MAY 7, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Lucia.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Charlene Ashendorf	☒ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
☒ Fisher Derderian*	☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
☐ Brendan Ford	☒ Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
☒ Debora Wondercheck	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
☒ Allison Mann, Vice Chair	☒ Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist
☒ Alisa Ochoa, Chair	

**Commissioner Wondercheck arrived during Commissioner Comments at 6:05 PM.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Warzer-Brady: Commended Arts Specialist Laurette Garner for her leadership, vision, and accomplishments in establishing the City's first Arts Specialist role and wished her well in her new position in Encinitas.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ashendorf: Praised Ms. Garner and wished her well. Commended the City Council presentation and discussion, highlighted support for arts funding, volunteer opportunities, and donations, and requested continued promotion of grant recipients and an update on the Arts Specialist recruitment.

Commissioner Derderian: Praised Ms. Garner for her contributions and expressed appreciation for the positive Council discussion. Also supported using the Arts Master Plan as a guide and looked forward to advancing the Commission's role and future work.

Commission Wondercheck: Thanked Ms. Garner for her significant contributions to the City and for helping launch and advance the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Lucia: Thanked Ms. Garner for bringing energy, creativity, and community to the City. She commended the City Council presentation and expressed encouragement regarding the Council's discussion of arts funding and the Commission's recommendations.

Vice Chair Mann: Praised Ms. Garner's contributions, commended the City Council presentation, and supported incorporating art into public spaces.

Chair Ochoa: Thanked Ms. Garner for her contributions, supported incorporating art into public infrastructure, and expressed hope for clearer arts funding direction during the Arts Commission presentation to City Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **MINUTES – 04/02/2026 Draft Minutes**

DRAFT

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa made a motion to approve the April 2, 2026, amended meeting minutes/Seconded by Vice Chair Mann.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Wondercheck, Vice Chair Mann, Chair Ochoa
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Ford
Motion Carried: 6-0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. **ARTS SPECIALIST UPDATE**
   Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

   Commissioner Ashendorf inquired who would be lead for youth art gallery.

   Public Comment: No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES DRAFT ORDINANCE REVIEW**
   Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

   Commissioner Ashendorf asked whether future transportation projects could incorporate public art into bus shelters or park benches and whether they fell under City or County jurisdiction.

   Commissioner Derderian sought clarification on the optional $20,000 contribution, expressed concerns about the process for private developers, and supported public art requirements for public development.

   Chair Ochoa suggested funding for public art maintenance and a deaccessioning policy, sought clarification on applicable projects, and supported advancing the draft to City Council.

   No motion; item was for commission feedback.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **FREE AT SEGERSTROM CENTER CAMPUS PROGRAM FINAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**
   Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

   Public Comment: No comments.

   Commissioner Ashendorf praised the distribution of nearly 800 community tickets valued at approximately $54,000 and requested future feedback from participating nonprofits and ticket recipients.

   Chair Ochoa praised the ticket distribution amount and requested demographic data and feedback from partner organizations to better understand community interests and program benefits.

DRAFT

No motion for this item.

2. **SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT REVIEW AT KETCHUM-LIBOLT PARK**
Ms. Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Lucia asked whether the alternate poem would replace an approved selection or be added if additional space became available.

Commissioner Ashendorf praised the poetry selection process and highlighted the selection of a local youth poem. She thanked those involved and expressed enthusiasm for the program's growing momentum and expansion to Shalimar Park.

Commissioner Derderian asked whether the selected poems, aside from the John Muir selection, were submitted and written by local residents.

Chair Ochoa suggested reserving the alternate poems for a future opportunity.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chair Mann praised the selected poems and asked whether the Spanish-language poem would also include an English translation.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Lucia made a motion to approve/Seconded by Commissioner Wondercheck.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Wondercheck, Vice Chair Mann, Chair Ochoa
Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Ford
Motion Carried: 6-0

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS
Commissioner Derderian encouraged participation in Love Costa Mesa Day and expressed enthusiasm for the UCI Langson Museum of Art collection relocating to Costa Mesa.

Commissioner Lucia suggested exploring opportunities to incorporate poetry into utility box artwork as a collaboration between poets and artists.

Commissioner Wondercheck shared upcoming local arts events, including an OC Arts Guild photography presentation, the *Voices in Unity* choir performance and rehearsals, and the Gospel Voices of Orange County concert.

Mr. Gruner thanked Ms. Garner for her leadership and contributions to the Arts Master Plan, Commission, projects, and events, and wished her well in her next endeavor.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 6:54 PM.

DRAFT