



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

July 16, 2026, 11:00 AM
County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 302, San Diego, CA 92101

MEETING MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL | [View Here](#)
Commissioner Jim Gilliam called the meeting to order at 11:02 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
3. CHAIR’S REPORTS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None
 - a. Action – May 21, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the minutes for May 21, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion. The vote was 9-0-0; the motion passed.
Yea: (9) Bell, Gilliam, Hernandez, Jeffries, Lehman, O’Keefe, Richetts, Rosales, Shaw
Nay: (0)
Abstention: (0)
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. ACTION ITEMS | [View Here](#)
 - a. ACTION – Consider Requesting Authorization to Conduct Teleconference (Hybrid) Meetings.
Commissioner Bell made a motion to request authorization from the County’s Board of Supervisors to allow the Arts and Culture Commission, including its committees and subcommittees, to conduct meetings via teleconference (hybrid format). Commission meeting. Commissioner O’Keefe seconded the motion. The vote was 9-0-0; the motion passed.

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Yea: (9) Bell, Gilliam, Hernandez, Jeffries, Lehman, O’Keefe, Richetts, Rosales, Shaw
Nay: (0)
Abstention: (0)
Recusal: (0)

5. 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 reported that the Commission has two current youth vacancies, with a third expected due to consecutive unexcused absences per bylaws. Outreach began April 6 through County Communications, schools, and youth-focused organizations. Eleven applicants were interviewed in June, and reference checks are underway. Youth Commissioners, nominated by the Chief Administrative Officer and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. New commissioners are expected to attend their first Commission meeting in September.

b. Update on County’s Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative

Jones provided an update the initiative including Board of Supervisors direction, research foundations, and upcoming program conceptual development, including the County’s current evaluation of infrastructure needs for program implementation; steps for developing program concepts and structure; the Arts and Culture Commission and its Arts Initiative subcommittee’s advisory role. Since Board approval on May 6 and funding confirmation in June, the County team, including Economic Development, Government Affairs, and the Land Use and Environment Group Executive Office, has begun building the initiative’s foundation. Jennifer Lawson, Land Use and Environment Group Chief Operations Officer, was introduced.

c. Other Reports

Jones updated Commissioners on the County film initiative. CVL Economics has been engaged to develop an implementation plan outlining operational and fiscal structures for a potential film office and commission, including a proposed rebate program to attract film and media production to the region.

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

Public Comments: None

a. Strategic Planning Committee

i. October Retreat

Commissioner Shaw reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met to review the Commission’s strategic plan and bylaws. The committee noted that the current plan has served its purpose and that updates are needed to reflect new initiatives and clarify the Commission’s role and goals. They intend to gather feedback and return with recommendations, with a potential retreat in November.

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Commissioner Hernandez reported on the District 1 “In Community” event held June 30 at the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center. Commissioners Gilliam and Jeffries provided an update on planning for the District 5 “In Community” gathering, which will be held at the Oceanside Public Library, with the date to be confirmed for September.

b. Arts Initiative Subcommittee

Commissioner Bell emphasized the importance of strong community engagement, maintaining a clear schedule, and establishing a solid foundation for the future as part of the County’s arts and culture initiative. He noted that the subcommittee will hold its first meeting on July 30.

c. Public Art Project Advisory Committees

Commissioners provided brief updates for Casa de Oro Library, Edgemoor Acute Psychiatric Hospital and Animal Shelter projects.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS | [View Here](#)
Public Comments: None.

Commissioners shared updates on upcoming arts events and exhibitions, including the RISE Arts arts advocacy panel, the Fiber Art Center exhibition, and current shows at both the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Institute of Contemporary Art. They also noted a recent Union-Tribune article featuring Commissioner Richetts.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gilliam adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.