



Cultural Arts Commission Agenda

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92821

Erika Bernal, Chair

Ben Schultz, Vice Chair

Robyn Price, Commissioner

Linda Shay, Commissioner

Michael Tinio, Commissioner

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item the Commission will consider. The Community Services Department has on file copies of written documentation relating to each item of business on this Agenda available for public inspection. Contact the Community Services Department at (714) 990-7738 or view the Agenda and related materials on the City's website at www.cityofbrea.gov Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Community Services Department at 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA during normal business hours. Such documents may also be available on the City's website subject to staff's ability to post documents before the meeting.

Procedures for Addressing the Commission

The Commission encourages interested people to address this legislative body by making a brief presentation under Matters from the Audience. State Law prohibits the Commission from responding to or acting upon matters not listed on this agenda.

The Commission encourages free expression of all points of view. To allow all persons the opportunity to speak, please keep your remarks brief. If others have already expressed your position, you may simply indicate that you agree with a previous speaker. If appropriate, a spokesperson may present the views of your entire group. Commission rules prohibit clapping, booing or shouts of approval or disagreement from the audience. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment while the Commission is in session. Thank you.

Written comments may be submitted in advance of the meeting by emailing carrieho@cityofbrea.gov Written comments received by 3 pm on the day of the meeting will be provided to the Commission, will be made available to the public at the meeting, and will be included in the official record of the meeting.

Special Accommodations

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 990-7738. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable City staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. (28CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II)

1. General Session

1.A. Call to Order

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Invocation

1.D. Matters from the Audience

2. Action

2.A. Approval of Minutes

3. Discussion

3.A. Mid-Year Commission Goals Update

3.B. Cultural Arts Recognition Program Discussion

4. Reports

4.A. Gallery Committee

4.B. Theatre Committee

4.C. Site Awareness Committee

4.D. Art in Public Places Committee

4.E. Country Fair Committee

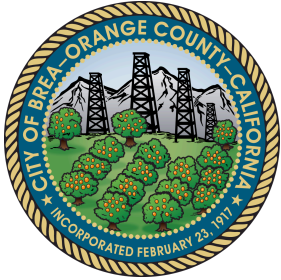
5. Informational

5.A. B. Information Memorandum/Staff Updates

5.B. Commissioner Requests

6. Adjournment

Date Posted: May 6, 2026



CITY *of* BREA

Cultural Arts Commission Communication

May 13, 2026

Item No. 2A.

Approval of Minutes

TO	PREPARED BY
Chair and Members of the Cultural Arts Commission	Sean L. Matlock, Interim Community Services Director
DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL	CITY MANAGER APPROVAL
Sean L. Matlock, Interim Community Services Director	Kristin Griffith, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Approve.

Attachments

[03-04-26 CAC Special Meeting Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

**** The following document is a draft of the minutes and the not the official approved minutes ****

Minutes for the Cultural Arts Commission

1 Civic Center Circle

Brea, California 92821

March 4, 2026

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

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

1. General Session

1.A. Call to Order

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

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.C. Invocation

Vice Chair Bernal asked for a moment of silence and gratitude.

1.D. Matters from the Audience

None.

2. Action

2.A. Commission Reorganization

Commissioner Schultz made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Bernal to serve as Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shay.

Vote: Motion passed 5–0.

Ayes: Bernal, Price, Schultz, Shay, Tinio

Nays: None

Commissioner Price made a motion to nominate Commissioner Schultz as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shay.

Vote: Motion passed 5–0.

Ayes: Bernal, Price, Schultz, Shay, Tinio

Nays: None

2.B. Approval of Minutes

Chair Bernal pointed out a minor correction. Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shay.

Vote: Motion passed 4–0–1

Ayes: Bernal, Price, Schultz, Shay

Nays: None

Abstain: Tinio

6-0-0-0-0

2.C. Approval of the 26/27 Curtis Theatre Season

Theatre Director Kris Kataoka provided an overview of upcoming theatre partnerships and productions, including the Evening of Latin Jazz and the Page to Stage Festival. He also discussed partnerships with Larking House and the Orchestra Collective, the Amplify program highlighting under served communities, and the youth theatre program, including upcoming productions such as Newsies and Shrek Jr. He noted the challenges of securing rights for certain productions.

Vice Chair Schultz made a motion to approve the 26/27 Curtis Theatre Season which was seconded by Commissioner Shay.

