

JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT ARTS COMMISSION
Airport Commission Room
3160 Airway Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Minutes of the Regular Meeting with Teleconference

April 02, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kim Le called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Kim Le led the Pledge of Allegiance

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Kim Le, Vice Chair Victor Payan, Commissioner Susan L. Petrella, Commissioner Mary-Christine Sungaila

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT BY TELECONFERENCE: N/A

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: N/A

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bowling, Michelle Lai

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Le was initially unable to motion to approve the minutes, as Commissioner Sungaila was absent the previous meeting and the Commission did not meet quorum with Vice Chair Payan being tardy. However, Vice Chair Payan arrived later in the meeting at 10:30 am, which allowed Chair Le to motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Petrella seconded, and the minutes of the regular March 12, 2025 monthly meeting of the JWA Arts Commission were approved.

2. COMMISSION UPDATES

A. NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – KEVIN ELLIOT, FIRST DISTRICT

Commissioner Kevin Elliot had been appointed in February, but Heather was only recently notified of this information. As a result, they were only able to extend an invite to him the day before the Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Elliot did not end up attending the meeting, so introductions will have to happen in the next meeting.

B. TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN BOS FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER: TWO YEAR IN REVIEW

Heather shared that they had met with Marisa, the Communications Manager who oversees branding. Marisa explained that the layout of the newsletter template that was shared, can be changed, allow linking to websites but not Instagram, and the font cannot be changed from what is allowed on the JWA Style Guide. Ideally the newsletter will be linked to the front of the Arts Program page of the JWA website after drafts and completion. It was also shared that the newsletter can go out to anyone, but any sentiments to supervisors should be shared in private messages; a mailing list can be compiled in the future for further outreach and publicity.

Heather also briefly updated the Commissioners that they had been collaborating with AnnaSophia to post weekly on the JWA Instagram following the schedule that drafts are turned in the beginning of the week and officially posted on Fridays.

Commissioner Sungaila then raised the question of whether there was a map graphic for the locations of the various galleries within the airport for navigation. Heather shared that there were difficulties producing a clear map, and that they've also tried to implement permanent signage in the past as well, but that there was too much up in the air about where or when that might happen.

In addition to new and updates, the newsletter could also include content including articles, interviews, etc. Michelle will be assigned to the task of compiling "stock" photos of passenger gallery interactions with the exhibitions to include in the newsletter, in addition to the photo collage. Michelle will also continue to work on developing the newsletter draft as time allows.

Chair Le followed up the discussion with inquiries about the progress with the OC Airpass going online, to which Heather explains that there is a stalemate with the company as they are reluctant to sign on the JWA contract terms. Chair Le also shared her experience meeting with Orange Rotary, who were impressed that there were artist stipends offered by the airport. Chair Le asked to clarify if all artists receive this stipend, to which Heather clarified that they all do except the artists in the JWA Maker's Market, because they are selling their work.

C. A LITTLE SAIGON STORY KEY TOPICS AND EXHIBIT PARTNERS

A Google Doc will be created for the planning of this exhibit, and Michelle will compile information from previous meeting discussions. While Heather will focus on developing visuals and sketches, in addition to consolidating exhibition information. Chair Le shared that she made her first ask to Teresa Mai, who was the first Vietnamese woman to win a Grammy. Something else to put on the radar is Little Saigon's new Cultural Center, as well Commissioner Petrella also mentioned the OC Archives Bazaar hosting a celebration of Vietnamese history at the Great Park in Irvine called "From Saigon to Little Saigon: Reflections on 50 Years of Home," which was followed up by the suggestion that Cal State Fullerton also has archives to pull from. Many concepts were discussed around the idea of capturing viewer experiences, via remote submission.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

A. SCULPTURE GALLERY DISCUSSION AND SHOW REVIEW

Heather shared that they hope to make the Sculpture Gallery a separate space from the Vi Smith Concourse Gallery, for better writing and cohesion. However, they did acknowledge that it was named for Vi Smith, a long-time member of Arts Commission. To build upon the space, Heather wants to have more vitrine displays fabricated and shared with the Commission various display options. Staff then introduced artist Nobu Nishigawara, a professor of Ceramics at CSU Fullerton, as the upcoming artist for the Sculpture Gallery, replacing John Flores, who coincidentally was a student of Nobu. Concepts and details will be general until more progress is made next month. Heather also mentioned that they were able to obtain a sign/display to place as permanent signage that will include a photo of the artist, a bio, and QR code for links.

