

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting with Teleconference

August 06, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kim Le called the meeting to order at 9:40 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: Commissioner Daniel Winn

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bowling, Michelle Lai

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Le to motioned to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Payan seconded, and the minutes of the regular July 2, 2025 monthly meeting of the JWA Arts Commission were approved.

2. COMMISSION UPDATES

A. A LITTLE SAIGON STORY STATUS UPDATE AND VISUALIZATIONS

Staff shared that they had been able to meet separately with Commissioner Winn and Chair Le to discuss the exhibit. And because Commissioner Winn was not present at this meeting, they would be waiting for him to reach back out with information for contacts they discussed. Heather then showed the Commission a general sketch outline of what the exhibit could look like, requesting feedback. They explained that there will be a title for each case so that each case can hold its own. With most cases included a mixture of photos, borrowed items, portraits, and some interviews. They then shared that for the fine art portion of the exhibit, that the artists should not be separated by generations, but shown altogether – a change from the last discussions. In their separate meeting, Commissioner Winn also added that he would like to see a case covering philanthropy within the Vietnamese Orange Country population.

Commissioner Sungaila informed Heather that an email has been drafted to the Nixon Museum director, to which Heather followed up with a reminder to the Commissioners that any updates should be added to the checklist with contact information. The next step after contacts have been made, will be compiling a folder of items and a more finalized list of names of resources. Michelle will work on design work, including headers, title walls, and design elements along the bottom of the display; the intended design for the title wall will be loud, while the rest of the displays will be simpler.

Commissioner Petrella inquired whether a press event would be possible, and if any food would be provided if an event were to take place. Heather replied that they had already given the Public Affairs team a heads up about the desire for an event, with the priority being securing Charlene Reynold's schedule and availability, as well as invites to other dignitaries. Due to budget and airport regulations, Heather noted that any food for the reception would have to be provided by an outside source. Vice Chair Payan then requested for the exhibition dates and Staff noted that the original date was set for October 17th, give or take, depending on the progression of the exhibit.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

A. ONGOING PROJECTS AND REPAIRS

a. BROKEN GLASS IN TERMINAL A

Although not a direct issue with the glass, a problem has been discovered that the tracks of the display cases were sagging, which needed shims added as a fix. Contractors will be coming out to assess all cases. Heather explained that these were 4 x 6 ft safety glass panels, and at least a couple hundred pounds and therefore were a safety issue that they had been trying to get addressed for some time. The Commission shared their collective concern over the safety risks, and were very troubled to hear that the art installers were even concerned for their safety.

b. CONSTRUCTION AND LED SWITCH OUT IN TERMINAL C

Walls for construction in Terminal C had been set up incorrectly even after multiple conversations and walkthroughs. The Commissioners expressed their disappointment and concern that this construction was not communicated in a timely or clear manner with Heather. And were not happy to hear about the disruption to the gallery space.

There are also no updates with converting the lights in C to LEDs, and that the construction in the terminal only led to further delays.

c. NURSING MOTHERS LOUNGE MURAL AND POTENTIAL NEW PROJECT

The artist is still finalizing the design for the vinyl wrap. The buzz has since died down with the idea of an unveiling, but Heather still intends to invite commissioners and coordinate pictures and press release with the artist, regardless.

Staff also shared news of a potential new art project to be located near the Ducks Breakaway Bar in Terminal C. Heather shared that they had 'claimed' the wall after the offer and has already started brainstorming ideas. They then shared some example imagery of a colored glass wall installation that would produce vivid color shifts as the sun moves, also mentioning the possibility of installing special lighting to further the effect. Heather wants it to be a piece that is both classy and stunning, and something never been done before at the airport. The Commission expressed great enthusiasm for this concept and the project itself, eager to hear more updates and the project progresses.

4. UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/ CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE EXHIBITIONS – AS TIME ALLOWS

A. VI SMITH GALLERIES

a. TERMINAL A: LUCIANA ABAIT SOLO SHOW – ARTWORK PREVIEW

July 18, 2025 – November 17, 2025

b. TERMINAL B: TBD

November 2025 – May 2026

c. TERMINAL C: PERCEIVING THE DIVINE GROUP EXHIBITION – ARTIST PREVIEW

August 8, 2025 – December 8, 2025

d. PENDING CONCEPTS

i. LEGEND SAYS EXHIBITION

ii. MAKERS MARKET 2025

B. COMMUNITY FOCUS SPACE

a. CURATOR'S COLLECTION SHOW – ARTWORK PREVIEW, COMMISSIONER CONTRIBUTIONS

Heather shared that due to complications with the construction in Terminal C, installation for Perceiving the Divine had been delayed several weeks, leading then to Cypress' exhibition being extended until installation could be rescheduled. Staff then reiterated that all Commissioners

were welcome to show works in the show, that they would just need to send images to be selected, fill out a couple of forms, and then schedule delivery to Heather as soon as possible to meet the new install deadline.

5. CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

A. VI SMITH GALLERY

i. TRUST FALL EXHIBITION

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Other Business – None

Items of Interest from the Public – None

7. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bowling