Ayes: Bernal, Schlutz, Price, Shay, Tinio

Nays: None

6-0-0-0-0

3. Discussion

3.A. Committee Appointments

After a brief discussion, it was determined that most committee appointments would remain the same. Commissioner Tinio as the newest member will serve on the Gallery and Theatre Committees.

4. Reports

4.A. Gallery Committee

Gallery Director Katie Chidester stated they had not yet held a meeting but provided an update on the gallery's activities, including the current exhibit and the annual call for art for Made in California, which received a record number of submissions.

4.B. Theatre Committee

Commissioner Price reported that the Committee met recently and received an overview of the upcoming season ahead of tonight's meeting.

4.C. Site Awareness Committee

Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion reported on the recent meeting, highlighting potential improvements such as enhanced signage and wayfinding, as well as the importance of tracking their effectiveness.

4.D. Art in Public Places Committee

Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion discussed the ongoing efforts to manage and maintain the public art collection, including the repair and replacement of damaged pieces. She commended the gallery staff for their dedication and the progress made in overseeing the public art program. She acknowledged the challenges involved and underscored the importance of continued support to ensure the program's success.

4.E. Country Fair Committee

Chair Bernal shared that the Committee held its kickoff meeting in February and is scheduled to meet again on March 19. She noted that the group is currently working through a range of topics and priorities as part of its ongoing efforts.

4.F. General Plan Steering Committee

Commissioner Price provided an update on the General Plan (Brea 2050), emphasizing the importance of community input and the thoroughness of the planning process. She also highlighted the upcoming open house on March 12, 2026, aimed at gathering community feedback on the General Plan. Staff shared materials and information about the open house with the Commission, and commissioners were encouraged to distribute the information within the community and submit feedback during the open comment period, which remains open through March 30.

5. Informational

5.A. Information Memorandum/Staff Updates

Curtis Theatre Director reported that the *Something Rotten* show sold out within the first week. He also reported that they had been nominated for 21 OC Theatre Guild Awards for 2025 productions.

Community Services Supervisor Kristin Steyerman shared updates on upcoming events, including the Pet Expo, a cultural event on May 2 in conjunction with Movies Under the Stars featuring 55–60 vendors, Sister City participation, food trucks, and performances, and the Spring Craft Boutique (March 20–21), which is sold out indoors with limited outdoor space remaining.

Ms. Steyerman also highlighted the recent Sister City visit from Anseong, Korea, which hosted approximately 30 students and chaperones.

Additional upcoming events include the 7th Annual Pet Expo on April 11 and the Go. Serve. Brea. event on April 25, with volunteer sign-ups opening March 16.

Gallery Director Katie Chidester reported that the gallery opened its first 2026 exhibit, "*Mixed Feelings: Existing in the Space Between*," in January, curated by staff member Kennelyn Deloach to highlight multi-ethnic and mixed-race artists. The exhibit has received positive feedback, with ongoing tours, an upcoming artist panel, and a closing reception scheduled for March 20.

She also reported that the annual Call for Art received a record 5,073 submissions, generating approximately \$63,000 in revenue. A total of 96 acceptance letters were issued, with selections made by a diverse panel of jurors.

Ms. Chidester provided updates on the Art in Public Places projects, including conservation work on the Lamplighter sculpture, repairs and replacements for several damaged or stolen pieces, and new or ongoing installations at various locations. She noted continued coordination with artists, property owners, and developers.

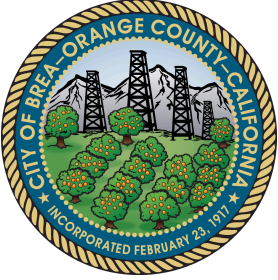
5.B. Commissioner Requests

The Commission inquired about the amphitheater at Arovista Park. Community Services Manager Jenn Colacion confirmed that an amphitheater is planned for the site, noting that while the project has experienced some delays, it is now making solid progress. She stated that an official opening date is not yet available but is expected in the coming weeks, at which time it will be shared with the Commission.

Ms. Colacion also noted that she is in ongoing communication with staff regarding the future of the Concerts in the Park program, including the potential use of the amphitheater as a venue. She added that the site is well-suited for such events and that discussions are ongoing. The Commission will be kept informed as decisions are made.

6. Adjournment

Chair Bernal adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.



CITY *of* BREA

Cultural Arts Commission Communication

May 13, 2026

Item No. 3A.

