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

**September 17, 2026, 11:00 AM**
**County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 310, San Diego, CA 92101**

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL | View Here
   Commissioner Jim Gilliam called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.
   Present: Jim Gilliam (Chair), Bob Lehman (Vice Chair), Jay Bell, Holly Fisher, Genevieve Flores, Jennifer Jeffries, Sharlene O'Keefe, Renée Richetts, Felicia Shaw, Wen Song, Alex C. Villafuerte
   Absent: Monica Hernandez, Marisa Rosales

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS
   None

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3. CHAIR'S REPORTS | View Here
   Public Comments: None

   a. New Commissioner Welcome and Introductions. New Commissioner Alex C. Villafuerte, representing District 3, was introduced, and Chair Gilliam provided a brief overview of Alex's background and community involvement. Three new youth commissioners, Holly Fisher, Genevieve Flores and Wen Song, were also introduced. Chair Gilliam provided a brief overview of their background and connection to San Deigo on their behalf.

   b. Action – July 16, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Jeffries made a motion to approve the minutes for July 16, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner O'Keefe seconded the motion. The vote was 11-0-0; the motion passed.
   Yea: (11) Bell, Gilliam, Fisher, Flores, Jeffries, Lehman, O'Keefe, Richetts, Shaw, Song, Villafuerte
   Nay: (0)
   Abstention: (0)
   Recusal: (0)

   c. Other Reports – None

4. COMMITTEE/SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS | View Here
   Public Comments: None

   a. Strategic Planning Committee
      i. "In Community" Networking Events
      Commissioner Gilliam highlighted Supervisor Aguirre's participation in the previous "In Community" event in District 1. He also reminded the Commission of the

upcoming District 5 "In Community" gathering, scheduled for September 23 at the Oceanside Public Library, and noted that both District 5 supervisor candidates will be in attendance.

ii. Other Updates
The committee will explore the possibility of continuing the "In Community" events and planning for other potential local activities. Commissioner Shaw also reported that the October retreat has been cancelled and that the committee will consider developing a proposed work plan for presentation to the full Commission.

b. Public Art Project Advisory Committees
i. Casa de Oro Library Grand Opening
Commissioner Shaw reported that the library's grand opening will be held on October 17 and encouraged commissioners to attend.

c. Arts Initiative Subcommittee
Commissioner Bell introduced guest speaker Meghan Elledge, Chief of Staff for Supervisor District 3 Terra Lawson-Remer, who shared that the district is developing arts and culture legislation and welcomed future invited comments and feedback from the Commission.

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5. PRESENTATION | View Here
Public Comments: None

a. Update on County's *Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative*
Christine E. Jones, the County's Manager of Art, Film, and Creative Industries, provided an update on the arts initiative, including Board of Supervisors direction, research findings, and program concept development. Discussion topics included the County's evaluation of infrastructure needs to support successful program implementation; the process for developing program concepts and structure; the advisory role of the Arts and Culture Commission and its Arts Initiative Subcommittee; and updates on key initiative components, including artist grants, an artist-in-residence program, artist space grants, the Black Arts and Culture District, the County arts and cultural district designation program, and broader creative sector systems. Jones also introduced Denice Garcia, Chief Binational Affairs Officer, who provided an update on the binational creative economy component of the initiative.

6. STAFF REPORTS | View Here
Public Comments: None

Christine E. Jones noted that the California Association of Public Art Administrators' annual in-person convening will take place in San Diego on October 9 and 10 and encouraged interested commissioners to contact her for additional information. Jones also reported that the development of the County's film initiative implementation plan is nearing completion and is expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors later this fall.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS | View Here

Public Comments: None

Commissioners shared updates on upcoming arts events, exhibitions, and artist opportunities. They also noted that the County's Community Enhancement and Neighborhood Investment opportunities for local nonprofits are open and emphasized encouraging local arts and culture organizations to apply.

8. ADJOURNMENT
Commissioner Gilliam adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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