

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 2, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Regular Meeting called to order at 9:39 a.m. by Chair Le

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Kim Le led all present

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Kim Le, Vice Chair Victor Payan,
Commissioner MC Sungaila

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Daniel Winn

STAFF PRESENT: Alisa Ochoa, Arts Program Curator, Joel Aguilar, Customer
Relations Manager; Eric Freed, Deputy Airport Director, Public Affairs

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sungaila moved to approve the August 5, 2026 meeting minutes, and Vice Chair Payan seconded the motion. The Commissioners approved the minutes 3 – 0 (Le, Payan, Sungaila).

2. MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Ochoa, the new Arts Program Curator, introduced herself to the commission and provided updates on ongoing program projects.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Exhibition Timeline and Roles

Ms. Ochoa, Arts Program Curator, presented.

Commissioner Sungaila recommended pursuing public-private partnerships to secure professional photography for the Destination Gallery.

Chair Le acknowledged the importance of launch events for Destination partners and the complex scheduling considerations involved.

Vice Chair Payan distinguished between photography intended for documentation and photography intended for promotional purposes.

No public comment.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Future Exhibitions

a. Little Saigon/Vietnamese Diaspora

Staff identified a nonprofit organization with strong community ties to lead the curation, given the scope and sensitivity of the project. Staff also suggested dividing the project into multiple, more focused exhibitions to allow participation from various organizations and ensure that roles and responsibilities remain clear and appropriate.

Chair Le and Vice Chair Payan expressed interest in formally revisiting prior discussions on work-in-progress exhibition ideas introduced by the previous curator.

Vice Chair Payan emphasized the value of incorporating restaurants, cultural spaces, and music into the exhibition concept. He noted the challenges of working within a broad theme and observed that discussions so far have lacked focus. He highlighted cultural considerations, requested a review of past minutes for related discussions, and suggested that Commissioner Winn may serve as a useful connector. He also noted the importance of identifying an appropriate community partner and acknowledged that nostalgia and tourism could offer helpful perspectives for the exhibition.

Chair Le noted interest in forming an ad hoc committee, and clarified that the most recent concept centered on contemporary art.

Staff will seek legal counsel to clarify the parameters governing ad hoc committees and to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Staff also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries, adhering to established roles, and upholding the code of ethics.

No public comment.

b. Commission Collection

Commissioner Sungaila clarified the exhibition concept previously presented by the former Arts Program Curator and provided additional description of that concept.

Chair Le emphasized the intention was to highlight affordable art.

Commissioner Sungaila reflected on the timeline and inquired about future programming.

Vice Chair Payan expressed hope for future press highlighting upcoming programs and noted his interest in learning more about the new arts curator's vision.

Staff recommended that the Commissioner's Collection be tabled due to practical considerations and to prevent any potential conflicts of interest.

No public comment.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Le and Vice Chair Payan asked about distribution lists for news and press.

Commissioners shared various upcoming events and professional highlights.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2026.