Mid-Year Commission Goals Update

TO	PREPARED BY
Chair and Members of the Cultural Arts Commission	Sean L. Matlock, Deputy Director of Community Services
DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL	CITY MANAGER APPROVAL
Sean L. Matlock, Deputy Director of Community Services	Kristin Griffith, City Manager

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Staff will provide the Commission with mid-year updates on the Goals Matrix adopted in October 2025.

Attachments

[CAC Goals Matrix - Mid-Year Update 2026.pdf](#)

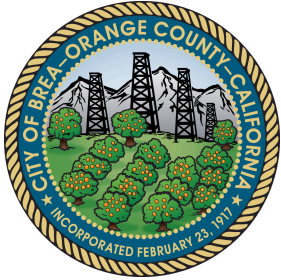
Category	Action	Corresponding CAC Value(s)	Accomplishments/Status	25-26	26-27	27-28	2028-32
CULTURAL ARTS MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS - PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS							
Art in Public Places Program	Change In-Lieu requirements outlined in the current policy: Option 1: Remove the threshold mandate requiring a permanent artwork to be pursued and allow for all developments incurring the APP requirement to choose the in-lieu option for compliance. Option 2: Raise the threshold for the requirement of a public art project to \$10 million, with an annual adjustment equal to the Consumer Price Index changes for Orange County to stay in line with inflationary costs of materials and labor. This will establish the minimum budget for a required permanent artwork at \$100,000.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Art in Public Places Program	Brea Art Fund usage be expanded to allow for temporary and permanent public art, and arts programming serving the Brea community.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Art in Public Places Program	Change Brea's allowable permanent public art from "sculpture" to "public artwork," allowing original artist designed permanent artwork in a wide ranges of styles, materials, types, and methods, including functional and non-functional elements, both freestanding and integrated into the building's architecture. And make commensurate change requiring artists with sculpture experience to artists with permanent public art experience.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Art in Public Places Program	Require that the mandated maintenance plan information be satisfied through a professional art conservator's materials and fabrication review and report.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Art in Public Places Program	Provide a pre-qualified list of art conservators to developers to assist in the identification of qualified professionals to participate in maintenance manual development and to perform conservation services when appropriate.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Art in Public Places Program	Modify language, with review and approval from Brea City Attorney, of the current "Visual Arts Laws for Artists and Sculpture Owners" section of the APP manual to avoid possible legal misinterpretations (due to cases changing legal interpretation of the law) and to avoid the perception of providing legal advice.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Updates are expected to be completed by January 2026 December 2026	✘	X		
Civic & Cultural Center Complex	For major events or events with multi-day duration, design, fabricate and install large scale, highly-visible, banners on the building to promote.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Due to budget limitations, this can be evaluated in future budget cycles				X
Curtis Theatre	Further diversify the programming of the Curtis Theatre in both City-sponsored, collaborative and rental offerings in order to connect with the growing number of residents with different backgrounds. This should include expanding collaboration with the Sister Cities program but also go beyond the three nationalities they represent.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Through the continuation of the Curtis Theatre's programs, such as Amplify and the Page to Stage Playwrights Festival, along with partnerships with local theatre communities, we have highlighted stories by Black Americans, Asian Americans, the neurodivergent community, the LGBTQIA+ community, and countless others. Our rental program continues to be available to a wide range of users. The communities represented by our rental clientele include Chinese, Indian, Korean, Muslim, neurodivergent, and LGBTQIA+ groups.	X			
Curtis Theatre	Strengthen the marketing of the Curtis Theatre through increased collaboration with the City's Marketing Department/Public Information Office. While this can achieve some economies of scale, its intent would be to greatly expand the reach of promoting Curtis Theatre programs, particularly in pursuit of multi-cultural audiences which require special outreach. It will also be critical to step up marketing impact if an expansion to the Curtis Theatre's audience capacity is determined to be feasible and desirable.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	The Curtis Theatre has been working more regularly with the city's Communications and Marketing Department. This collaboration has included sharing press releases, social media post collaboration, and assistance with website updates. We have also been evaluating the reach of social media, local content creators, and ticket consignment platforms to grab the attention of new audiences.	X			

