

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting with Teleconference

June 4, 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: N/A

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bowling, Michelle Lai

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Le to motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Petrella seconded, and the minutes of the regular April 2, 2025 monthly meeting of the JWA Arts Commission were approved.

2. COMMISSION UPDATES

A. NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT – SEAT VACANT

Since the time this agenda was originally generated, there have been several updates about the newest Commissioner appointment. Heather shared that the original notification announcing the new Commissioner was a mistake, and they were actually assigned to the Airport Commission.

As of the day before this meeting, however, Heather was given notice about a new Commissioner. Sir Daniel K. Winn was appointed to represent District 1. Heather sent notification and details about today's meeting to him, however he has not responded due to short notice. Heather hopes that in the coming weeks they can connect with him to give him a tour of the airport galleries and chat about the Commission.

B. A LITTLE SAIGON STORY DISCUSSION

The goal of today's discussion was to define the overarching themes for the exhibition and make a feasible plan to move forward with planning the exhibit. The overarching question being "what story are we trying to tell?" While the goal is to celebrate the rich culture brought to the region by the Vietnamese Community, it was discussed that there should also be room to connect the past with the present. One example being traditional foods vs new fusion foods like phorittos and pho burgers. Heather emphasized the importance of identifying key resources that already have information/exhibits preestablish to coordinate with, such as offering VAALA an entire case.

Unfortunately, because the Destination Gallery was intended to be a collaborative space with other organizations, no funding would be contributed from the Arts Program. Vice Chair Payan inquired whether donations can be received in the form of printed materials for the didactics and allowing these organizations to write off these expenses for taxes. Heather replied that donations to the exhibits were

always welcome, but the aspect of a tax write off would need to be inquired about. Vice Chair Payan also suggested that UCI would be a good resource to reach out to.

Commissioner Petrella requested a timeline of the deadlines for the exhibit, to which Heather explained that ultimately all physical materials need to be on hand the week before installation. However, to keep this project on track, all plans should be solidified in September, and by the next meeting, all names of substantial resources need to be established. Commissioners were directed to add to and review all further notes about the specifics and logistics of the exhibit on the shared Google Doc.

C. REVIEW AND EDIT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER DRAFT

This item was skipped for the sake of time, as other updates were more pertinent.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

A. BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Heather shared that they were doing their best to spending everything in their budget before the end of the fiscal year. At the moment, one of the most prevalent issues with the budget is that there are artists and art installers (Crozier) who are still unpaid from previous and current shows, due to issues with Finance and/or changes in the W9 form process, which are out of Heather's control. They are looking to encumber funds from this fiscal year despite the delays.

Vice Chair Payan asked if there was room for budget revisions, to which Heather explained that once the budget goes through the airport, then the county, the Board of Supervisors doesn't look item by item – it would have been more beneficial to be at the budget meetings to advocate for the budget, but unfortunately Heather was left out of that conversation. Vice Chair Payan points out that this is an example of how the Commission newsletter would be important to have for visibility purposes.

To summarize how the budget has been impacted, the original guest curator budget was \$6,000 in 2023, which Heather got increased to \$10,000. However, by the start of the fiscal year, \$4,800 had already been spent catching up to artist payments from the previous fiscal year. This year, Heather proposed a budget increase to \$15,000, but learned that they cut the budget to \$8,000. Luckily it was negotiated to settle on leaving it at 10,000. Heather concluded by sharing that they were hopeful that there would still be an opportunity to utilize the videography budget of \$5,000 for some professional exhibit documentation.

Commissioner Sungaila brought up community collaborative courts, foundations/non-profits that raise money, and asked if there were possibilities that similar organizations existed for potential sponsorships. Heather shared that it was difficult to determine as there was no precedent for this but it could be a conversation for future budget conversations. Commissioner Petrella suggested reporting sales and monetary gain, which Heather clarified they do when they send updates of art sold and weekly updates to their supervisor, Joel Aguilar.

Staff also shared updates regarding pending work orders for the galleries. Regarding the cracked glass panel in Terminal A, they are still waiting on the vendor to come on site a month after it was reported. And the LED switchover in Terminal C still had not been completed due to incorrectly sized fixtures.

B. SCULPTURE GALLERY DISCUSSION

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

Commissioners were told that video of the performance for Cypress College can be found on the JWA Instagram.

b. PACIFIC SYMPHONY PRESS EVENT – TBD IN JUNE

Staff shared that the Pacific Symphony is still determining the best date for this event.

4. UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/ CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

A. VI SMITH GALLERY

a. **TERMINAL A: LUCIANA ABAIT SOLO SHOW – ARTWORK PREVIEW**
July 18, 2025 – November 17, 2025

Item was skipped for the sake of time.

b. **TERMINAL B: TBD**
November 2025 – May 2026

Item was skipped for the sake of time.

c. **TERMINAL C: PERCEIVING THE DIVINE GROUP EXHIBITION – ARTIST PREVIEW**
August 8, 2025 – December 8, 2025

Item was skipped for the sake of time.

d. **PENDING CONCEPTS**
i. **LEGEND SAYS EXHIBITION**
ii. **MAKERS MARKET 2025**

Item was skipped for the sake of time.

B. COMMUNITY FOCUS SPACE

a. **CURATOR’S COLLECTION SHOW**

Staff presented a show concept for consideration by the Commission. Prefacing that a Curator’s job both in and out of the office is to support, uplift, and collect the work of artists. So Heather proposed a showcase of their personal collection of artwork, amassed over the last 13 years from local artists in the region. They estimate that they have around 40 original works of art, showing some example snap shots of the collection to the Commission. The variety of mediums and styles across Heather’s collection could provide opportunities for education, such as risograph printing processes, or street art styles.

Commissioner Sungaila supported the idea and suggested an emphasis on Heather’s collection that included collected works from their travels because of the connection to the airport concept. She also asked if the Commissioners could showcase pieces from their collections as well. Heather loved this idea and thought it more completely emphasized the idea of the JWA Arts Program supporting local artists, businesses, and communities.

Vice Chair Payan also supported the idea of this exhibit as it could promote the Arts Program and highlight Heather as a ‘real curator’ producing professional exhibitions here. Heather adds that this showcases a visible connection between passion, profession, and collection. A question that also came up in conversation was “How can we keep our community involved?” which also ties in the idea of continuing to open up the space for students and interns.

5. CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

This entire section was skipped for the sake of time.

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Other Business – None

Items of Interest from the Public – None

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

Respectfully submitted, Heather Bowling