



CITY OF COSTA MESA

ARTS COMMISSION

Agenda

Thursday, November 6, 2025

6:00 PM

**City Council Chambers
77 Fair Drive**

The Commission meetings are presented in a hybrid format, both in-person at City Hall and as a courtesy virtually via Zoom Webinar. If the Zoom feature is having system outages or experiencing other critical issues, the meeting will continue in person.

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Members of the public are welcome to speak during the meeting when the Chair opens the floor for public comment. There is no need to register in advance or complete a comment card. When it's time to comment, line up at one of the two podiums in the room and wait for your turn. Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes (or as directed) to address the Commission.

To maintain a respectful and orderly atmosphere during the meeting, attendees shall refrain from using horns or amplified speakers. Signs and props may be brought into the Chamber, provided they do not exceed 11 inches by 18 inches in size and do not hinder the visibility of other attendees. The possession of poles, sticks, or stakes is strictly prohibited.

All attendees must remain seated while in the chamber until instructed by the Presiding Officer to approach and line up for public comment. To ensure safety and maintain order during the proceedings, standing or congregating in the aisles or foyer is strictly prohibited.

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85213265037?pwd=3zHr14ajnPDqcioTIQxHwykeFZCYzH.1>

Or sign into Zoom.com and "Join a Meeting"

Enter Webinar ID: 852 1326 5037 / Password: 166379

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- During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" feature located in the participants' window and wait for city staff to announce your name and unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

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Call: 1 669 900 6833 Enter Webinar ID: 852 1326 5037 / Password: 166379

During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for city staff to announce your name/phone number and press *6 to unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

Additionally, members of the public who wish to make a written comment on a specific agenda item, may submit a written comment via email to the pacscomments@costamesaca.gov. Comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be provided to the Commission, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record.

Please know that it is important for the City to allow public participation at this meeting. If you are unable to participate in the meeting via the processes set forth above, please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225 or cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and staff will attempt to accommodate you. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the City will post the information as soon as possible to the City's website.

Note that records submitted by the public will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information.

All pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please e-mail to pacscomments@costamesaca.gov NO LATER THAN 12:00 Noon on the date of the meeting.

Note regarding agenda-related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet (GC §54957.5): Any related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the Agenda Packets will be made available for public inspection. Such documents will be posted on the city's website and will be available at the City Clerk's office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

All cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off or set to vibrate. Members of the audience are requested to step outside the Council Chambers to conduct a phone conversation.

Free Wi-Fi is available in the Council Chambers during the meetings. The network username available is: CM_Council. The password is: cmcouncil1953.

As a LEED Gold Certified City, Costa Mesa is fully committed to environmental sustainability. A minimum number of hard copies of the agenda will be available in the Council Chambers. For your convenience, a binder of the entire agenda packet will be at the table in the foyer of the Council Chambers for viewing. Agendas and reports can be viewed on the City website at <https://costamesa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

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ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**NOVEMBER 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.****ALISA OCHOA**
Chair**FISHER DERDERIAN**
Vice Chair**CHARLENE ASHENDORF**
Commissioner**BRENDAN FORD**
Commissioner**ERICA LUCIA**
Commissioner**ALLISON MANN**
Commissioner**DEBORA WONDERCHECK**
Commissioner**CALL TO ORDER****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****ROLL CALL****PRESENTATIONS:**

1. POET LAUREATE - DANIELLE HANSON
2. NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - ARTS REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Arts Commission, staff, or the public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. The public can make this request via email at PAComments@costamesaca.gov and should include the item number to be addressed. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be discussed and voted upon immediately following Planning Commission action on the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

1. **MINUTES** **25-575**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2025 and September 4, 2025 Arts Commission meeting.

Attachments: [08/07/25 Arts Draft Minutes](#)
[09/04/25 Arts Draft Minutes](#)

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. ARTS SPECIALIST UPDATE

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS** **25-576**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission approve 12 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[1. Utility Box Art Program Designs](#)

2. **AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY** **25-577**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission engage in a discussion regarding an art project for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)

ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2025.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 25-575

Meeting Date: 11/6/2025

TITLE:

MINUTES

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2025 and September 4, 2025 Arts Commission meeting.