Category	Action	Corresponding CAC Value(s)	Accomplishments/Status	25-26	26-27	27-28	2028-32
Curtis Theatre	Usage fees for the Curtis Theatre are below market and should be increased modestly to reflect increased costs of operation.	Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	<p>COMPLETE On July 1st, 2025, the Curtis Theatre significantly increased its rental rates. We took great care to not price out our long-term customers while also adjusting our rates to meet our revenue goals. The most significant increases were to our non-resident commercial rates. Additionally, we eliminated the long-term rental rate and now have our regular weekly clients to use the resident rate.</p> <p>UPDATE For the 2026-2027 Season, we will be targeting ticket prices for our season shows for rate increases to better meet revenue goals without pricing ourselves out of our audiences' budget.</p>				
Brea Gallery	Expand the offerings by adding on exhibition to the schedule each year. This can be accommodated by reducing the current exhibition runs of 8 weeks to 7 weeks each, except for "Made in California," the gallery's annual flagship exhibition. This would enable more options for programming, more opportunities for collaboration, more artist' works being exhibited, and increased attendance. It would provide increased urgency for the public to visit the gallery during th slightly reduced exhibition runs as well.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Discussed with Subcommittee and presented to full Committee. Currently, not feasible with budget and resources at this time.				X
Brea Gallery	Expand the hours that the Brea Gallery is open to the public. Currently, the gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 5 pm. We recommend adding 3 hours on Friday evenings to provided increased access and to market visiting the gallery as a great way to kick off the weekend - before or after dining out locally.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	With some trial efforts this previous year, staff is determining a schedule that will include extended hours during open Gallery time periods. <p>UPDATE: Over the next year, the Gallery intends to pilot extended hours in conjunction with other City events such as, City special events, Theatre performances, etc. as a low-risk way to explore the potential for alternative operating hours.</p>	X			
Brea Gallery	The summer art camps currently taking place within the gallery should be moved off-site of, if the gallery facility expansion is possible, within a dedicated classroom space. This will enhance the experience for camp participants to have their classes take place in a more suitable environment as well as improve the experience for visitors to the gallery.		Staff recommends camps continue to be held within the Gallery space <p>UPDATE: Some camps that require larger storage space will be held at the Brea Community this summer</p>				
Brea Gallery	Further diversify the programming of the Brea Gallery in order to connect with the growing number of residents with different backgrounds. This should include expanding collaboration with the Sister Cities program but also go beyond the three nationalities they represent.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Staff has collected and maintained data to track and document the diversity of backgrounds and nationalities.	X			
Brea Gallery	Strengthen the marketing of the Brea Gallery through increased collaboration with the City's Marketing Dpartment/Public Information Office. While this can achieve some economies of scale, its intent would be to greatly expand the reach of promoting Brea Gallery programs, particularly in pursuit of multi-cultural audiences which requirie special outreach. It will also be important to step up marketing impact is a fifth exhibition is added to the schedule and if art class offerings are expanded.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	Efforts are currently ongoing	X			
Brea Gallery	Additional staff will be required and increased program budget will be required in order to add an exhibition to the schedule.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Evaluation ongoing following the transition of an additional part time staff person to the Gallery. An adjustments to staffing will be proposed during the next budget cycle				X

Category	Action	Corresponding CAC Value(s)	Accomplishments/Status	25-26	26-27	27-28	2028-32
Special Events	Legacy and traditional events should be maintained as long as they continue to be well-attended.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	2019 was the benchmark for most financially successful events and staff anticipates to reach pre- pandemic numbers in all our events in 2025. We closely monitor event attendance as well as longevity and importance of event to our community.	X			
Special Events	Consider adding new special events that have been suggested by the community, such as: an international food festival with cultural performances, lantern festivals, art wine walk, art in public places trolley tour.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	We will continue to evaluate adding a new event to our calendar, though need to be mindful of current workload, calendar as well as budget constraints. UPDATE: Staff hosted a Movies Under the Stars event in partnership with all three Sister City groups and will gather feedback and interest in further developing this concept for the future.	X		X	
Special Events	Additional locations should also be explored for possible siting of existing and new events.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Will be evaluated with any recommendations brought back to Commission ahead future budget cycles UPDATE: Staff is having conversations on alternative locations that could host current events to further diversify options for the community and broaden our reach.	X		X	
Special Events	Special Events is experiencing chronic understaffing, and will require additional staff to maintain the current regular schedule of activities. New events will require further staff increases.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Staffing was recently adjusted to enhance the special events offerings and will need to remain status quo through this 2-year budget cycle. Any additional recommendations would be brought back to Commission ahead of future Budget Cycles				X
Marketing	Bring together Curtis Theatre, Brea Gallery and Marketing/Public Information Office staff to review the strategic marketing needs of the City's arts and cultural programming. Determine where there are the best opportunities for collaboration and identify specific tasks that need to continue being handled separately by the Theatre and Gallery staff.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	Efforts are currently ongoing	X			
Marketing	Additional staff is recommended.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Will be evaluated with any recommendations brought back to Commission ahead of FY 2025-26 Budget Cycle	X			
Marketing	Seek out collaborative marketing opportunities with marquee businesses like Brea Mall, the Brea Chamber of Commerce, and Brea Olinda Unified School District. In particular, the opportunity exists to market arts attendance in tandem with the promotion of local dining experiences - before or after visits to the Brea Gallery and performances at the Curtis Theatre.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	Staff will begin exploring these partnerships	X			

