

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting with Teleconference

September 03, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Victor Payan called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Staff Heather led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT BY TELECONFERENCE: N/A

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Chair Kim Le

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Bowling, Michelle Lai

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Payan motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Petrella seconded, and the minutes of the regular Aug 6, 2025 monthly meeting of the JWA Arts Commission were approved.

2. COMMISSION UPDATES

A. A LITTLE SAIGON STORY STATUS UPDATE AND PLANNING

Heather shared that at the current stage of the exhibition planning, there is no sustainable way for Heather to continue to carve out time to coordinate the show by themselves in addition to their other responsibilities. As a compromise, Staff shared the proposal that the show be turned completely into a contemporary Vietnamese art show to still preserve the essence of the show without as many complications with logistics. That way, Heather and Michelle can manage while doing due diligence to respect the history and culture of the exhibition. With the approach of the October 24th deadline, there are too many blanks to fill in. Heather had entertained the idea of pushing back the show to open later but felt that we may still be facing the same issues that were prevalent throughout the current course of planning. The exhibit would still feature the Vietnamese Cultural Center and other destinations. The plan is to make these destinations complementary to the artwork, such as "if you want to see more of XYZ, go to this website for more information."

Commissioner Winn asked for clarification on what Heather meant by featuring local Vietnamese artists and how a call for artists would work, as well as asking about what the selection process/committee looks like. Heather clarified that local meant local to Southern California, but that they would not do a call for artists at this time, as exhibiting artists in the past have generally been found through word of mouth and connections. Staff informed him that the responsibility of selection generally falls on Heather. Commissioner Winn shared his approval of Heather's individual responsibility for selection, explaining that there may be backlash from artists that are not selected especially if there are multiple people - including Commissioner Winn himself, for example - on the committee. Northern and Southern Vietnamese artists may be sensitive to the current politics, so he recommends being considerate of art choices, for example, care towards the representation of the red and yellow Vietnamese flag. Once Heather finishes with their selection of art and artists, Commissioner Winn offered to look over the choices to point out any possible sensitivities.

Commissioner Winn also took the opportunity to bring up an organization as possible candidates to look into, as the organization supports artists with disabilities, which really goes hand-in-hand with Heather's curator statement. Vice Chair Payan also share that considering artists from different districts especially mixed Vietnamese artists would help with inclusion. The exhibits should start with a blurb from organizations and it should give space to any kind of art being considered Vietnamese art, as long as it's from a Vietnamese artist. Commissioner Winn asked if the art is limited to paintings, to which Heather responded that our technology in the cases are limited, which is why we're focusing on illustrations/paintings.

While Staff prepares for the new Little Saigon exhibit pivot, Pacific Symphony will be extended through the end of the year to avoid the difficulty of setting up shows through the holidays. Commissioner Petrella inquired where the current QR codes led to and if they are routing to current events, to which Heather responds that the QR codes can be updated as Pacific Symphony sees fit, so that won't be a problem for the extension. The new estimate for the Little Saigon exhibit will be around January. Commissioner Sungaila was curious as to how these organizations find Heather, who reveals that these organizations all know each other and connect each other with Heather to organize exhibitions in the Destination Gallery. Heather expressed wanting to preserve tactile elements because they notice seeing a similar group of people, generally commuters, in the Destination Gallery hall, so tactile elements would provide good variety.

3. PROGRAM UPDATES

A. ONGOING PROJECTS AND REPAIRS

The large foam boards originally hosting children's artwork from previous art competitions will soon be switched out with snap frames holding 5 posters with the title and "JWA Art Program Presents:" for each ongoing exhibition at each gallery.

To update Commissioner Winn, as well as reminding the other Commissioners, Heather will have access to the concession stand across the Ducks restaurant in Terminal C, to display artwork. In consideration at the moment, are glass stained artworks, with the idea that there will be different focus lights to bring out all the different colors and reflections. The process for this will generally look like an initial selection of artists and mockups, budgeting, and then a vague proposal description. To guarantee the space in the meantime, the posters going up in baggage claim will also be put up in that concession stand space.

Heather shared updates on the vinyl wrap mural in the Children's Play Area, explaining that we had to opt for a vinyl wrap, as a painted mural would prove too difficult to maintain or restore, and budgeting/contracting for that would take too long. A small commemoration will still be in place for the opening, and the Arts Commission collectively agreed that merchandising of the mural art (postcards, luggage tags, keyrings, etc) would be a great collaborative effort to continue to promote the art, airport, and space.

There is currently no provided end date to the construction happening in Terminal C, and no updates regarding the glass and lighting issues across Terminal A and C.

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

Commission to consider and discuss future exhibition proposals, concepts, and submissions, vote for recommendation to JWA Administration.

A. VI SMITH GALLERIES

a. TERMINAL A: MAKERS MARKET 2025

November 20, 2025 – January 31, 2026

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

c. **TERMINAL C: TBD GROUP EXHIBITION**
December 2025 – June 2026

B. COMMUNITY FOCUS SPACE

a. **MARISSA SAYER SOLO SHOW – ARTIST PREVIEW**
December 17, 2025 – April 13, 2026

C. DESTINATION GALLERY

a. **A LITTLE SAIGON STORY EXHIBITION**
October 2025 – February 2026

5. CURRENT EXHIBITIONS – FOR REFERENCE

Staff to provide status and updates regarding currently installed exhibitions and respond to Commission comments/questions, if any.

D. VI SMITH GALLERIES

a. **Terminal A: Luciana Abait: Paths of Departure**
July 18, 2025 – November 17, 2025

b. **Terminal A: Regolith, an abstract sculpture exhibition**
May 2025 – November 2025

c. **Terminal C: Perceiving the Divine group exhibition**
August 8, 2025 – December 8, 2025

E. COMMUNITY FOCUS SPACE

a. **The Curator's Collection – rescheduled install**
August 13, 2025 – December 16, 2025

F. DESTINATION GALLERY

a. **Pacific Symphony Exhibition**
June 13, 2025 – October 13, 2025

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Other Business – None

Items of Interest from the Public – None

7. **ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING** Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bowling