



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

**March 18, 2026, 11:00 AM  
County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 402A, San Diego, CA 92101**

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL | [View Here](#)  
Commissioner Bob Lehman called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.  
Present: Bob Lehman (Vice Chair), Jay Bell, Monica Hernandez, Jennifer Jeffries, Sharlene O'Keefe, Renée Richett  
Absent: Jim Gilliam, Nadia Reyes, Marisa Rosales, Felicia Shaw
2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS  
None
3. CHAIR'S REPORTS | [View Here](#)  
Public Comments: None
  - a. Action - February 4, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the minutes for February 4, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0-0; the motion passed. Yea: (6) Bell, Hernandez, Jeffries, Lehman, O'Keefe, Richetts  
Nay: (0)  
Abstention: (0)  
Recusal: (0)
  - b. Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Lehman reported County staff would share a poll to help with identifying a new day and time for the Commission's bimonthly meetings.
  - c. Other Reports - None
4. ACTION ITEMS | [View Here](#)  
Public Comments: None
  - a. ACTION - Commissioner Appointments to Public Art Subcommittee  
Commissioner Lehman introduced the item regarding the appointment of two Commissioners to fill vacancies on the Public Art Subcommittee created by recent Commissioner transitions. Commissioner Richetts provided an overview of the subcommittee's current work, the existing members, Commissioners Gilliam, O'Keefe, and herself, and the expected time commitment. Commissioner Lehman then asked for

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volunteers to serve; no Commissioners expressed interest. As a result, the action was postponed, and the subcommittee will continue with its three current members.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: None

- a. Co-partnership with San Diego ART Matters, Creative Conversations: Rural and Unincorporated San Diego County.  
Commissioner Lehman reported on the recent San Diego ART Matters recent event. Commissioners in attendance shared their insights.
- b. Grant opportunities currently open in arts and culture across the region  
California Arts Council (CAC) grant opportunities are open. CAC will host a workshop in San Diego County in April, and the City of San Diego, which is the administering organization for Region 8, has the CAC's Individual Artists Fellowship opportunity open for individual artists in San Diego and Imperial Counties open through April 30, 2026.
- c. Advocacy for arts and culture funding.  
Commissioners discussed protocols for the Commission as an advisory body, as well as advocacy in their individual capacity as residents of San Diego County.
- d. Artists Count: San Diego + Tijuana  
Commissioner Lehman reported on the upcoming binational initiative designed to strengthen the regional creative workforce, support research, provide project funding and offer professional development for artists. The initiative is a partnership between City of San Diego, the International Community Foundation, the Prebys Foundation, San Diego ART Matters, and the Parker Foundation. The launch is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

6. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: Technical issue with public comment from Patricia Frischer.

- a. Strategic Planning Committee
  - i. "In Community" Networking Events: A series of networking events in each supervisorial district to connect artists, cultural organizations, and civic leaders across the county's diverse geographies to build shared understanding, collaboration, and advocacy for the arts.

Commissioners discussed the recent District 4 "In Community" event. Additional details were shared on the upcoming District 3 "In Community" event, scheduled for March 20 at ICA North. Timing and logistics for future gatherings and coordination with San Diego ART Matters which is hosting the series was also discussed.

- b. Public Art Project Advisory Committees  
None. Commissioners discussed setting a date in May for the Public Art Subcommittee to reconvene.

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7. STAFF REPORTS | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: Technical issue with public comment from Patricia Frischer.

a. Arts and Culture Commission vacancies

Christine E. Jones, the County’s Manager of Art, Film and Creative Industries reminded Commissioners that there are currently two Youth Commissioner vacancies in addition to the District 3 vacancy on the Commission. To fill the youth seats, the County will release a call in April for young people ages 16-24 to apply.

b. Update on an initiative being explored by Supervisorial Districts 3 and 4 staff related to arts and culture

None

c. Other Reports

The County is seeking feedback on budget development process. A preferences survey and the budget priorities feedback tool are now available on the Engage San Diego County website. The feedback and survey links are open through March 22.

April is Arts, Culture and Creativity Month in the state of California. This year, a proclamation will be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting, proclaiming April as Arts, Culture and Creativity Month in San Diego County. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. on March 24.

San Diego County Library seeks performers and educators to provide programs at library branches on an as-needed basis. All performers and educators must have an approved contract to do business with San Diego County Library branches. The application is open until March 31, on the County’s BuyNet.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: Patricia Frischer provided a comment about the upcoming “In Community” event promotion.

Commissioners shared several recent and upcoming art exhibitions and activities happening in the county.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lehman adjourned the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: May 12, 2026

ATTENTION: Arts and Culture Commission

CONTACT: Jim Gilliam, Commission Chair

SUBJECT: Consider Creating a New Subcommittee or Expanding the Strategic Planning Committee's Role for the County's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*

REFERENCES: [San Diego County Administrative Ordinance Article IIIw Arts and Culture Commission Bylaws of the San Diego County Arts and Culture Commission](#)

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consider creating a new ad hoc subcommittee or expanding the responsibilities of the Strategic Planning Committee to advise the Arts and Culture Commission on the implementation and ongoing support of the County of San Diego's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*.

**SUMMARY:**

The Arts and Culture Commission (Commission) established the Strategic Planning Committee on August 16, 2023, initially as a subcommittee and later as a standing committee. The purpose of the standing committee is to advise the Commission on the development and implementation of its strategic plan and related initiatives. Current committee members include Bob Lehman and Felicia Shaw (Co-Chairs), Jim Gilliam, and Sharlene O'Keefe.

The Commission may consider expanding the responsibilities of the Strategic Planning Committee to advise the Commission on the implementation and ongoing support of the County of San Diego's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*. This assignment would include providing input on program design, criteria and community engagement. One additional Commissioner may be appointed to the committee as needed.

Alternatively, the Commission may consider creating a new ad hoc subcommittee specifically tasked with advising the Commission on the implementation and ongoing support of the County of San Diego's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*. This subcommittee would provide input on program design, criteria and community engagement. Establishing a new subcommittee would require appointing a chair and vice-chair, along with up to three additional Commissioners. The ad hoc subcommittee would remain active until it has completed its assigned work.



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: May 12, 2026

ATTENTION: Arts and Culture Commission

CONTACT: Jim Gilliam, Commission Chair

SUBJECT: Consider Recommending Revisions to the Arts and Culture Commission Composition, Youth Members

REFERENCES: [San Diego County Administrative Ordinance Article IIIw Arts and Culture Commission](#)

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Consider recommending revisions to the San Diego County Administration Ordinance Article IIIw, Arts and Culture Commission, to replace the three youth seats on the Commission with three designated seats for San Diego County artists, nominated by the Chief Administrative Officer. Alternatively, the Commission may choose to make no recommendation at this time.

**SUMMARY:**

Under the San Diego County Administrative Ordinance Article IIIw, the Arts and Culture Commission is composed of thirteen (13) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. In addition to two appointments from each Supervisor, the Commission includes three youth members (ages 16–24 at the time of appointment) nominated by the Chief Administrative Officer. All members must be residents of San Diego County. Currently, two of the three youth seats are vacant, and these positions have historically experienced frequent turnover.

To address the vacancies, the County has issued a call for youth applicants to serve on the Commission, with an application deadline of May 26, 2026.

The Commission may consider recommending amendments to Article IIIw to replace the three youth seats with three seats designated for San Diego County artists. Alternatively, the Commission may choose to make no recommendation at this time and reassess after evaluating the outcome of the current recruitment effort for youth members.