



ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.



The following programs and goals from the five (5) year plan have been implemented and re-evaluated:

- **Annual Art Crawl Experience**
- **Revised guidelines and standards for Exhibition spaces in City facilities**
- **Created new guidelines for Utility Box Art Program**
- **Updated Arts and Culture Calendar and Artist Directory**
- **Arts Grant Program with new guidelines and application**
- **Free Park Performances at parks and city events**
- **Poet Laureate Program**
- **Implemented optional private property Mural Permit in TESSA**
- **Free at Segerstrom Center Campus program**
- **ARTventure juried art exhibition and awards ceremony**
- **Hired consultant Arts Orange County to create an Art in Public Places Report to guide the public art goals in the ACMP**

Accomplishments for 2025

- Selection of new Poet Laureate for two-year term as **Costa Mesa's first ever Poet Laureate**
- Reviewed and approved twelve (12) new designs for the **Utility Box Art Program**
- Reviewed and approved nine (9) grantees for the **Arts Grant Program**
- Reviewed and made changes to the **Arts Grant Program** guidelines that included increases to arts grant amounts
- Participation in a review panel to select poetry for a new public art initiative: **Sidewalk Poetry project** for implementation at Brentwood Park
- Reviewed and approved a new Scope of Work for **ACMP** update
- Discussion and review of the **Art in Public Places Report** as part of a larger plan to draft a public art ordinance for implementation in the future as a mechanism to fund public art projects



Upcoming Plans for 2026



Assist in the implementation of a potential update and new **Arts and Culture Master Plan** for City Council review



Review and approve new poems for new **Sidewalk Poetry Project** for upcoming park renovations at Ketchum-Libolt and Shalimar Parks



Draft an **official public art ordinance** for City Council review

Upcoming Plans for 2026 *(continued)*



Review and make suggestions for optional **TESSA mural applications** for private property



Review and approve new designs for the **Utility Box Art Program**



Review and approve new **Arts Grant Program** grantees

Purpose for Budget Priorities for 2026-27

- The current framework requires City finance staff to return to Council each year to request general fund dollars to **backfill a recurring shortfall.**
- Our recommendations are **not a request for new funding.** The intent is to update city policies and municipal codes to remove recurring inefficiencies and better align existing and anticipated revenue with their original purpose.
- Updating city policies and municipal codes where applicable would ensure **arts funding is properly designated from the outset**, staff time is not consumed by avoidable annual shortfalls, and public dollars are directed as efficiently as possible toward the outcomes the Arts and Culture Master Plan was designed to deliver.



Proposed Budget Priorities for 2026-27

1

Reclassify the Arts Specialist position to the City's General Fund

2

Establish a dedicated Public Art Fund

3

Dedicate a portion of any Transient Occupancy Tax increase to the Public Art Fund

4

Increase the Cannabis Tax Allocation from 0.5% to 1.0% to fund the full implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan

5

Approve consultant, if selected by City Council, to work on a new ACMP update

6

Approve new budget framework to fund the interim period between the last year of the current ACMP and the implementation of the proposed update to the ACMP

Illustrative Budget Framework for 2026-27

- The **following budget frameworks** are provided to illustrate how the City's arts funding can be organized more clearly and deployed more effectively under current operating conditions.
- As the City of Costa Mesa approaches the end of the current fiscal year, the **Arts and Culture Master Plan has effectively expired**, and an updated plan has not yet been adopted.
- These next two models also account for the anticipated **cost of the Master Plan update contract**, ensuring that the update process does not create additional pressure on the City's general fund and remains consistent with the intent of the ordinance.
- Both scenarios organize funding into clear categories and reflect a simple principle: **core programming and contractual obligations are funded first**, with remaining funds directed toward a Public Art Fund capable of supporting visible, long-term improvements across the City.