Category	Action	Corresponding CAC Value(s)	Accomplishments/Status	25-26	26-27	27-28	2028-32
Sister Cities	Sister Cities volunteers and Brea's Marketing/Public Information Office should meet to discuss opportunities to build public awareness of the Sister Cities program. This could include a regular schedule of informative stories about each of three cities beyond the brief information appearing on the City of Brea website.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	Staff is now meeting bi-annually with all three of our sister cities as well as our friendship city. We continue to strive to have great relationships and grow our long standing relationships with our current community ambassadors as well as our sister cities abroad. UPDATE: Staff has begun meeting with the Sister City groups collectively on a quarterly basis due to increased partnership. This encourages cohesion among the three groups, as well as informs the City on how we can help them engage with Brea residents.	X			
Sister Cities	Sister Cities volunteers and staff of the Brea Gallery and Curtis Theatre should meet to discuss further windows of opportunity to include culturally relevant programming representing the three Sister Cities to be included in the schedule of those venues.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Staff evaluating opportunities to highlight the cultures of our Sister Cities throughout program offerings	X		X	
CULTURAL ARTS MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS - FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS							
Civic & Cultural Center Complex	Refresh the look of the Civic & Cultural Center. While this might traditionally be planned exclusively through the services of an architect, Brea's Art in Public Places success suggests that the process should include artist-designed proposals. Some of the best opportunities appear to be affixing art to walls and columns.	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Project on hold due current budget constraints. Any updates will be brought back to the Commission when available				X
Civic & Cultural Center Complex	Add artist-designed benches to the public gathering areas.		Not recommended at this time				
Civic & Cultural Center Complex	Replace the current digital billboard adjacent to the Brea Mall with one that is state-of-the-art.	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	Project on hold due current budget constraints. Any updates will be brought back to the Commission when available				X
Curtis Theatre	Consider expansion of the Curtis Theatre through a study by expert theatre facility planners. This would include determining if the site can accommodate a larger facility, whether a reconfiguration of the stage can be implemented, how many additional seats can be included, and available space for commensurate audience and backstage amenities. Such a planning process would also evaluate the market - what different or additional City-sponsored events would be feasible as well as what organizations and promoters might be interested in renting the facility as a result of the larger audience capacity.		Not recommended at this time				
Brea Gallery	Consider expansion of the Brea Gallery through a study by expert art facility planners. The primary need is for accommodating summer art camps outside of and with a separate entrance from the exhibition space. Additional preparation and storage space is also needed.		Not recommended at this time				
Special Events	For summer concerts, purchase and install a temporary dance floor so that attendees can dance to the music.	Connect our Community through the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	We were unable to do this at Country Fair. We will continue to evaluate this. We also know that Arovista park amphitheater will open soon and we will evaluate the ability utilize this space for dancing.	X			