THE COSTA MESA ARTS COMMISSION

AUGUST 7, 2025
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Ochoa at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Mann.

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, Recreation Specialist

*Vice Chair Derderian arrived at 6:08 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ashendorf: Thanked the Costa Mesa Foundation and staff for the Concerts in the Park and July 3rd event, praised summer arts programming, highlighted upcoming arts activities, and appreciated the City Council's recent study session for clarifying commissioners' roles.

Commissioner Ford: Commended the success of the Concerts in the Park, July 3rd, and Make Music Day. Praised staff's hard work and expressed enthusiasm for collaborating on the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Commissioner Mann: Praised the Concerts in the Park event for uniting the community, shared excitement for ARTventure, and suggested that the Arts Commission consider a presence at the OC Fair to increase public awareness and engagement.

Commissioner Wondercheck: Thanked staff and participants for the success of Make Music Day, praised Commissioner Ford's performance, and announced plans to formalize a Make Music Day committee for future events.

Vice Chair Derderian: Commended community engagement at the Concerts in the Park, summarized his July Council presentation on strengthening the Arts Commission's role, and thanked Councilmember Pettis and city leadership for their continued support of arts initiatives.

Chair Ochoa: Thanked commissioners and staff for their leadership and participation in community arts events, emphasized the public's desire for more art citywide, proposed creating an arts-focused Instagram or newsletter for outreach.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES

06/05/2025 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

Public Comment: None.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa motioned to approve the minutes for June 5, 2025/Seconded by Commissioner Wondercheck.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Wondercheck, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7-0

MONTHLY REPORTS:

1. ARTS SPECIALIST UPDATE

Arts Specialist, Laurette Garner, presented.

Commissioner Ashendorf praised staff for the successful implementation of the utility art box program and expressed delight at seeing new artworks appear throughout the city.

Commissioner Mann thanked staff for their work supporting the Arts Commission and emphasized the importance of having a dedicated, paid staff position to ensure the success and organization of arts programs.

Chair Ochoa asked how many staff members the City of Cincinnati had in roles similar to Ms. Garner's within their arts department.

Public Comment:

Angely Andrade Vallarta: Expressed excitement for the upcoming Fairview Development Center project and encouraged the inclusion of creative and arts-focused spaces within its planned community center to support children and families on Costa Mesa's west side.

Eli: Shared their love of art, singing, and painting, thanked the city for showcasing art and inspiring kids, and hoped such opportunities would continue in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ARTS GRANT PROGRAM REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Mann praised the inclusion of the facility discount for grantees, expressed concern about grant eligibility restrictions tied to nonprofit sponsorships, and suggested exploring additional non-monetary support options through a possible subcommittee.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Lucia supported offering discounted use of city facilities for grantees as an effective and equitable solution.

Commissioner Ashendorf supported the discount program given reduced grant funding, urged future increases to grant amounts to better serve artists, and asked staff about marketing timelines for the January grant cycle.

Vice Chair Derderian commended staff for implementing the facility discount, reiterated his desire for stronger emphasis on funding new art over education programs, and suggested promoting grantee events through city marketing channels while supporting the guidelines as presented.

Chair Ochoa agreed with Commissioner Ashendorf on the need to increase grant funding and requested staff guidance on how to reallocate funds to restore previous funding levels.

MOTION/SECOND: Vice Chair Derderian motioned to approve the Arts Grant Guidelines for the 2025-26 grant cycle/Seconded by Commissioner Lucia.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Wondercheck, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SCOPE OF WORK ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN UPDATE

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Public Comment:

Jeff Pettis: Spoke as a resident to commend the Commission's work, urged them to be bold in shaping Costa Mesa's five-to-ten year arts vision, and encouraged prioritizing visible, public art to reflect the city's identity as the City of the Arts.

Commissioner Mann praised the evolving scope of the Arts and Culture Master Plan,

Commissioner Ford supported emphasizing public-facing art such as murals and sculptures that reflect Costa Mesa's history and the unique cultural character of each district across the city.

Commissioner Mann suggested refining certain wording for clarity, shared her belief that art is inherently inclusive, and supported creative public art concepts such as artistic goat sculptures celebrating local history.

