



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**DRAFT**

Newport Beach Civic Center – Council Chambers  
100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach 92660  
Thursday, April 9, 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**

Vice Chair Vanessa Moore called the City Arts Commission Regular Meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Vanessa Moore  
Commissioner David Anastos  
Commissioner Cory Glass  
Commissioner Tiare Meegan

Commissioners Absent: Chair Heather Ignatin (excused)  
Commissioner John Blom (excused)  
Commissioner Laurel Tippet (excused)

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

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Moore 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.

Vice Chair Moore invited commissioner comments on the Consent Calendar Items, including the minutes of the March 12, 2026, meeting and the Financial Report. Hearing none, and as no members of the public were present, a motion was called.

**Motion** by Commissioner Meegan, seconded by Commissioner Glass, to approve the consent calendar with corrections to the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0-3).

VI. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

3. **Revisions to the Applications for Review and Consideration of Art by the City of Newport Beach and Application for Exhibition of Art at the Central Library Lobby Gallery**

Staff recommends 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 Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach and Application for Exhibition of Art at the Central Library Lobby Gallery*.

Library Services Manager Rebecca Lightfoot reported that this item had been brought before the Commission the previous month, and that revisions based on commissioner feedback had since been incorporated and vetted by the City Attorney. Key changes included: added language giving the Commission the ability to approve all or portions of submitted artwork; a requirement that substitutions to the original exhibition application must receive Commission approval before being displayed; updated wording in the acquisition application from "upon acceptance" to "if accepted"; and clarifying language describing the approval chain from the Arts Commission to City Council.

Commissioner Glass asked about the nature of the challenges being raised by artists. Manager Lightfoot noted that some artists had already expressed concerns about the new requirements, particularly around the substitution process and committing to specific works far in advance — one artist noted they may no longer own a piece by the time of an exhibition scheduled a year out. Lightfoot acknowledged this was the first major revision to the policy in decades and that a learning curve was expected, with the possibility of further refinements to come.

**Motion** by Commissioner Anastos, seconded by Commissioner Meegan, to approve the revised Application for Review and Consideration of Art by the City of Newport Beach and the Application for Exhibition of Art at the Central Library Lobby Gallery. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0-3).

#### **4. Bronze Recreation of Sculpture *Seagulls in Flight***

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission discuss and approve the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to allocate funds to recast *Seagulls in Flight* in bronze and put the original piece in storage to prevent further damage.

Manager Lightfoot presented background on *Seagulls in Flight*, a sculpture donated to the city in 1960 — the first artwork formally accepted by the City of Newport Beach — placed at the Corona Del Mar Branch Library in memory of Molly McClintock, a local teenager who died in a car accident at age 18. The piece underwent significant repairs in 2015. Due to the sculpture's construction (rebar with a stone exterior), expanding rebar is causing ongoing cracking and deterioration, with no permanent repair solution available.

Two options were presented: (1) repair the existing sculpture at a quoted cost of \$8,105, with the caveat that this would not be a permanent fix and further deterioration would continue; or (2) recast the piece in bronze through Gerard Basil's Studio at a cost of \$7,580, placing the bronze reproduction outside the Corona Del Mar Branch Library and placing the original in storage pending a future deaccession decision. The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommended the bronze recast. Manager Lightfoot noted that bronze sculptures require ongoing quarterly maintenance cleaning, with the large *Sphere 112* running approximately \$825 per quarter, though the smaller *Seagulls in Flight* would likely cost less given its size and partially sheltered location.

Vice Chair Moore questioned whether recasting in stone had been considered, noting that the original had required minimal maintenance since 1960 with only one major repair, and that ongoing bronze cleaning costs could compound significantly over time. Manager Lightfoot acknowledged no quote for a stone recast had been obtained and noted this would need professional consultation to determine feasibility.

Commissioners also raised a philosophical concern: replacing the original sculpture with a bronze reproduction fundamentally changes the historical and memorial significance of the piece, which was donated in memory of a specific individual. It was noted that this would set a precedent for how the City treats other deteriorating works. Commissioner Meegan acknowledged the tension between preserving the intent of the original commission and the practical reality of ongoing deterioration. Manager Lightfoot confirmed that attempts to locate surviving family members of Molly McClintock were unsuccessful, as both parents had passed away and no relatives in the area could be identified.

Given the unresolved questions around maintenance cost comparisons, the feasibility of alternative materials, and the broader policy implications, the Commission agreed to return the item to the subcommittee for further research.

**Motion** by Commissioner Anastos to bring this item back to the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee for additional review. Seconded by Vice Chair Moore. The motion passed (4-0-0-3).

## **5. Central Library Lobby Gallery Exhibit Recommendations**

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission approve the recommendations made by the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee to approve exhibitions by Jim Doody and Elena Kealy in the Central Library lobby gallery space.

Manager Lightfoot reported that the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed submissions and is recommending that the Commission approve exhibitions by two artists — Jim Doody and Elena Kealy — in the Central Library Lobby Gallery. Commissioners were directed to examples of the artists' work included in their meeting packets.

**Motion** by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Meegan, to approve artists Jim Doody and Elena Kealy to exhibit at the Central Library Lobby Gallery. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0-3).

## **6. Cultural Arts Activities**

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

Manager Lightfoot provided the monthly cultural arts update. An exhibition of historical figures and portrait paintings by Dennis Carrie opened earlier in the week at the Central Library Lobby Gallery, which Manager Lightfoot noted aligns well with the 250th anniversary of the United States. The Commission hosted a spin art booth at the Mayor's Egg Race event on March 28, which was well received. The call for entries for the 59th Annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition opened on Monday and will remain open through June 15; staff reported already receiving a high volume of inquiries. Commissioners noted that the exhibition can accommodate approximately 350 artworks from around 150 artists, and that it will be part of Art Week. Staff distributed promotional flyers to commissioners for outreach purposes.

## **B. Monthly Reports**

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

Commissioner Anastos, Commissioner Meegan

Commissioner Anastos reported that the subcommittee met and conducted site visits to identify locations where artwork from the City's storage inventory could be placed on public display. Staff is working on the process to advance those placements. Commissioner Meegan added that she has drafted a formal deaccession policy — a framework for the official withdrawal of works from the public collection — currently under review by staff and the subcommittee, intended to provide a structured process for managing pieces that are no longer suitable for display.

**8. Art Week Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore, Commissioner Tippet

Vice Chair Moore reported that applications continue to come in, with additional submissions from art studios. The application period closes at the end of the month. Interested parties were encouraged to reach out.

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

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

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

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore reported that the subcommittee had met with the Arts Foundation regarding the Art Exhibition layout and was progressing positively. However, an email received the same day as the meeting indicated that the Arts Foundation no longer wishes to participate. Vice Chair Moore expressed significant disappointment and noted the subcommittee would be meeting the following week to address the impact of this development.

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

Chair Ignatin, Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

**12. Sculpture Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

Chair Ignatin, Commissioner Blom

No report was provided, as the subcommittee members were absent from the meeting.

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

Commissioner Anastos, Commissioner Meegan, Commissioner Tippet

Commissioner Anastos reported that the subcommittee will meet on April 20 to wrap up planning and to discuss incorporating performing arts into the Student Art Exhibition.

**14. Newport Beach Arts Foundation Liaison**

Vice Chair Moore

Vice Chair Moore noted that she had already provided an update under the Newport Beach Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee report.

**15. Historical Resources Liaison**

Commissioner Blom

No report was provided, as Commissioner Blom was absent from the meeting.

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

No announcements or future agenda items were raised.

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

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT – 5:32 P.M.**

Vice Chair Moore adjourned the meeting.

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