B. UPCOMING EVENTS

a. CYPRESS COLLEGE PERFORMANCE – MAY 16, 2025 AT 11:00 AM

Heather explained the progress and challenges of working on the Cypress College exhibit, sharing that there were some issues with the artwork selection and understanding of the exhibition standards, so they were working with the faculty to rectify these issues before installation next week. Staff shared that the Cypress College Performing Arts department will be having a performance on May 16th near the exhibition, by Baggage Claim 2.

There was brief tangent to share news about the two pieces Cody Jimenez, the previous artist in the Community Focus Space, had sold. One large piece was sold for \$3,000 with a smaller painting selling

for \$700, with 30% of both sales being donated to Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center of Orange County, a local non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center.

b. PACIFIC SYMPHONY PRESS EVENT – TBD IN JUNE

Staff also mentioned that there will be an event for the opening of the Pacific Symphony exhibition in the Destination Gallery, tentatively set for June 13th.

4. UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/ CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

A. VI SMITH GALLERY

i. PERCEIVING THE DIVINE GROUP EXHIBITION – ARTWORK PREVIEW

Heather provided the Commission with a brief preview of the concept and first invited artists for the summer exhibition *Perceiving the Divine*, the next show in Terminal C. Bringing up images of artist Zara Monet’s work, Heather shared how Zara’s use of color, layering fabrics, and vivid colors in their portrait-adjacent paintings is exactly the desired aesthetic of the show. And their themes of perception, male-gaze, and the female form perfectly align with the concept of the show.

Another artist, Leonard Suryajaya utilizes photography to touch on the familial and social dynamics he grew up with by showcasing his family in complex, detailed arrangements. Commissioner Petrella shared that local artist Serena Potter might be a good fit for this exhibition as well.

ii. UNTITLED LUCIANA ABAIT SOLO SHOW OR LEGEND SAYS EXHIBITION

For the proposed upcoming exhibit in Terminal A, Heather approached Luciana Abait to collaborate on a solo exhibition featuring her large-scale hand-altered photography. After their initial meeting, there was a lot of excitement and interest, but there are other previously booked exhibits that might limit the amount of work available for the JWA show. They plan to reconvene in a couple weeks to make the final call on if this is possible for summer or needs to be pushed back to a later time slot.

Heather mentioned the other possible idea of curating an exhibit titled *Legend Says*, that explores concepts like folklore, fairytales, the occult, and more.

iii. PENDING CONCEPTS

1. LEGEND SAYS EXHIBITION

2. MAKERS MARKET

Staff briefly mentioned that this year’s JWA Makers Market exhibit will be spearheaded by Arts Intern Michelle Lai, as arts vending is an area of expertise for her. Vice Chair Payan mentioned that this next iteration can be a great opportunity to share information about other local makers markets.

3. B.F.F COLLABORATION EXHIBIT – ON HOLD

This concept will be delayed due to current obligations the artists have on their plates. More to come soon.

4. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH THINKSPACE GALLERY. CREATE MAGAZNE, AND HI-FRUCTOSE MAGAZINE – PENDING

Some additional suggestions from Commissioner Petrella and Vice Chair Payan include: Juxtapose Gallery, Rushka Gallery, Mike McGee, John Spaik, and Coagula Gallery.

5. CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

This section was essentially skipped because the Commission is already familiar with the state of the current exhibitions. Heather mentioned that there were some comments about curse words in a couple of the pieces on view, which were promptly covered.

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Other Business – Chair Le will be sharing her presentation that she did at the Orange Rotary that spoke about we do at the airport, including pictures of art, Heather, and the AirPaws dogs. Vice Chair Payan mentioned that he would soon be seeing Supervisor Sormiento and would offer him a private curator tour of the exhibits. Heather reiterated that all of the Commissioners should offer this to their respective Supervisors.

Items of Interest from the Public – None

7. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bowling