Commissioner Ashendorf highlighted the need for creative new funding sources to support the plan's goals and encouraged exploring innovative financing strategies beyond the current limited budget.

Commissioner Lucia agreed that identifying creative funding sources was essential to achieve the master plan's goals and expand the city's artistic initiatives.

Commissioner Wondercheck proposed exploring low-cost, high-impact public art options such as painted crosswalks near schools to engage children and local artists while increasing visibility of art in daily life.

Vice Chair Derderian emphasized developing a clear long-term vision of what it means for Costa Mesa to be the City of the Arts, suggested a study session for commissioners to refine proposals, advocated for expanding public art and the creative economy through incentives and zoning ideas, and called for planning future staffing needs to support the vision.

Chair Ochoa agreed that the current master plan provided a strong foundation for continued growth and development of Costa Mesa's arts initiatives. Praised the scope of work, highlighted the value of low-cost pedestrian art inspired by Redmond's model, encouraged stronger interdepartmental collaboration, supported including diversity, equity, and inclusion as a citywide value, and endorsed a five-year planning horizon.

Commissioner Ashendorf encouraged commissioners to attend school board meetings to promote the City's arts efforts and strengthen connections with local schools.

Commissioner Mann announced the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony for Estancia High School's new theater on September 9 and encouraged commissioners to attend.

Vice Chair Derderian requested a future agenda item to explore Costa Mesa's participation in the America 250 celebration, proposing that the Arts Commission lead or contribute to an arts-focused citywide event.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Chair Ochoa shared that she and her son enjoyed attending the Arts in the Park event and encouraged others to join the upcoming Coastal Corridor community mosaic workshops and art project unveiling.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 7:20 PM.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Ochoa at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Ford.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners

- ☐ Charlene Ashendorf
- ☒ Fisher Derderian
- ☒ Brendan Ford
- ☒ Erica Lucia
- ☒ Alisa Ochoa
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- ☒ Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Ochoa: Highlighted the Art Sculpture relocation of James McDemis, ARTventure, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SCOPE OF WORK ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager, presented.

Vice Chair Derderian inquired about Section D.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Ford highlighted page 28 and 29 from prior plan, Commissioner Lucia appreciated staff updates. Vice Chair Derderian requested to add a bullet in section D regarding creative economy. Chair Ochoa highlighted item C and in agreement with all commissioner comments.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa made a motion to approve Scope of Work with the friendly amendment to Section 4/Seconded by Vice Chair Derderian.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Lucia, Vice Chair Derderian, Chair Ochoa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Mann, and Commissioner Wondercheck

Motion Carried: 4-0

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 6:15 PM.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 25-576

Meeting Date: 11/6/2025

TITLE:

APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission approve 12 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-576

Meeting Date: 11/06/2025

TITLE: APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST
CONTACT INFORMATION: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission approve 12 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The City of Costa Mesa owns over 120 utility boxes at signalized intersections throughout the city and is dedicated to incorporating art into public spaces. A Utility Box Art Program was launched in early 2015 to spotlight a handful of utility boxes as beautiful art pieces. The city currently has over 70 utility art boxes that display artwork created by local artists; and 10 boxes designed by graphic designers from local businesses and nonprofit organizations. The Arts Division receives an annual budget for the Arts & Culture Master Plan implementation, which includes the utility art box program.

ANALYSIS:

For fiscal year 2025-26, a review panel was formed to review all designs and make selections to present to the Arts Commission. The review panel consisted of two (2) Arts Commissioners and one (1) local artist. The 2025-2026 budget allows for the installation of 12 new box designs. Staff is presenting the following designs for approval this fiscal year.

