

Minutes for the Cultural Arts Commission

1 Civic Center Circle

Brea, California 92821

May 13, 2026

Roll Call: *(The following members were in attendance)*

- **Erika Bernal, Chair** - Cultural Arts Commission
- **Ben Schultz, Vice Chair** - Cultural Arts Commission
- **Linda Shay** - Cultural Arts Commissioner
- **Michael Tinio** - Cultural Arts Commissioner

Absent:

- **Robyn Price** - Cultural Arts Commissioner

1. General Session

1.A. Call to Order

Chair Bernal called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.C. Invocation

Chair Bernal asked for a moment of silence.

1.D. Matters from the Audience

None.

2. Action

2.A. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Shay made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Schultz.

Motion passed 4-0-1

Ayes; Bernal, Schultz, Shay, Tinio

Nays: None

Absent: Price

3. Discussion

3.A. Mid-Year Commission Goals Update

Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion provided an update on the mid-year goals adopted by the Commission in October 2025. The Art in Public Places Program is working on a comprehensive update to its policy manual, with completion anticipated by the end of the year. The Curtis Theatre is reviewing ticket pricing for select shows as part of efforts to generate additional revenue. The Gallery has plans to strategically test extended hours in conjunction with special events. Staff is also exploring special events with an emphasis on leveraging existing programming and alternative locations.

3.B. Cultural Arts Recognition Program Discussion

Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion introduced the Cultural Arts Recognition Program, which was successfully implemented last year. The Commission discussed potential improvements for the next nomination period, including extending the nomination time-frame and enhancing promotional efforts for the program.

4. Reports

4.A. Gallery Committee

No updates.

4.B. Theatre Committee

Community Services Specialist Elliot Forrester reported several updates regarding the upcoming Theatre season. He announced the selection of artists for the Latin Jazz series, including the return of Gabriela Martinez and La Verdad, who previously performed following the Theatre's pandemic reopening in 2021. Final scripts were also selected for the Page to Stage Playwrights Festival, and staff are currently pairing directors with productions.

Forrester stated that the Larking House Theatre Group will present The Crucible in October after rights were denied for their originally proposed production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Additionally, the Community Advisory Board and Theatre staff selected two "Amplify" productions for the season: Criers for Hire by Giovanni Ortega, a coming-of-age immigrant story, and A Hollywood Horror Story by Ingrid Garner, a production exploring one of television's first horror

television hosts. He also announced *A Lesson in Swimming* by Michael Shutt, an autobiographical and inspirational piece about Shutt's experiences as a three-time stroke survivor.

He further reported that the OC of OC repertoire had been finalized. Upcoming performances include the Summer Serenade chamber music event in June, the fall concert *Getting Personal*, featuring works inspired by personal moments and emotions, and the spring concert *American Stories*, themed around perspectives on America in recognition of America 250.

4.C. Site Awareness Committee

Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion apologized to the Commission for the lack of an update this meeting due to competing priorities and Public Works' role in upcoming implementation. She noted she will reconvene the subcommittee in the coming weeks for further discussion.

4.D. Art in Public Places Committee

No updates.

4.E. Country Fair Committee

Commissioner Shay reported that a recent walk through went well and preparations are progressing. Sponsorships are still being secured, but are ahead of last year at this stage.

5. Informational

5.A. B. Information Memorandum/Staff Updates

Gallery Director Katie Chidester provided updates on Gallery and Art in Public Places initiatives. She reported a successful opening reception for *Made in California*, recent media coverage, and ongoing efforts to expand accessibility and partnerships through programs such as *Museums for All* and *Hyper SoCal*.

Regarding the Art in Public Places Program, staff reported that volunteers inspected 14 public art pieces during *Go. Serve. Brea.*, helping identify maintenance priorities and engagement opportunities. Staff also noted that a replacement sculpture for a previously stolen piece was recently approved for installation.

Special Events Coordinator Alva Fox provided updates on recent and upcoming special events. She reported successful community participation in the *Spring Craft Boutique*, *Pet Expo*, *Go. Serve. Brea.*, and the City's first *Sister Cities* cultural event. Staff noted that the *Pet Expo* had record attendance, with 41 animals adopted. Alva also shared positive feedback from the *Sister Cities* event and noted preparations are underway for the *Family Films* series and the upcoming *Country Fair* celebration recognizing America's 250th anniversary.

5.B. Commissioner Requests

Chair Bernal requested an update on the Brea Distinguished Brea Athlete. Interim Director Sean Matlock reported that Jeanette Pohlen was selected as this year's honoree and was formally recognized by the City Council through adoption of a resolution. Staff is coordinating plaque design options and hopes to hold a presentation ceremony at the Brea Sports Park in August. Commissioners will be invited once details are finalized.

Vice Chair Schultz requested a budget update at an upcoming meeting, Chair Bernal and Commissioner Tinio echoed this request.

The Commission discussed the possibility of going dark in June and reconvening in July with updates from subcommittees.

6. Adjournment

Chair Bernal adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

The foregoing minutes are hereby approved
This 15th day of July 2026:



Sean L. Matlock, Interim Director Community Services