Proposed Budget for 2026-27 @ 0.5% Cannabis Tax Revenue

FY26 & FY27 PROPOSED BUDGET @ 0.5% CANNABIS TAX REVENUE

Account	Item	FY25/26	Proposed 26/27	Proposed 27/28
Multimedia, Promos				
	Free at Segerstrom Center Campus	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
	Utility Box Art Program	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
Consulting				
	Artist Laureate Program	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Large-Scale Installations	\$ -	-	\$ -
	Master Plan Update	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
Recreation				
	ARTventure/Action Arts	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
	Galleries	\$ 400.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
	Free Park Performances	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
	Art Crawl	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Grants				
	Arts Grants Program	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 32,500.00
Public Art				
Board Member Fees	Arts Commission Stipends	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
	Public Art Fund	\$ -	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 62,100.00
	Total Events and Initiatives	\$ 237,300.00	\$ 248,400.00	\$ 248,400.00

Proposed Budget for 2026-27 @ 1.0% Cannabis Tax Revenue

FY26 & FY27 PROPOSED BUDGET @ 1.0% CANNABIS TAX REVENUE

Account	Item	FY25/26	Proposed 26/27	Proposed 27/28
Multimedia, Promos				
	Free at Segerstrom Center Campus	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
	Utility Box Art Program	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Consulting				
	Artist Laureate Program	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
	Large-Scale Installations	\$		
	Master Plan Update	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -
Recreation				
	ARTventure/Action Arts	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
	Galleries	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Free Park Performances	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
	Art Crawl	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Grants				
	Arts Grants Program	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Public Art				
Board Member Fees				
	Arts Commission Stipends	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
	Public Art Fund	\$ -	\$ 112,500.00	\$ 177,500.00
	Total Events and Initiatives	\$ 237,300.00	\$ 428,400.00	\$ 468,400.00

Press

Los Angeles Times Daily Pilot

NEWS

Costa Mesa butterfly garden offers sanctuary for humans and pollinators alike



Artist Marisol Bazan's "La Magia de Colleta" sculptures adorn a new Mariposa Garden at Costa Mesa's Marina View Park. (Don Leach / Staff Photographer)

By Sara Cardine
Staff Writer | %Follow

Jan. 30, 2024 7:31 PM PT

Costa Mesa leaders, who've recently committed to increasing access to open space by investing in the restoration and expansion of city parks, are now hoping to entice interest among a new sector of parkgoers — plant pollinators.

Officials convened at Marina View Park on the city's west side Tuesday morning to unveil a new "Mariposa Garden" with drought-tolerant native and naturalized flora designed to attract a variety of insect species, including the monarch butterfly.

The event also featured the debut of a butterfly-themed art installation called "La Magia de Colleta" — the first public art project to be funded by the city.

NEWS

Costa Mesa names UC Irvine poetry instructor Danielle Hanson its first poet laureate



Danielle Hanson, a part-time poetry instructor at UC Irvine, has been named Costa Mesa's inaugural Poet Laureate. (Courtesy of Danielle Hanson)

By Sara Cardine
Staff Writer | %Follow

April 2, 2025 5:35 PM PT



Danielle Hanson in 2016 left a thriving corporate communications job in Atlanta to devote her time to her first love — poetry.

That departure kicked off a six-year period of serving as a volunteer editor at various small publishing companies and literary journals, during which Hanson saw her own work published before securing a job as a part-time instructor in UC Irvine's School of Humanities.

"The curse, and also the blessing, of writing poetry is you're absolutely never going to make a living doing this," the 53-year-old Irvine resident quipped in an interview Monday.

Still, despite that rule of thumb, Hanson seems to be making a pretty good go at a life steeped in verse. In addition to teaching poetry, she's published two books of her own work, "Ambushing Water" in 2017 and "Fraying Edge of Sky" the following year. And she's currently working on a third.

TimesOC NEWSLETTER

Watch your step — there's poetry in this Orange County park



Marco Reyes cleans a mold to press poems into a concrete path leading to a new playground at Brentwood Park in Costa Mesa. (Eric Licas)

By Carol Cormaci
Times Community News Executive Editor | @Contact

April 1, 2026 9 AM PT



While crews were pressing poetry verses into wet concrete last week as part of an exceptionally creative revitalization of Brentwood Park in Costa Mesa, the city's poet laureate, Danielle Hanson, savored the moment.

"For me, what I'm super excited about is getting people who don't normally encounter poetry in their daily lives," she told reporter Eric Licas when he interviewed her for [an lyrical a public work news story as I've ever read](#). "I mean, we're all super busy. We seek out the things that we already like or get introduced to. I like putting poetry in front of people where they already are — so, a park setting. I adore it!"

The 2.6-acre strip at 260 Brentwood St. used to be "nothing but grass and an old picnic bench," Costa Mesa Arts Commissioner Charlene Aschendorf said ahead of a ribbon-cutting scheduled for [3:30 p.m. Friday](#) for the renovated site.



Q&A