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
1	Kingsley Aarons	62	Fairview Rd. & Newport Blvd.
2	Kimberly Duran	20	W. 19 th St. & Harbor Blvd.
3	Adam Ereth	120	W. 19 th St. & Wallace Ave.
4	Michelle Ford	38	W. 16 th St. & Placentia
5	Gabrielle Jimenez	104	Bristol St. & Santa Ana Ave.
6	Kathy Leland	78	Wimbledon Way & Sunflower Ave.
7	Emily Neely	91	Anton Blvd. & Sakioka Dr.
8	Nicole Pete	85	Sunflower Ave. & Avenue of the Arts

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
9	Jaz R.	21	Harbor Blvd. & Mesa Verde
10	Nancy Ross	15	Santa Ana Ave. & E. 17 th St.
11	Maria Shevchenko	42	Newport Blvd. & 22 nd St.
12	Kathie Warren	47	Harbor Blvd. & Merrimac Way

All location assignments are tentative, pending Arts Commission review and approval.

If an artist's design is not chosen during this cycle, they can re-apply in July of 2026 for the fiscal year 26-27. In addition, seven (7) older vinyl wraps will also be removed in an effort to maintain or replace boxes that are older than three (3) years and/or are damaged.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Arts Commission can choose to deny one or more of the recommended designs and select alternative designs.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission approve 12 utility box art designs.

UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS 2025-2026

1. **Artist:** Kingsley Aarons

Short Bio:

Orange County-based multi-disciplinary artist Kingsley is a creative force with a rich background in graphic design and traditional painting. As a progressive designer, he embraces a wide range of styles, taking bold risks to achieve original results. Kingsley crafts hand-made artworks that merge seemingly incompatible worlds into a cohesive new universe, blurring the lines between digital and reality with a sense of rigid elegance. His paintings prominently feature strong brutalist architectural imagery, drawing inspiration from his architect father. In addition, he utilizes structural photography captured during his world travels and digital glitched imagery, influenced by the effects of excessive screen time. Kingsley's latest series is visually stimulating, showcasing a unique blend of techniques and imagery. By questioning the concept of reality through digital mediums, he employs a visual vocabulary that addresses various social and pop cultural issues. His work incorporates both time and space, creating a fictional and experiential universe that unfolds pixel by pixel.

Website: <https://www.coroflot.com/Kingsley360/ART>

Additional Information: Box #62 – Fairview Rd & Newport Blvd

Artwork: Mrs. Smith

Original Medium: Mixed Media



2. **Artist:** Kimberly Duran

Short Bio:

Kimberly Duran (professionally known as Shmi) is a first-generation Chicana artist, creative director, and lead muralist whose work is rooted in cultural storytelling and community empowerment. Born and raised in Santa Ana, California, Duran began her artistic journey at age 11, painting mural backdrops for local school plays. Deeply influenced by her upbringing and frequent visits to her family's hometown in Mexico, she weaves themes of identity, heritage, and resilience into every piece. Duran is nationally recognized for her large-scale murals created in aerosol and acrylic, which draw inspiration from folk art traditions and the vibrant communities she serves. Her work is celebrated not only for its aesthetic impact but also for its cultural depth and social relevance. Over the past 23 years, she has led transformative public art projects across California, including award-winning murals in Santa Ana and Pomona. Her mural at 1212 E 4th Street in Santa Ana was featured in the Travel Santa Ana Dream Big campaign and highlighted on HGTV's *Izzy Does It* (airing Thanksgiving 2024). She has partnered with organizations like the Anaheim Ducks, Santa Ana Police Department, and numerous school districts to foster community engagement through art. Duran's work has been showcased in universities statewide and preserved as part of the cultural fabric of her hometown. She was also recently added to Wikipedia as a pioneering brown woman artist in Santa Ana. As a mentor and advocate, she continues to shape the next generation of artists through grassroots projects, mentorship programs, and mural restoration efforts. Each project she undertakes is a tribute to the strength, beauty, and stories of her people.

