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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 4, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Regular Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.by Vice Chair Payan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chair Payan led all present

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Payan, Commissioner MC Sungaila, Commissioner Daniel Winn, Chair Kim Le arrived at 10:06 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Alisa Ochoa, Arts Program Curator; Marisa Unvert, Communications Manager; Joel Aguilar, Customer Relations Manager; Eric Freed, Deputy Airport Director Public Affairs; Tracy Doudt, Deputy County Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Payan requested clarification regarding the edits to the meeting minutes, as he was absent from the previous regular meeting.

Ms. Ochoa, the Arts Program Curator, explained that Commissioner Sungaila had requested the edits and that the commission approved them by a 3-0 vote. She further noted that, if the commission wished to include a more detailed record of such edits in the minutes, the matter could be considered for action or voted on by the commission.

Vice Chair Payan moved to approve the minutes with the noted edits. Commissioner Winn seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the Commission approved the minutes as amended by a vote of 3–0 (Payan, Winn, Sungaila).

2. **MONTHLY REPORT**

A. Ms. Ochoa discussed the process for making meeting minutes available to the public and provided an overview of the meeting minutes archive.

B. Ms. Ochoa shared her experience coordinating and implementing the hang glider cleaning project. Through this effort, she learned a great deal about the hang-gliding community, including the manufacturers based in Orange County, California. She also noted that the cleaning was noticed immediately by terminal staff and concessionaires the following day.

Commissioners remarked on the before/after images staff presented.

Ms. Ochoa shared images of the recently refinished sculpture vitrines, which have been relocated to the B/C pedestrian walkway across from the Destination Gallery. She also provided updates on internal organizational changes and the Human Resources recruitment process for the Arts Program Assistant position.

Mr. Freed shared that the Arts Program Curator will now report directly to Ms. Unvert, Communications Manager, rather than to Mr. Aguilar, Customer Relations Manager. Ms. Ochoa has been working with Ms. Unvert and will remain within the larger Public Affairs team. He thanked Mr. Aguilar for his efforts during the interim period of the Arts Program and for his role in onboarding Ms. Ochoa.

Commissioner Sungaila thanked Mr. Aguilar for his professionalism and positivity throughout the transition period.

Ms. Unvert introduced herself and shared that she had previously overseen the Arts Program.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Ochoa reported that the proposed *OC Punk* exhibition for the Community Focus Space will be presented at a future Commission meeting item.

Vice Chair Payan, who was absent from the previous Commission meeting, requested a brief overview of the proposal, which Ms. Ochoa provided.

A. Proposed Clara Woods Exhibition for Vi Smith Gallery Terminal C

Ms. Ochoa presented information on local artist Clara Woods. All attendees received a printed image list of artworks, including corresponding descriptions and proposed exhibition wall text.

Vice Chair Payan and Commissioner Sungaila recommended including the painting by Ms. Woods that was featured in connection with the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Commissioner Winn suggested incorporating additional art historical references into the exhibition didactics.

Commissioner Sungaila expressed appreciation for the storytelling and visitor engagement elements of the exhibition didactics and inquired whether *The Dream* (airplane) image could be used to further promote the exhibition.

Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed Clara Woods exhibition for Terminal C and recommended moving the exhibition forward.

No public comment.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ms. Ochoa presented an overview of the 2027 exhibition schedule for the Vi Smith Terminal C Gallery, Community Focus Space, and the relocated Sculpture Gallery.

Vice Chair Payan suggested consideration of a future exhibition exploring Orange County's historical connections to the film industry.

Commissioners Winn and Sungaila suggested Crystal Cove as a potential exhibition partner.

Commissioner Winn inquired about the process used to identify and select artists for exhibitions.

Ms. Ochoa explained that artist selection is made by the curator.

B. Mr. Freed provided an overview of the Airport's annual budget process.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Winn suggested evaluating artist selection methods that provide public access and participation opportunities, such as an open call for artists. He also suggested that the Commission be presented with multiple exhibition options.

Vice Chair Payan supported making artist selection procedures and guidelines publicly available.

Commissioner Sungaila complimented Ms. Ochoa on the structured approach used to present the Clara Woods exhibition proposal and noted that the format worked well for the Commission's review and that showing the curatorial work is helpful.

Chair Le expressed support for agendizing the development of an open call and requested a future discussion on the role of artificial intelligence (AI).

STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Doudt, County Counsel, stated that a call for artists could be beneficial. She also reiterated that the Commission's role is advisory and distinguished between selecting exhibitions and approving them.

Ms. Ochoa noted that the language pertaining to an open call for artists would be researched and brought on a future agenda.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Payan adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2026.

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