

---

THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

---

MARCH 6, 2025  
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Ochoa at 6:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Commissioner Lucia.

**ROLL CALL**

= Present     = Absent

**Commissioners**

- Charlene Ashendorf
- Fisher Derderian
- Brendan Ford
- Erica Lucia
- Alisa Ochoa
- Allison Mann
- Debora Wondercheck

**City Staff**

- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
- Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Ashley Thomas, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II

**PRESENTATION:**

**1. NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – ARTS REPORT**

Teacher on Special Assignment, Tamara Fairbanks presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

[Correspondence received.](#)

Jim Fitzpatrick: Urged the Arts Commission to take action regarding the \$400,000 cannabis tax funds and to not let the funds go unused.

Angel Correa: Board member for Costa Mesa Playhouse. Introduced Artistic Director, Peter Kreder and Managing Director, Mia Josimovic. Highlighted that it will be the 60<sup>th</sup> season in the Fall and shared upcoming production.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Ashendorf:** Shared information of new extension to Moon Goat Coffee, 1973 Events, an event center featuring artwork, Jeff Miller. Shared that 70% of his proceeds go to the Costa Mesa Foundation, while 30% supports Moon Goat staff. Inquired for information about the Coastal Corridor Alliance’s Arts in the Park event, which transforms trash into art at Fairview Park.

**Vice Chair Derderian:** Thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick for his persistence in addressing the issue and expressed interest in matter and suggested connecting offline to review materials and pursue the matter at the city level.

**Chair Ochoa:** Appreciated the public's participation in public comment in meetings as it could play into the efforts to refine the master plan. She expressed gratitude for being elected chair; thanking Commissioner Wondercheck for her leadership and Vice Chair Derderian also taking a new role alongside her. Acknowledged Ms. Fairbanks for highlighting Newport Mesa’s activities and shared her experience visiting Costa Mesa High, where she engaged

with students about the Arts Commission and her creative work. Looks forward to seeing more student artwork featured in ARTventure.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. MINUTES**

02/06/2025 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

Commissioner Ashendorf requested amendment corrections to the motions.

No public comment.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Ashendorf motioned to approve the amended minutes for February 6, 2025 minutes/Seconded by Chair Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Lucia, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Wondercheck

**Motion Carried:** 4-0

## **MONTHLY REPORTS:**

### **1. ARTS SPECIALIST REPORT**

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Chair Ochoa expressed joy in seeing youth ARTventure applications open and appreciated seeing an increase in grant applications.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART APPLICATIONS**

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Lucia summarized the committee's thoughts on three (3) alternate designs. *Golden Horizon* was well liked, created by a Costa Mesa resident and self-taught graphic designer, and embodied Southern California with a golden poppy. *Costa Bloom* by Kimberly Duran featured vibrant colors but resembled previously approved floral designs. Highlighted bright vibrant colors. *Rocket Queen* by Kingsley Aaron was dynamic but considered potentially too detailed for a utility box. The committee appreciated aspects of each design and took multiple factors into consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding the utility box art designs.

No public comments.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Ashendorf to select alternate 1, *Golden Horizon*, *Artist Evan Chaffe*/Seconded by Chair Ochoa.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Lucia, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Wondercheck

**Motion Carried:** 4-0

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEARS 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024 ARTS GRANT PROGRAM FINAL REPORTS**

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Chair Ochoa questioned whether artists or arts organizations that received a grant should be ineligible to reapply the following year to provide more opportunities to other organizations and create more balance distribution of support. She noted that Pacific Chorale had received consecutive grants and was also featured in the upcoming Art Crawl, suggesting a more equitable distribution of support as the grants program grew. Requested this to be considered for grant application guidelines.

Commissioner Ashendorf thanked staff for report and evaluations as it can serve as a resource to make future decisions for future grants applications.

Vice Chair Derderian inquired if staff received any feedback from the grantees.

No public comment.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Commissioner Ashendorf motioned to receive and file/Seconded by Commissioner Lucia.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Lucia, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Wondercheck

**Motion Carried:** 4-0

*Scope of work will be brought back to the Commission.*

## **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

Chair Ochoa highlighted Costa Mesa Historical Society artist talk event with Alicia Rojas happening Sunday at 2 PM and encouraged everyone to attend.

Parks and Community Services Director, Brian Gruner, thanked Commissioner Wondercheck for her term as Chair and congratulated Commissioner Ochoa (Chair) and Commissioner Derderian (Vice Chair) for their new terms.

**ADJOURNMENT** Chair Wondercheck adjourned at 6:45 P.M.