



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

May 21, 2026, 11:00 AM

County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 402A, San Diego, CA 92101

MEETING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL | [View Here](#)

Commissioner Jim Gilliam called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Present: Jim Gilliam (Chair), Bob Lehman (Vice Chair), Jay Bell, Monica Hernandez, Jennifer Jeffries, Sharlene O’Keefe, Renée Richetts, Marisa Rosales, Felicia Shaw

Absent: Nadia Reyes

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Commissioners Bell and Jeffries arrived after non-agenda public comments.

3. CHAIR’S REPORTS | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: None

Chair Gilliam reviewed the new agenda format with the Commissioners.

- a. Action – March 18, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Richetts made a motion to approve the minutes for March 18, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner O’Keefe seconded the motion. The vote was 8-0-1; the motion passed.
Yea: (8) Bell, Gilliam, Hernandez, Jeffries, Lehman, O’Keefe, Richetts, Rosales
Nay: (0)
Abstention: (1) Shaw
Recusal: (0)
- b. Commission Meeting Schedule. Chair Gilliam noted that he wanted to offer Commissioners the option of meeting more frequently and suggested revisiting the topic after staff presents on the County’s *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*.
- c. Other Reports – None

4. PRESENTATION ITEMS | [View Here](#)

Chair Gilliam changed the order of the agenda and introduced item 4b.

Public Comments: Carlos Cristiani commented on the advocacy efforts that went into the County’s new public investment in arts and culture and recognized the Arts and Culture Commission for its works.

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- b. County's Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative.
Chair Gilliam called on Christine E. Jones, Manager of Art, Film and Creative Industries to present the item. Jones provided an overview of the *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative* approved by the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on May 6, 2026, with a commitment of up to \$2.75 million, including \$2.25 million in ongoing annual support and that it now advances for further consideration in the County's budget development processes this spring with final budget deliberation and adoption by the Board of Supervisors scheduled for June 23. Chair Gilliam also shared the Commission would serve in an advisory capacity for the implementation and ongoing support of the County's initiative, including program design, criteria, and community engagement. Commissioners asked staff questions about preliminary preparations and then Chair Gilliam inquired about whether the Commission wanted to go to a monthly meeting format and after discussion decided to stay with the bi-monthly meetings at this time and to consider future monthly meetings as needed.

Chair Gilliam then moved on to agenda item 5.

5. ACTION ITEMS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None

- a. ACTION – 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
Commissioner Gilliam introduced the item regarding whether to establish a new ad hoc subcommittee or expand the responsibilities of the Strategic Planning Committee to advise the Arts and Culture Commission on the implementation and ongoing support of the County's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*. Discussion followed regarding the available options and Commissioners' interest in serving. Commissioner Bell moved to create a new ad hoc subcommittee specifically tasked with advising the Commission on the implementation and ongoing support of the County's initiative including program design, criteria, and community engagement. Commissioner Lehman seconded the motion. The vote was 8-0-0; the motion passed.
Yea: (8) Bell, Gilliam, Hernandez, Jeffries, Lehman, O'Keefe, Richetts, Rosales
Nay: (0)
Abstention: (0)
Recusal: (0)

Commissioner Shaw had to leave the meeting before action on the item above.

Chair Gilliam asked Commissioners to volunteer for service on the newly formed ad hoc subcommittee. Commissioners Bell, Gilliam, Hernandez, Lehman, and Richetts volunteered to serve, with Commissioner Bell appointed as chair.

- b. ACTION – Consider Recommending Revisions to the Arts and Culture Commission Composition, Youth Members
Commissioner Gilliam introduced the agenda item to consider recommending revisions to the San Diego County Administration Ordinance, Article IIIw, related to the Arts and

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Culture Commission. The item was whether to replace the three existing youth seats with three designated seats for San Diego County artists, to be nominated by the Chief Administrative Officer. Commissioners also had the option to make no recommendation at this time. Following initial discussion, the meeting recessed briefly due to a technical computer issue. Upon reconvening, Chair Gilliam resumed the conversation. After further discussion, the Commission chose not to act or make a recommendation to the County at this time. As a result, the current Commission composition, including the three youth seats, remains unchanged.

Chair Gilliam then moved back to agenda item 4a.

4. PRESENTATION ITEMS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None

- a. Public Art at the East Region Crisis Stabilization Unit
Chair Gilliam introduced Leah Goodwin, the public art consultant, who worked on the public art development for the County's East Region Crisis Stabilization Unit capital improvement. Goodwin provided an overview of the recently completed County artworks for the facility by artists Kim Emerson, Christie Beniston, Thao French and Michael Vance Pemberton.

Chair Gilliam then moved on to agenda item 6.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None

- a. Grant opportunities currently open in arts and culture across the region
None.
- b. Artists Count: San Diego + Tijuana
Commissioner Lehman provided an update on the binational initiative aimed at strengthening the region's creative workforce. The effort supports research, provides project funding, and offers professional development opportunities for artists. This initiative is a collaborative partnership between the City of San Diego, the International Community Foundation, the Prebys Foundation, San Diego ART Matters, and the Parker Foundation. The eligibility deadline has now closed, with more than 500 submissions received. The initiative is moving into the next phase of its selection process. Additionally, the Artists Count survey remains open, and artists are encouraged to participate so the region can gain a clearer understanding of their needs and experiences.

7. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None

- a. Strategic Planning Committee
No committee reports.

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Commissioner Hernandez shared that the upcoming District 1 “In Community” event, is anticipated for June 30. Logistics for the gathering and coordination with San Diego ART Matters which is hosting the series was also discussed.

b. Public Art Subcommittee

Commissioner Richetts reported that the subcommittee recently met and concluded that the items under discussion could now be transitioned to staff. With its work complete, the subcommittee has fulfilled its purpose and is formally dissolved.

c. Public Art Project Advisory Committees

None.

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

Public Comments: None

a. Arts and Culture Commission vacancies

Christine E. Jones, the County’s Manager of Art, Film, and Creative Industries, reminded Commissioners that the Commission currently has two youth commissioner vacancies, in addition to the vacancy for District 3.

b. Other Reports

Jones reported that the County’s recommended Operational Plan for 2026–2028 was released on May 18, with several public feedback opportunities posted on the Engage platform, including an in-person budget open house with public art tours of the County Operations Center. Final budget adoption is scheduled for the June 23 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Jones noted that an updated publication of artworks at the County Operations Center is underway, and that several public art projects tied to capital improvements, including the Casa de Oro Library and Santee Animal Shelter, will be completed this year.

Jones added that the County’s Probation Department has two open Requests for Quotation (RFQ) due in early June: one for a creative expression program and another for creative expression services to support a youth publication. Both are available on the County’s procurement portal Buynet.

Jones also reported that on April 21, the Board of Supervisors voted to launch the San Diego County Film Initiative and the County has now issued an RFQ for a contractor to develop a film initiative implementation plan for a potential County film office and commission. It will also include a proposed rebate program designed to incentivize film and media production in the San Diego region. The RFQ is posted on Buynet and closes June 11.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Public Comments: None.

No reports.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gilliam adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.