Website: <https://www.5hmi.com/>

Additional Information: Box #20 – W 19th St & Harbor Blvd

Artwork: Birds of Paradise

Original Medium: Digital Art



3. **Artist:** Brian Peterson

Commissioned by Someone Cares Soup Kitchen/Adam Ereth

Short Bio:

Brian Peterson is a visionary artist based in Miami, Florida who creates and paints murals inspired by a drive to capture the purity in humanity and its environment.. Brian's use of vibrant colors and simplified geometries captures the essence of the human spirit making his audience participate with the painting as if in a real life interaction. Many that have been able to participate in this experience is calling this "the next level of contemporary street art" style. Drawing on his design background as an award-winning automotive designer and his Christian faith, Brian portrays his subjects in a form that is simplistic, yet from a Heavenly perspective. His work can be seen in homeless shelters, recreational centers, and parks across the United States as well as gracing the walls of high-ends shopping facilities like Ovation Hollywood (formerly Hollywood & Highland) in Los Angeles and prestigious Hotels like the Marriott. Brian's humanitarian and advocacy work, which began with painting his neighbors experiencing homelessness, has led him to be featured in BBC's Amazing Humans, The Huffington Post, NPR, and a documentary film Faces of Santa Ana. His love for art, his community and Jesus Christ, led him to found Faces of Santa Ana, a non-profit organization focusing on homelessness and the rehabilitation of his neighbors, transforming their stories into powerful visual narratives and allowing the proceeds from these works to be used to uplift and support the very individuals he paints, turning art into a vehicle for compassion and change. Faces of Santa Ana has since expanded into Faces of Mankind, sprouting in cities across the US, such as Anaheim; Riverside, CA; Detroit, MI; Miami, FL; and Jackson, TN. He is presently exploring opportunities of collaboration and projects internationally, with a focus in South Korea, hoping to bring his work that radiates the resilience and beauty of the human spirit.

Website: www.SomeoneCaresKitchen.org

Additional Information: Box #120 – W 19th St & Wallace Ave

Artwork: Someone Cares

Original Medium: Digital Art



4. **Artist:** Michelle Ford

Short Bio:

Michelle is a photographer whose work lives at the intersection of light, intuition, and quiet power. She began her journey behind the camera in 2008 with a “big girl” camera and the invitation to shoot a friend’s beach engagement session. That early spark launched a deeply reflective and evolving career. For eleven years, Michelle dedicated herself to photographing weddings—traveling, observing, and learning to tell stories through moments both grand and tender. Over time, she came to realize that her most resonant images sprouted from everyday spaces: the quiet corners of home, the light that dances across walls, the emotional subtleties in daily life.

In her practice under The Coco Gallery, Michelle centers authenticity. She sees photography as a way to anchor memory and reclaim power, offering her clients more than portraits—their stories, their truths. Through Lightchaser, she leans into her more introspective lens: chasing light as both metaphor and medium. She describes each image as a dialogue— sometimes light is bold and assertive, other times it whispers through shadows. As an introvert-turned-artist, Michelle lets her camera be the translator of what she sees and feels. She composes with intention, embracing the tension between strength and vulnerability. In every frame, she invites viewers to slow down, connect, and witness what light reveals—and what it can never fully hold.

Website: <https://www.lightchaser.art/>

Additional Information: Box #38 – W 16th & Placentia Ave

Artwork: Head in the Clouds

Original Medium: Photography



5. Artist: Gabrielle Jimenez

Short Bio:

Gabrielle, an artist residing in Orange County, CA, and is currently pursuing a BFA at Cal-State Fullerton, specializing in drawing and painting. Her artistic creations span from still-life compositions to imaginative illustrations. She frequently draws inspiration from personal memories and nostalgic elements, including films, songs, challenging circumstances, relationships, or periods of tranquility. A core tenet of her practice is to preserve these experiences and share them, fostering connections between her artwork and a broader audience. Color serves as a pivotal element in her compositions. She contends that daily commutes and routines often lack vibrancy, and therefore, a work of art should transcend these mundane experiences. She embraces opportunities to amplify saturation and hues when appropriate, while also acknowledging that certain pieces necessitate subtle palettes. Beyond her artistic pursuits, she finds pleasure in leisure time with her partner and bull terrier, hiking, and checking out new coffee spots.

Website: <https://gabypaints.myportfolio.com/>

Additional Information: Box #104 – Bristol St & Santa Ana Ave

Artwork: Newport Bay

Original Medium: Oil paint and cold wax



6. Artist: Kathy Leland

Short Bio:

Kathy Leland is a painter in oils for the past 54 years. Her style is eclectic. She enjoys painting landscapes, figurative and abstract, most of all from her imagination. She is a self-taught artist and her favorite quote is from Henry David Thoreau who said "the world is but a canvas to our imagination."

