produce educational content for an audience of **200,000+ certificate holders worldwide**.
- Courses cover architectural design process, project delivery, sustainable practices, and leadership in creative industries.
- Recognized for clear, engaging teaching style that builds technical, creative, and leadership capacity for professionals at scale.

### **Project Manager | Architect - Frederick Fisher and Partners**

*Los Angeles, CA | 2014 - 2016*

- Managed teams delivering complex cultural and academic projects, including theaters and nonprofit facilities.
- Advised the **California Architects Board** as a Subject Matter Expert, contributing to the development of next-generation architecture licensing exams.

### **Earlier Roles:**

- **Wolcott Architecture Interiors (2013-2014):** Led RFP strategy, large-scale project coordination, and office-wide BIM implementation.
- **Unispace (2012-2013):** Architect of record for multiple workplace projects; managed budgets, consultant contracts, and construction delivery.
- **Branka Studio (2010-2012):** Led independent practice focused on zoning, code compliance, TI, retail, and sustainable real estate ventures.
- **Group70 International (2006-2010, Hawaii):** Spearheaded internal sustainability program, authored LEED training, and advanced firm leadership in ecological design.

### **CIVIC LEADERSHIP & SERVICE**

- **California Architects Board** - Subject Matter Expert, contributing to licensing exam development and professional standards.
- **Executive Board Director, U.S. Green Building Council Hawaii Chapter (2008-2010):** Chaired environmental and policy committees, shaping sustainable building practices.
- **Founding Director, EOS Art Foundation:** Advanced arts and cultural initiatives through community programs.

- **Active Member, AIA & IIDA:** Engaged in advocacy, policy discussions, and thought leadership within architecture and design.

## **EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Doctor of Architecture (ArchD)** - University of Hawaii at Mānoa, 2005
- **Licensed Architect** - California, Hawaii, Washington
- **NCARB Certified** - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
- **LEED Accredited Professional (BD+C)** - Green Building Certification Institute

## **SELECTED PROJECTS**

- **MLK Medical Campus, Foster Care Clinic** - Master Planning & Architecture, Los Angeles
- **William Pereira Office Building** - Historic Preservation & Renovation, Beverly Hills
- **Eisner Law Headquarters** - Beverly Hills (current)
- **Buckley School Quin Martin Renovation & Theater** - Sherman Oaks
- **Occidental College Library Renovation** - Los Angeles
- **Pan-STARRS Observatory** - Mauna Kea, Hawaii



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

June 1, 2026

Dear Ms. Knezevic:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you of your appointment to the Rent Adjustment Commission for the term ending May 20, 2030, subject to confirmation by the Los Angeles City Council.

On behalf of the people of Los Angeles, thank you for your willingness to serve. Our boards and commissions are a vital part of the City's governance, and your leadership and expertise will play an important role in shaping the future of Los Angeles.

To move forward, there are a few steps you must complete prior to the Council's consideration of your appointment. My Commission Affairs team has prepared an attached checklist with deadlines and submission instructions, and they are available to support you throughout the confirmation process.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

KB:lap

Attachment I  
Ms. Branka Knezevic  
June 1, 2026

## **Nominee Check List**

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

- Submit the completed forms, 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: Luz Portillo
  - 200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
  - Los Angeles, CA 90012
  - Remuneration Form
  - Undated Separation Letters (2)
- Schedule a fingerprinting appointment to complete your background check.
  - The Commissions team will connect you with the Personnel Background Unit.
- Complete and file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).
- Submit the CEC Form 60 (Ethics Clearance Form) to the City Ethics Commission.
  - The City Council cannot act on your nomination until the Ethics Department receives and submits your filings.
  - Note: you will be required to submit the same forms again after you are sworn in

### **II. Council Member Meetings:**

You may be asked to meet with Councilmembers prior to your hearings.

- Your City Councilmember Nithya Raman
- Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Council Committee, considering your nomination

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

- Housing and Homelessness Committee Hearing
  - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.
- Full Council Hearing and Oath of Office
  - The Clerk's office will contact you once your item has been scheduled.

### **V. Standing Requirements**

- Notify the Commissions team of any changes in address or contact information.
- If you wish to resign, you must submit a resignation letter to [myr-commissions@lacity.org](mailto:myr-commissions@lacity.org).