



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
ARTS INITIATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE**

August 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER | [View Here](#)

Commissioner Jay Bell called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

Present: Jay Bell, Jim Gilliam, Monica Hernandez, Bob Lehman, Renée Richetts

Absent: None

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS | [View Here](#)

None

4. CHAIR'S REPORT | [View Here](#)

Public Comments: None

a. ACTION - July 30, 2026, Arts Initiative Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Bell introduced the item. Commissioner Gilliam made a motion to approve the minutes for July 30, 2026, Arts Initiative Subcommittee Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Richetts seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0-0; the motion passed.

Yea: (5) Bell, Hernandez, Gilliam, Lehman, Richetts

Nay: (0)

Abstention: (0)

Recusal: (0)

b. Other Reports

Denice Garcia, the County's Chief Binational Affairs Officer, was introduced. She provided an overview of her role leading the County's binational creative economy work as part of the County's arts and culture initiative and shared updates on related early engagement efforts.

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

Public Comments: None

a. County's Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative Updates

Christine E. Jones, Manager of Art, Film and Creative Industries, presented draft concepts for Fieldwork, San Diego AIR, and SPACE, noting that all program concepts remain preliminary and subject to further County review. Jones described Fieldwork as an 18-month, practice-based development program for artists and cultural practitioners offering flexible funding and capacity building, including cohort learning and peer exchange. Discussion covered application format, technical assistance, peer review, ways to support participation across geography and career stages, exploration of feasibility of potential use of a random draw after peer-review, and possible roles for commissioners in the review process. She introduced San Diego AIR as a

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12-month civic residency placing artists within County departments. Discussion focused on procurement and selection processes, compensation structure, insurance and tax considerations, clarity of residency scope, and ensuring departments opt in and are prepared to support the residency. Jones presented SPACE as creative space development program providing direct funding and technical assistance for early-stage development projects. Each project would produce a tangible planning output for a countywide creative space repository. She noted that the first cycle would include an assessment of County-owned properties for potential reuse and activation. Discussion emphasized the need for a flexible funding range, recognition that early-stage costs often exceed \$30,000, the importance of feasibility and planning support, project viability, and opportunities to reuse County-owned properties. Jones concluded that collectively, Fieldwork, San Diego AIR, and SPACE aim to strengthen artists and cultural practitioners, support civic innovation, and build long-term creative infrastructure. Internal operational evaluations continue, recruitment for a one-year Management Fellow is underway, and development of the Black Arts and Culture District grant agreement remains in progress. Jones emphasized that these are draft concepts, subject to further County review, and will continue refining them. Updated versions will be shared at the next meeting in September.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Public Comments: None
No reports.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bell adjourned the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.