



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**DRAFT**

Newport Beach Civic Center – Council Chambers  
100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach 92660  
Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 5:00 PM

***City Arts Commission Members:***

Heather Ignatin, Chair  
Vanessa Moore, Vice Chair  
David Anastos, Commissioner  
John Blom, Commissioner  
Cory Glass, Commissioner  
Tiare Meegan, Commissioner  
Laurel Tippett, Commissioner

***Staff Members:***

Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director  
Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager  
Camille Escareal-Garcia, Cultural Arts Assistant

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**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Heather Ignatin called the City Arts Commission Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Chair Heather Ignatin  
Vice Chair Vanessa Moore  
Commissioner David Anastos  
Commissioner John Blom  
Commissioner Cory Glass  
Commissioner Tiare Meegan  
Commissioner Laurel Tippett

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director  
Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager  
Camille Escareal-Garcia, Cultural Arts Assistant

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Ignatin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The Notice to the Public was read, explaining the public comment procedures and requesting that cell phones be turned off or set to silent mode.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Consent Calendar Items**

- 1. Minutes of the January 8, 2026, City Arts Commission Meeting**
- 2. Financial Report**

Review of financial information.

Chair Ignatin asked for commissioner comments on the consent calendar items. Jim Mosher from the public requested a minor correction to the minutes, changing "Corona del Mar Residence Association" to "Corona del Mar Residents Association" on page 6. He also noted discrepancies in the financial report calculations, pointing out that the amount available shown as \$262,000 did not match his calculation of \$218,000 when subtracting expenses from the budget, creating a \$43,995 difference.

Library Services Manager Rebecca Lightfoot acknowledged the Excel formula error and promised to have it corrected by the next meeting.

**Motion** by Chair Ignatin, seconded by Commissioner Tippet, to approve the consent calendar with corrections to the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously (7-0-0-0).

**VI. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**A. Items for Review and Possible Action**

**3. Central Library Gallery Exhibit Recommendations**

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission approve the recommendations made by the Art in Public Places Library Gallery Ad Hoc Subcommittee to approve exhibitions by Roy Gunthier and Kathy Kehoe-Bambeck in the Central Library lobby gallery space.

Library Services Manager Lightfoot presented recommendations from the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee to approve exhibitions by Roy Gunthier and Kathy Kehoe-Bambeck in the Central Library lobby gallery space. Sample artwork from both artists was included in the commissioners' packets.

**Motion** by Chair Ignatin, seconded by Commissioner Anastos, to approve artists Roy Gunthier and Kathy Kehoe-Bambeck for the Central Library Lobby Gallery space. The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-0).

#### 4. Central Library Gallery Exhibit Artist for Consideration

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission vote to either approve or reject an exhibition by Lawrence Sherwin, as the Art in Public Places Subcommittee did not reach consensus on recommending the artist for approval to exhibit in the Central Library Lobby Gallery.

Staff presented artist Lawrence Sherwin's application for exhibition, noting that the Art in Public Places Subcommittee did not reach consensus on recommending the artist. The proposed exhibition featured abstract photographs taken through car windshields during car washes.

Commissioner Meegan provided background information, noting that Sherwin volunteers as a photographer for the Newport Beach Independent, has exhibited with showcase galleries, and is a member of the OC Finance Association. Vice Chair Moore expressed interest in the car wash series, finding it different from typical submissions.

Commissioner Blom raised concerns about the artistic merit, questioning whether taking pictures of soap suds on windshields during car washes set appropriate standards for exhibition. He compared the work unfavorably to the current gallery exhibition and worried about lowering exhibition standards.

Commissioner Meegan defended the work, noting the extensive post-photography editing and the artist's intentional approach to creating abstracts from everyday experiences. Commissioner Anastos, a member of the ad hoc subcommittee, suggested sending the item back to subcommittee for further review rather than taking a vote.

The discussion revealed that while these specific images were submitted, there was flexibility for minor substitutions if pieces became unavailable, though this practice concerned some commissioners about maintaining consistency with approved submissions.

Jim Mosher suggested the Commission might consider exhibiting two artists simultaneously to avoid repetitive single-artist shows entirely filling the space.

**Motion** by Commissioner Blom to reject Lawrence Sherwin's application for exhibit. Commissioner Anastos seconded. The motion did not pass (3-4-0-0) with Commissioners Ignatin, Meeghan, Moore and Tippett opposed.