Website: www.kathyleland.com

Additional Information: Box #78 – Wimbledon & Sunflower Ave

Artwork: Field of Faith and Hope

Original Medium: Oil



7. Artist: Emily Neely

Short Bio:

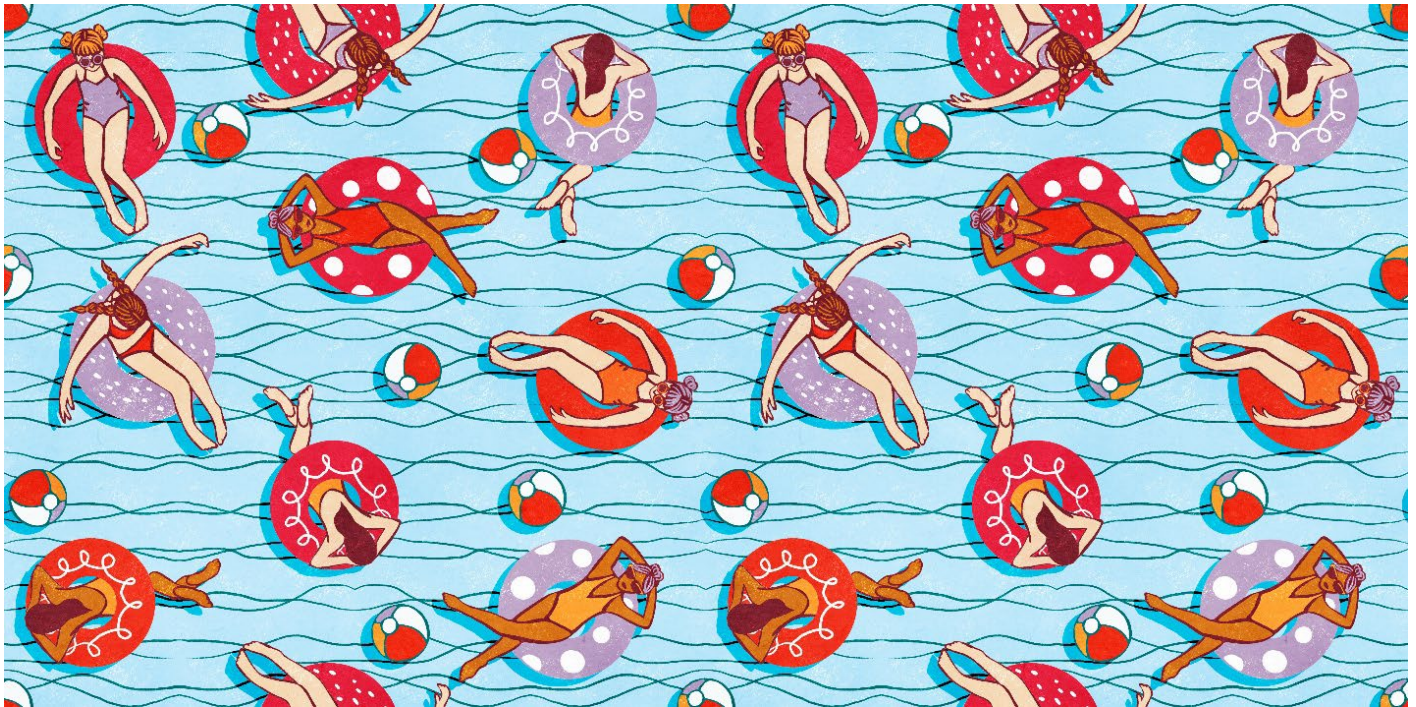
Emily Neely is an Orange County based artist who creates playful, colorful statement pieces that celebrate the best in our best friends (both two- and four-legged). Whether it's custom pet illustrations or designing cheerful prints and cards, Emily believes in making art that brightens our spaces and contributes to a brighter future for us all.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/creative.empulse/>

Additional Information: Box #91 – Anton Blvd & Sakioka Dr

Artwork: Polka Dot Pool Party

Original Medium: Acrylic on canvas



8. Artist: Nicole Pete

Short Bio:

