

JUNE 5, 2025
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Ochoa at 6:04 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Derderian.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Charlene Ashendorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisher Derderian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan Ford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erica Lucia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley Thomas, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alisa Ochoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison Mann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debora Wondercheck	

PRESENTATION:

1. ARTS IN THE PARK – COASTAL CORRIDOR

Coastal Corridor Deputy Director, Brett Babos, and Astriz Perez presented.

Commissioner Mann asked how many installations had been completed and where they were typically done, such as on beaches or in parks. She also inquired about the approximate cost of each installation.

Commissioner Ford asked if there was an estimate of how many pounds of trash had been collected to create the installations.

Commissioner Wondercheck asked how the materials were cleaned.

Chair Ochoa inquired about the timing and location of the next mosaic workshop.

Commissioner Mann also asked approximately how many people were involved in a single project or across the entire coastal corridor initiative. She noted there might be opportunities to apply for grants or funding through the Arts Commission and other sources to support the project's growth.

Commissioner Wondercheck suggested reaching out to the California Arts Council for potential support.

2. COSTA MESA SKATE PARK EXPANSION PREVIEW

Recreation Manager, Monique Villasenor presented.

Commissioner Mann recalled a prior discussion about a possible budget for the skate park and asked how much funding was allocated for art at the site, as well as how many artistic mediums might be incorporated into the area.

Ms. Villasenor explained that the art budget for the skate park was not yet available, as the project was grant-funded with specific requirements regarding scope and

elements. She noted that fencing details were still being finalized, as the current fencing was in poor condition, and that plans were expected to progress over the summer. She added that staff was exploring partnerships and alternative funding streams outside of the general fund, with the goal of developing a network of donors interested in contributing to community projects through events or art.

Vice Chair Derderian asked what types of art or services were being considered so commissioners could provide suggestions in future discussions.

Commissioner Ford asked about the anticipated completion date and whether efforts had been made to reach out to companies like Vans or Monster, given their ties to the skate community.

Chair Ochoa asked whether the skate park would maintain a relationship with Volcom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Speaker: Resident shared that they had recently moved to the Brentwood Park area and, as an artist, designer, and event coordinator, expressed a strong interest in outdoor art and nature. They highlighted past collaborations with the City of Huntington Beach and the Tree Society, including artwork created for Norma Gibbs Butterfly Park, as an example of how community passion can transform public spaces. They explained that they were encouraged to attend the meeting to offer suggestions for Brentwood Park improvements and looked forward to seeing conceptual ideas.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Mann: Expressed enthusiasm for the Coastal Corridor presentation, stating it aligned well with the goals of community art and the Arts Commission. She highlighted the skate park as a meaningful location for her family and noted its potential for incorporating a variety of art forms and mediums. She also praised the recent *Songs in the Canyon* event as a successful, well-attended program that provided great value to the community.

Commissioner Lucia: Thanked the Coastal Corridor Alliance for their presentation, commended their community work, and looks forward to attending their Fairview Park event on the 21st. She encouraged them to apply for future arts grants, noting they were a strong candidate for projects that promote beautification and community impact. She also praised staff for the recent Art Crawl event, highlighting its eclectic music-focused programming and eager for the next event.

Commissioner Wondercheck: Reminded everyone about *Make Music Day* on June 21st at Lions Park, noting it would run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and celebrates music in all forms. She encouraged commissioners and the community to attend and participate, emphasizing the event's inclusive and celebratory spirit. She also playfully remarked that she expected Commissioner Ford to perform some solos.

Commissioner Ford: Echoed Commissioner Lucia's praise of the Coastal Corridor Alliance, commending their ability to transform trash into art. He encouraged the Commission to improve coordination in promoting city events to broaden community participation. He also requested study sessions to explore alternative revenue sources, such as the Transient

Occupancy Tax (TOT) and cannabis taxes, and to begin planning for the mural project tied to the nation's 250th anniversary.

Vice Chair Derderian: Thanked staff for forwarding Commission proposals to City Council and expressed appreciation for Council's consideration of the public-private mural project. He raised concerns about discrepancies in the arts budget figures presented at a recent study session, emphasizing the need for clarity on the Commission's role under the municipal code. He also shared his positive experience participating in *Love Costa Mesa Day* with his family, noting the community's artistic and cultural celebrations.