**Motion** by Chair Ignatin to approve an exhibition by Lawrence Sherwin for the Central Library Gallery space. Seconded by Commissioner Tippett. The motion passed (4-1-2-0) with Commissioner Blom opposed and Commissioners Anastos and Glass abstaining.

#### 5. Revisions to the Applications for Review and Consideration of Art

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission review and approve the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommended changes to the Application for Review and Consideration of Art.

Library Services Manager Lightfoot explained that staff separated the previously combined application into two distinct forms: one for exhibition of art in the Central Library gallery and another for review and consideration of acquisition of art by the City. The changes

incorporated City Council Policy I-11 regarding art acquisition and clarified rules and processes for both exhibition and acquisition.

Vice Chair Moore suggested modifications to allow the subcommittee to accept all or only a portion of submitted pieces and to require artists to submit alternate pieces. The discussion revealed concerns about artwork substitution without Subcommittee approval.

Commissioner Anastos recommended adding language to clarify that artists cannot change submitted works without resubmission and to allow the Subcommittee to accept fewer pieces than submitted.

Jim Mosher commented on the acquisition application, noting that Policy I-11 requires City Council approval and suggesting minor language changes regarding transportation arrangements and checkbox clarifications. He also recommended including descriptions of available gallery space dimensions.

Commissioner Meegan explained that separating the applications would prevent misleading artists about ongoing acquisition drives, as the city intends to use acquisition applications very judiciously.

The commission determined that additional refinement was needed before approval.

**Motion** by Commissioner Tippett, seconded by Chair Ignatin, to continue the item and send both applications back to the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee and staff for revision. The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0-0).

## **6. Cultural Arts Activities**

Monthly review of cultural arts activities from the Library Administrative Office for upcoming Library and City arts events and services

Library Services Manager Lightfoot reported on current and upcoming activities. The photography exhibition by Soung-won Park continues in the Central Library Gallery for a few more weeks. Dennis Carrie's historical figures and portrait painting exhibition will be installed April 6th.

The Student Art Exhibition held in February received positive feedback from families and was featured in a Daily Pilot article. An upcoming spin art booth will be hosted at the Mayor's Egg Race event on March 28th at 10 AM on the Civic Center lawn. Call for entries for the 59th Annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition opens April 6th.

Chair Ignatin commended the Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee and staff for successfully bringing back the Student Art Exhibition after a year's absence, noting the raised standards.

## **B. Monthly Reports**

### **7. Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Commissioner Anastos, Commissioner Meegan

The subcommittee discussed items covered earlier in the meeting regarding exhibition applications and application revisions.

**8. Art Week Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Tippet

Vice Chair Moore reported that the subcommittee met and began working on the calendar. Applications will be extended through the end of April with a goal of having the calendar ready by May. Oasis Senior Center will be participating, and Commissioner Tippet will work on securing additional galleries and children's activities.

**9. Music and Live Entertainment Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Chair Ignatin reported that a meeting was held but provided no specific details.

**10. Cultural Arts Grants Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Meegan

Vice Chair Moore reported that Wildlife Jewels, one of the grant applicants recommended for funding, provided the specific dates for their event. The grant recommendations went before City Council and were approved.

**11. Newport Beach Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore reported that the subcommittee met with the Arts Foundation to discuss holding the Art Exhibition on the same day as Art in the Park. Another meeting is scheduled for the following week.

**12. Public Relations and Marketing Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore reported submitting sponsorship opportunities to the Arts Foundation for the summer concerts on the green. The Foundation expressed interest in adding items to their website for sponsorships and working to secure sponsorships for bands.

**13. Sculpture Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Commissioner Blom

The subcommittee did not meet. Commissioner Blom noted that recent activity regarding the police station has provided more advertising for the Sculpture Exhibition than ever before.

**14. Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Commissioner Anastos, Commissioner Meegan, Commissioner Tippet

Commissioner Anastos reported plans to meet with staff to determine the process for organizing a student performing arts event in the new lecture hall.

**15. Newport Beach Arts Foundation Liaison**

Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore attended the Arts Foundation meeting and reported they are working on Art in the Park with their hired event planner from previous years. They will send reminders about the date change to past participants and open vendor submissions in the coming weeks.

**16. Historical Resources Liaison**

Commissioner Blom

No report was provided.

**17. General Plan Update Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Ignatin, Moore, Blom

No report was provided.

**VII. CITY ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)**

Chair Ignatin announced the sunsetting of both the General Plan Update Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the Cultural Arts Grants Ad Hoc Subcommittee. No other announcements were made.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT – 5:44 P.M.**

Chair Ignatin adjourned the meeting.