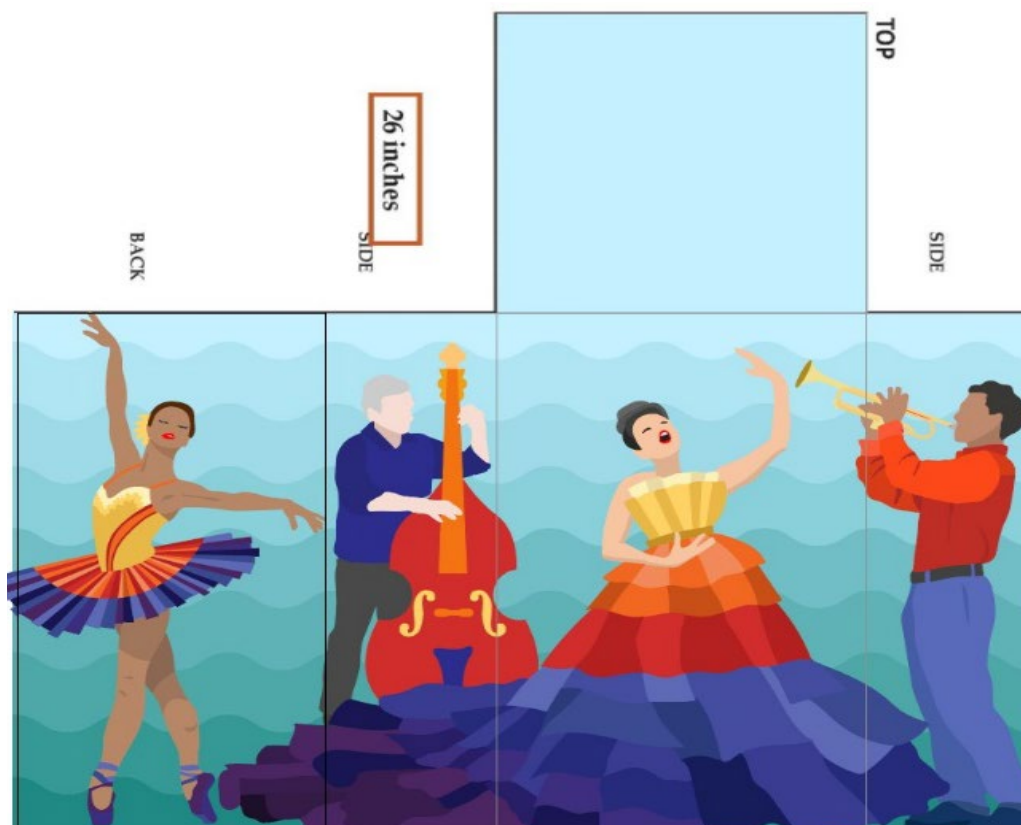
Nicole Marie Pete is a Southern California-based digital artist whose work explores Native American identity through a contemporary lens. A full-blooded Navajo (Diné) and enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), Nicole's heritage plays a central role in both the content and purpose of her art. Her maternal clan is Bitter Water (Todí'ch'íí'nii), and she was born for the Big Water clan (Totsohnii). Inspired at an early age by her grandfather, John Scott Sr.—designer of the CRIT tribal seal—Nicole grew up with a deep appreciation for cultural symbolism and storytelling. This foundation continues to influence her vibrant digital artwork, which often incorporates Indigenous themes, Navajo philosophies, and traditional motifs alongside bold, modern visuals. Nicole has illustrated children's books aimed at preserving the Navajo language, contributed to Native-focused publications, and created cover art for books celebrating Indigenous perspectives. Her work balances reverence for her ancestry with a desire to engage and educate new audiences through digital mediums. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Information Systems from California State University, Fullerton. Beyond visual art, she is skilled in web design, branding, and digital graphics—bringing together her creative vision and technical expertise. Through every project, Nicole strives to honor her roots, promote cultural preservation, and share the beauty of Indigenous traditions in a way that resonates with people of all backgrounds. She continues to live and create in Southern California.

