



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

April 18, 2025, 1 PM

County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 207A, San Diego, CA 92101

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 1:06 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Ladan Akbarnia

Jay Bell

Jim Gilliam

Jennifer Jeffries

Bob Lehman

Sharlene O'Keefe

Felicia Shaw

Ada Shido

Absent:

Monica Hernandez

Lucas O'Connor

Renée Richetts

Annaleece Wakefield

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES FOR MARCH 24, 2025

ACTION: Moved by Lehman, seconded by Akbarnia, table approval of the minutes for the January 29, 2025 meeting to the next meeting and allow commission members time to add to the minutes.

AYES: Ladan Akbarnia, Jim Gilliam, Jennifer Jeffries, Bob Lehman, Sharlene O'Keefe, Felicia Shaw, Ada Shido

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAIN: Jay Bell

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Youth Engagement

Ada Shido presented on her experiences as a youth commissioner and gave recommendations to help future youth commissioners. Creation of youth commissioner subcommittee to be discussed once new youth commissioners are on board.

b. Retreat

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Retreat confirmed for June 5 from 9 AM – 5 PM at the Lakeside Library. Laura Zucker to do a keynote, and an afternoon session to focus on how to engage Supervisors.

c. Prebys Grants Update

Public Comment: Patricia Frischer asked why applications for the Prebys grant were requested from people who hadn't gotten the Community Enhancement grant before if those applications weren't going to be considered.

Staff gave a brief update that the Prebys Foundation is currently reviewing the proposal from the Commission, and the Board offices were given an update at that point. No organization had been notified yet until the Prebys Foundation gives approval. Applications were requested during this period to allow Districts with remaining community enhancement funds to consider and potentially fund more arts and culture organizations.

d. Local Arts Agency Learning Network Grant Ideas

Commissioners discussed potential ideas for the \$20,000 grant from the Local Arts Agency Learning Network. Outreach and marketing were potential ideas, to be further discussed during the retreat. Additionally, an idea came up to ask the Supervisors to match the \$20,000.

e. Future Meetings

Consensus that the June standing meeting will be moved to the retreat date of June 5, as there is a California Arts Council meeting on June 20. There was no need for a May meeting, and the discussion on whether to change the regular meeting date and time to be done at the retreat after the new youth commissioners' schedules are known.

f. State and Local Partnership

The City still has the designation by resolution to apply for the State Local Partnership. In 2026 would be the first time the Commission may want to revisit applying for the State Local Partnership designation.

5. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE/PROJECT FORMATION, APPOINTMENTS, AND REPORTS

a. Strategic Planning

Next meeting to be scheduled in May based on facilitators' availability.

b. Budget Campaign

Jay Bell summarized lessons learned from the recent budget campaign. It showed the importance of building relationships with the Supervisors' office and a need to show again the importance of why art matters and linking it to each Supervisor's passions. Potential for a board letter to discuss the role of arts and what the County can do to support with existing resources.

c. Public Art Program Recommendations

Public Comment: Renée Richetts mentioned the waiver of VARA in contract to artists and to visit its relation to State and Federal laws.

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An overview of the work of the subcommittee was given, including a public input meeting in December. More discussion was discussed over the waiver of VARA in the contracts, which is allowed in VARA. Artists always have the option to negotiate parts of the contract they do not like.

Updates were also given for current public art projects. Casa de Oro Library has an open call for art. The animal shelter project has selected five artists, to be made public soon.

- d. Local Arts Agency Network
No further updates.

- e. San Diego Artist Count
San Diego ART Matters is working on getting funding for parts of the project. The County's Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics will be assisting with the survey instrument and analysis.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC ART PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

None

7. STAFF REPORT

Budget release is coming on May 1. There is a website with all the important dates, including ways to participate. Youth commissioner appointments are in progress. Marketing occurred via the County's social media, Live Well Youth Sector, Library, Govdelivery emails, and emails to points of contact in the local high school and higher education schools. Appointments on track to be made in May.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.