Category	Action	Corresponding CAC Value(s)	Accomplishments/Status	25-26	26-27	27-28	2028-32
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION GOALS (GENERAL) - PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS							
Art in Public Places Program	Complete update of Art in Public Places Policy Manual *NEW* Include revision to designate City staff as the responsible party for sculpture inspections	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	To be reviewed/approved by APP Committee, CA commission and City Council	X	X		
General Cultural Arts	Establishment of a Comprehensive Sponsorship Program	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	In progress	X			
Curtis Theatre	Present a three-year infrastructure improvements proposal to City Council as a Decision Package	Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	COMPLETE The Curtis Theatre presented a three-year equipment upgrade and replacement plan for the last budget cycle. The first two years of projects were approved and will be funded in their respective years. The current project involves replacing the theatre's main curtain, cyclorama, video projector, and rear projection screen, and we are in the process of purchasing these items. Next year's project will be a major overhaul of the theatre's lighting, which includes replacing all remaining incandescent fixtures with industry-standard LED instruments. UPDATE: After the completion of next year's project, staff will reevaluate equipment and propose a new three-year plan for the next phase of upgrades and replacements.				
General Cultural Arts	Installation of Street Pole Banners	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies	COMPLETE				
General Cultural Arts	Install Basketball Court Mural at Arovista Park	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	Upon further evaluation, this will be reconsidered at a later date. There is no available budget to handle the potential maintenance and repairs should they be needed.				X
Special Events	Evaluate existing events and the potential to incorporate a new cultural event/festival	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences Pursue Sustainability and Stimulate Local Economies Elevate Brea's Art Experiences	We will continue to evaluate adding a new event to our calendar, though need to be mindful of current workload, calendar as well as budget constraints. UPDATE: While adding new events is challenging within the current budget, staff is exploring ways to adjust existing event offerings to incorporate new ideas (e.g. Movies Under the Stars honoring the Sister Cities).	X		X	
General Cultural Arts	Increase engagement with nonprofits, local artists, and community groups beyond city-run programs and facilities	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts Engage New Audiences through Inclusive Opportunities and Experiences	In progress	X			
General Cultural Arts	Initiate a City-wide campaign to celebrate National Arts & Humanities Month in October 2025	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts	In progress and on track to be implemented September-October 2025. COMPLETE				
General Cultural Arts	Implement a Cultural Arts Recognition Program	Connect our Community through the Arts Uphold Brea's Commitment to the Arts	In progress and on track to be implemented September-October 2025. COMPLETE				



CITY *of* BREA

Cultural Arts Commission Communication

May 13, 2026

Item No. 3B.

Cultural Arts Recognition Program Discussion

TO	PREPARED BY
Chair and Members of the Cultural Arts Commission	Sean L. Matlock, Deputy Director of Community Services
DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL	CITY MANAGER APPROVAL
Sean L. Matlock, Deputy Director of Community Services	Kristin Griffith, City Manager

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In 2025, staff implemented the inaugural Cultural Arts Recognition Program, calling for the community to nominate individuals, artists or groups making a difference in Brea and recognizing them for their efforts. Staff would like to get direction from the Commission on what they think worked well, or opportunities for improvement that the subcommittee can work on as we approach National Arts and Humanities Month in October.

CURTIS THEATRE

MONTHLY REPORT

2026



CURTIS
THEATRE

**MAY
2026**
APRIL 2026
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Prepared by
**KRIS KATAOKA &
ELLIOT FORRESTER**