Website: <http://www.nicolepete.com/>

Additional Information: Box #85 – Sunflower Ave & Avenue of the Arts

Artwork: Costa Rhythms

Original Medium: Digital Art



9. Artist: Jaz R.

Short Bio:

Jaz R. (Jasmina Roitzsch) is a German-born visual artist based in Orange County, California, where she has developed a passion for digital photography and digital art since relocating in 2010. Her work reflects a keen eye for unexpected moments and hidden beauty, whether captured in her local surroundings or during travels around the world. Since 2017 Jaz's photographs have been featured in both group and solo exhibitions in Orange County where she also has successfully sold her pieces or has received multiple awards. The recent award received, Sept 2025, in category Photography & Digital art at ARTventure Exhibit in Costa Mesa, CA. Whether exploring urban environments or natural subjects like plants, Jaz brings a unique perspective and sensitivity to composition. She continues to explore new visual languages through digital layering, texture, and selective color, always searching for what she calls a touch of "je ne sais quoi."

Website: <https://www.jrdigitalart.com/>

Additional Information: Box #21 – Harbor Blvd & Mesa Verde Dr E

Artwork: Girl in Poppy Field

Original Medium: Photography



10. Artist: Nancy Ross

Short Bio:

Nancy loves creating and enjoying all art forms.

Website: N/A

Additional Information: Box #15 – Santa Ana Ave & E 17th St

Artwork: Bloom Where You Are Planted

Original Medium: Acrylic and oil paints



11. Artist: Maria Shevchenko

Short Bio:

Maria Shevchenko was born in 1982 in Russia and grew up in Ukraine since 1994, where she graduated from Poltava University of Economics and Trade. In 2011, she studied painting at the studio of Anna Flegantova. In 2012, Maria started a successful business in the service sector and was the head of a beauty salon until the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022.

Maria and her son were forced to immigrate to the United States, California. She had to start her life from scratch and the transformation of a woman who fled from war to freedom was reflected in her work. From 2024 to the present day, Maria is a student at Orange Coast College, art department.

Website:

https://www.instagram.com/sheva_mariya?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

Additional Information: Box #42 – Newport Blvd & 22nd St

Artwork: Solerentia

Original Medium: Oil



12. Artist: Kathie Warren

Short Bio:

Kathie Warren's artwork is original, expressive, energetic, fluid, and inspired by nature.

Kathie was born with creativity and entrepreneurial DNA. These attributes have followed her from being a child in Minnesota to an adult in California. Over time her creativity and business experience evolved; starting "Dreams in Glass Designs", offering gift items of florals with butterflies. Serendipity ruled her life. She owned a computer company, selling nationwide; then gained a degree and became a graphic designer. Then down the rabbit hole she went into the art world, She creates in clay, paint, silk and found items, challenging herself as she goes.

For nearly 10 years she was part of the Santora/SA Artist Village owning the Green Door Gallery, where she exhibited her eclectic range of paintings and ceramic works and hosted emerging artists. Currently, Kathie is an Orange County Fine Art member and three-year resident artist in the AvantGarden Art Gallery located in the Santa Ana Artist Village. In addition she has shown her work in Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, and Costa Mesa. Each summer from 2005-09 she was a regular volunteer at the Orange County Fair demonstrating ceramic hand-building. Kathie's recent focus is painting on silk and creating "wear-able art". In 2024 she continues to exhibit in nearby galleries. Enjoys the challenge of commissions. Currently (2024) one of her painting was wrapped on a Costa Mesa utility box. Now 2025 she is honored to have four oil paintings exhibited at the OC Fair. Since the first, she was an annual exhibitor at ARTventure.

Website: www.artistkathiewarren.com

Additional Information: Box #47 – Harbor Blvd & Merrimac Way

Artwork: Summer Blooms

Original Medium: Digital Art





CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 25-577

Meeting Date: 11/6/2025

TITLE:

AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission engage in a discussion regarding an art project for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-577

Meeting Date: 11/06/2025

TITLE: AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
CONTACT INFORMATION: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission engage in a discussion regarding an art project for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

ANALYSIS:

Vice Chair Derderian requested to agendize a discussion to consider an art project that celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Arts Commission may choose not to discuss this item and recommend no action.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Arts Commission engage in a discussion regarding an art project for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.