

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting with Teleconference

March 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Kim Le called the meeting to order at 9:36 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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT BY TELECONFERENCE: N/A

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Mary-Christine Sungaila

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bowling, Michelle Lai

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Le motioned to approve the minutes, Vice Chair Payan seconded, and the minutes of the regular February 5, 2025 monthly meeting of the JWA Arts Commission were unanimously approved.

2. COMMISSION UPDATES

A. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS

Vice Chair Payan began the election with a nomination for the current Chair Kim Le to continue as Chair again. Commissioner Petrella seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Petrella then followed up with a nomination for Victor Payan to continue his position as Vice Chair, as well. Chair Le seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Both the Chair and the Vice Chair remain in their roles.

Following elections, Heather shared their experience with presenting the Arts program to the Airport Commission and the positive reception they received.

B. CHAIR LE'S PROPOSED LITTLE SAIGON EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

Chair Le updated the Commission that not much progress has been made for the planning stage of the exhibition since last month's update. She shared that she had been collecting a list of key community figures to feature in the show. And she shared that her father, a photographer, had recently won an award in a local Vietnamese newspaper. She also shared that, following the ribbon-cutting event and walkthrough of the Heritage Museum of Orange County (HMOC) exhibition, she looked to drawing inspiration from the displays and praised the design team that was involved. When an inquiry arose about the cost to hire this same design team, Heather explained that unfortunately there is no allocated budget for the Destination Gallery as collaborators usually generate materials for the exhibitions themselves. Commissioner Petrella suggested looking to sponsorships to cover costs, to which Chair Le suggested the aforementioned Vietnamese newspaper as a possible sponsor. Heather resolved to look into the potential cost to hire the design team, Aarvark Studios.

Discussed concepts to be featured in the exhibition: the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association (VAALA), locally owned restaurants (Brodard), the arts – Vietnamese Film Festival, culture/traditions and temples, education, music, writers, etc.

In a brief pivot, Heather also shared that Commissioner Christine Hernandez has resigned due to being pulled into too many directions with her other commitments. It may be a while until the new appointment that will fill her position in the Commission, and Heather encouraged applications, especially within everyone's network.

In continuation of the conversation, Heather suggested highlighting 1 or 2 individuals per theme/concept. This could include a short interview blurb, especially for the arts, which Chair Le's father serves as a prime candidate for. Another individual to interview could also include Brodard's "Madame Brodard," Diane Dang, especially with Brodard Express being at the airport.

Vice Chair Payan suggested an interactive map, including places that don't exist anymore, temples, gardens, etc., which Heather followed up with the suggestion of a QR code link to a collective Google Map of locations with a map graphic and push pins for locations per Vice Chair Payan's suggestion for the physical map display. Heather also suggested that as interactive element, viewers can send in locations/suggestions to "add to the dialogue/story."

The conversation wrapped up with a few more suggestions – there should be an acknowledgements section for monetary or time contribution. Vice Chair Payan also mentioned perhaps partnering with the VALA Historian who may have valuable resources for this exhibitions. Heather the wrapped up the discussion by stating that they will create a Google Doc so that both Commission and staff have access to write ideas and include links, etc.

C. BOS FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Heather updated that they are waiting for a meeting with Marissa to discuss rules, templates, and regulations to create a uniform newsletter for Commissioners to send out quarterly. The first newsletter could be "2 Years in Review" to summarize the work Heather has done over their two years of directing the Arts Program. This could include statistics, notable press, quotes, feedback, and introductions to different exhibitions and projects. Heather said she aspires to be able to have a draft to share at the next meeting in 3 weeks.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

D. MURAL UPDATE

Heather was able to meet with Airport Director, Charlene Reynolds to present the concept designs from the three selected mural artists. They shared that leadership was very enthusiastic and requested more development of two of the concepts, so that they could make a more informed decision. Heather shared the designs on the screen with the Commission, and reviewed each artist, with the Commissioners sharing excited feedback about bringing color into the Terminal.

E. GLASS REPAIRS IN VI SMITH GALLERIES

Providing an update on the ongoing safety issue with the loose glass doors in the display cases in Terminal A, Heather shared that unfortunately each case is being repaired one by one instead of all at once, due to the glass vendor apparently not having enough materials to replace everything at once on the scheduled repair day. Heather of course shared that they would continue to update the Commission on this pending issue.

F. ART HANDLER LINGERING ISSUES

Staff reported that there are still lingering issues with the Art Handling company Crozier. In the form of a series of incorrect invoices that Heather is in communications with Finances about to make sure everything is paid in full, and in the correct amounts. The other, lingering issue being that the art handlers' are *still* not badged and therefore they are still required to be escorted to the secure side of the

airport. Therefore Heather has not been able to hire them because this accommodation cannot be made any longer.

G. HANG GLIDER CLEANING

Heather explained to the Commissioners the process for cleaning the hang gliders on view in the Terminal. Explaining that this was an annual project that needed to be completed soon with airport Maintenance.

4. UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/ CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

This section was skipped for the sake of time, with Commissioners all acknowledging that this can be reviewed at a future date.

5. CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

This section was skipped for the sake of time, with Commissioners all acknowledging that they were familiar with the state of all current exhibitions.

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Other Business – None

Items of Interest from the Public – None

7. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bowling