Prepared for
**BREA CULTURAL ARTS
COMMISSION**

APRIL AT A GLANCE



Social Media

 **46.8K Impressions**
5,097 Followers
+3 this month

 **31.7K Impressions**
3,778 Followers
+76 this month

Volunteering

3 SHIFTS
9 HOURS

APR 25: 12 / 36
FYTD: 210 / 705

ACTIVITIES & ATTENDANCE

35 EVENTS
12,708 ATTENDEES

APR 25: 33 / 7,819
FYTD: 264 / 57,538

CHARITY PASSES

2 REQUESTS
4 PASSES ISSUED

APR 25: 2 / 4
FYTD: 23 / 46



Ticket Sales
\$5,349

APR 25: \$6,587
FYTD: \$286,753



Patron Donations
\$35

APR 25: \$110
FYTD: \$2,236



Tip Jar Donations
\$15

APR 25: \$52
FYTD: \$2,216



Concessions
\$782

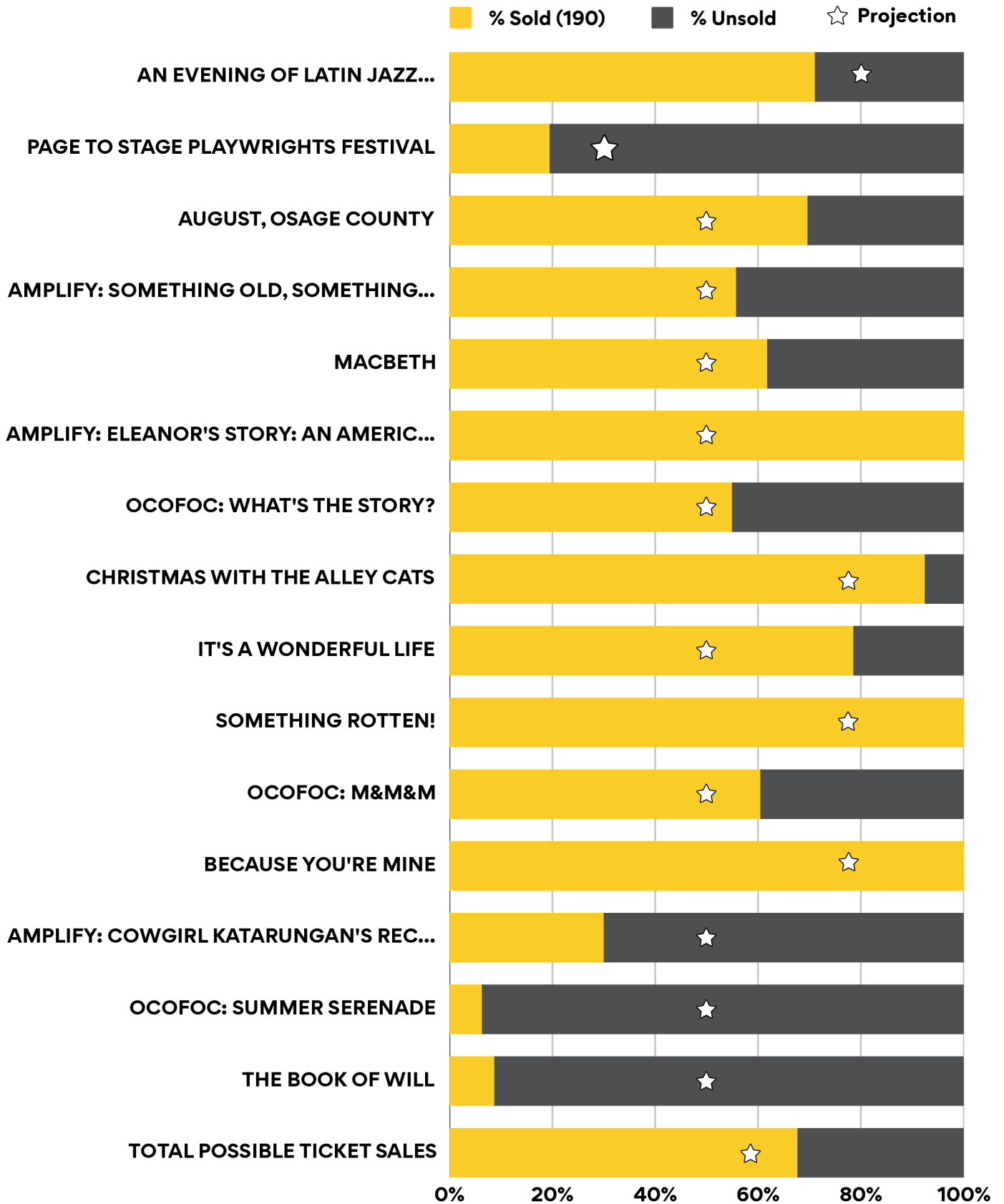
APR 25: \$1,785
FYTD: \$27,987



Rentals
\$23,261

APR 25: \$18,776
FYTD: \$140,876

2025 - 2026 TICKET SALES UPDATE





APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

OCofOC: M&M&M

Orchestra Collective of Orange County returned to the Curtis Theatre stage for *M&M&M*, a celebration of the music of Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Montgomery. Selections included Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, the Symphony No. 4, "Italian" of Felix Mendelssohn, and Jessie Montgomery's contemporary masterpiece *Records from a Vanishing City*. OCofOC was joined by piano virtuoso Minji Noh for both performances.

THE BOOK OF WILL REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for *The Book of Will* began in April. This comedic play centers around two of Shakespeare's friends as they race to collect and publish his plays into the First Folio following his death. Blending true story with humor and drama, this love letter to theatre shows the strength of will and the power of friendship as they overcome hardship to prevent Shakespeare's works from being lost forever.

The Book of Will is presented in partnership with Begins and Ends with 'A' and performs June 12 - 21, 2026.

APRIL FEEDBACK

RENTAL FEEDBACK

One rental client completed the rental survey during April. Overall, feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CURTIS THEATRE'S RENTAL FACILITIES?

Internet Search

WHAT LED TO YOUR DECISION TO BOOK YOUR EVENT AT THE CURTIS THEATRE OVER OTHER RENTAL FACILITIES?