Chair Ochoa: Thanked Ms. Garner for organizing the recent Art Crawl, noting it was fun, eclectic, and well attended by commissioners and community members. She congratulated the Givsum Foundation for a successful *Songs in the Canyon* event and highlighted her attendance at the Newport Mesa Unified School District art showcase, praising the students, teachers, and staff involved. She also commended the Coastal Corridor Alliance's presentation, expressed excitement for upcoming events such as Make Music Day, and requested that future agendas include discussion of best practices, gaps, and staff capacity related to the next iteration of the Arts & Culture Master Plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES

05/01/2025 Arts Commission Draft Minutes

No public comment.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa motioned to approve the amended minutes for May 1, 2025/Seconded by Commissioner Mann.

Correction: *Page 7, pronoun of Commissioner Mann.*

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf

Motion Carried: 6-0

MONTHLY REPORTS:

1. ARTS SPECIALIST UPDATE

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Chair Ochoa suggested promoting the Poet Laureate program during the summer events to help increase outreach and awareness of upcoming park events.

Mr. Gruner provided a budget update from the City Council meeting.

No public comments.

Vice Chair Derderian inquired about the status of the Master Plan update and sought clarification on its placement and breakdown within the budget, noting discrepancies between the requested and listed amounts.

Chair Ochoa also commended staff for creating a well-organized, color-coordinated events calendar, which she found very helpful, before concluding her comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ARTS GRANT PROGRAM REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Vice Chair Derderian expressed appreciation for the program examples and asked two clarifying questions: whether staff had determined the extent of funding other cities dedicated to their programs, and whether the Council policy approved in 1991 was still current and effective.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chair Derderian thanked staff for incorporating changes and noted that other cities focused their grants on public art and creative economies, suggesting Costa Mesa might consider this in the future. He also raised the idea of offering grantees free or subsidized access to city facilities, potentially through the grant application process with set limits and staff or Commission review.

Commissioner Wondercheck supported the concept but raised concerns about setting limits, noting that theater groups in particular might require extended access for rehearsals and performances. She recommended that qualifications and limits be clarified in future discussions.

Vice Chair Derderian suggested a check-box option within the application and asking whether requests should be reviewed by a committee, the Commission, or the Director. He emphasized the need to determine the proper procedure.

Commissioner Mann sought clarification on whether every facility request would need to go through a lengthy review process and expressed concern that smaller requests might become unnecessarily burdensome.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa made a motion to approve the Arts Grant application with the new edits /Seconded by Commissioner Lucia.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ashendorf

Motion Carried: 6-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FREE AT SEGERSTROM CENTER CAMPUS PROGRAM FINAL REPORT FOR

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Laurette Garner, Arts Specialist, presented.

Commissioner Mann asked whether organizations could donate tickets instead of the City paying for them.

Commissioner Wondercheck inquired whether the tickets applied to specific shows or were open to any performance.

Vice Chair Derderian agreed with Mann's point, noting that while it was important to pay nonprofits fairly, some of the organizations receiving payment were also grantees. He raised the concern of "double dipping," where the city both provided grants and purchased tickets from the same groups, and suggested this might warrant future policy consideration.

Commissioner Wondercheck agreed and noted that such questions should be addressed during the next master plan update. She referenced the Orange County Museum of Art as an example, pointing out that while the museum offered free admission, the city was still paying \$10,000 for an arts education workshop. She suggested those funds might be better directed toward other city needs.

Chair Ochoa asked if data could be provided on the demographics of who was receiving the tickets, to help inform future planning.

Commissioner Wondercheck then sought clarification on whether tickets were first distributed to the listed organizations before being made available to the public, which staff confirmed.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chair Derderian added that while he was concerned about double dipping, he did not support imposing limits at this stage given the relatively small pool of applicants. He suggested that such restrictions could be considered in future years as the grant program grew and became more established.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Wondercheck shared several local art events taking place in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. She encouraged participation in these events and also reminded everyone about *Make Music Day* on June 21st at Lions Park.

Commissioner Mann clarified her earlier confusion regarding Brentwood Park, explaining that she initially thought of Brentwood in Los Angeles. After learning about the local Brentwood Park, she expressed interest in hearing more about it at future meetings.

Vice Chair Derderian reflected on the Commission's role and emphasized the need to develop a bold and ambitious vision for Costa Mesa as the "City of the Arts" as part of the upcoming Master Plan renewal discussions. He encouraged commissioners to spend time before the next meeting considering what that vision could look like and to engage with their councilmembers on the topic so the Commission could return in August with strong ideas.

Commissioner Ford announced the City of Costa Mesa's Independence Day celebration scheduled for July 3 from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. He highlighted the family-friendly nature of the event, which would include performances by the 80s All Star band and the Tijuana Dogs, food, drinks, contests, activities, and fireworks show. He invited everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 7:48 PM.

DRAFT