“Being a Brea resident“.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE CURTIS THEATRE'S FACILITIES, STAFF AND/OR EQUIPMENT?

“It was all great from facilities to staff!!!“

WHAT ABOUT THE CURTIS THEATRE'S FACILITIES, STAFF, AND/OR EQUIPMENT COULD USE IMPROVEMENT?

“I think it was all great!“

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND THE CURTIS THEATRE?

1-10 (10 = HIGHLY RECOMMEND)

1 Responses | 10.0 Average

WHAT ABOUT THE CURTIS THEATRE'S FACILITIES, STAFF, AND/OR EQUIPMENT COULD USE IMPROVEMENT?

“Thank you very much!! We had great event and we will come back.“

SEASON FEEDBACK

24 patrons completed the post-performance survey in April, including four first-time and 19 returning patrons. Overall response was very positive.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE FINDING/NAVIGATING THE CURTIS THEATRE? (FINDING BUILDING/PARKING, ELEVATORS, SIGNAGE, ETC.)

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES ONLY | 1-5 (1 = VERY POOR, 5 = EXCELLENT)

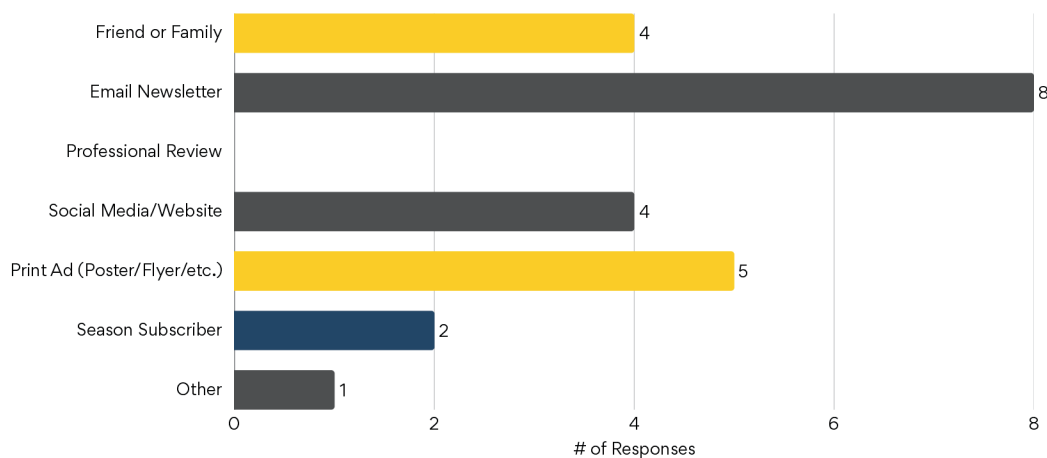
4 Responses | 4.63 Average

APRIL FEEDBACK

WHAT COULD BE ADDED OR IMPROVED TO MAKE FINDING AND/OR NAVIGATING CURTIS THEATRE EASIER?

Feedback mentioned adding more signage inside the parking structure, as well as worries about the amount of available parking for larger events or on days where multiple activities are happening at the Civic Center. Appreciation was expressed for there being no fees for parking onsite.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE?



HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND THE CURTIS THEATRE? 1-5 (10 = VERY LIKELY)

24 Responses | 4.83 Average

PLEASE SHARE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE OR WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND MORE FREQUENTLY.

Patrons were overall very positive about the theatre's facilities, staff, and programming. Feedback mentioned programming more plays with a more diverse range of themes. Also mentioned were presenting shows at a variety of showtimes to meet varying schedules.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Few artists can claim the same lasting impact as Country Music legends Johnny Cash and June Carter! Starring Charles Evans Jr. as Johnny Cash and Caitie Grady as June Carter, *Because You're Mine* brings to life the timeless hits that defined a generation. This concert experience celebrates the prolific careers and towering love story of Johnny and June with a musical authenticity and storytelling that cannot be matched. *Because You're Mine* feels like an evening with Johnny and June at the height of their powers.



Cowgirl Katarungan (“Justice”) narrates a recipe - in verse - and a story: set in 1890s Philippines, under Spanish rule, Filipino sugar barons Lacson and Araneta enjoy their wealth and status. But rebellion is brewing, and they are compelled to consider their roles in the brutal rule by Spain and the subjugation of the working-class Filipinos -- including their servant Pressie. When the cruel local Spanish ruler gets wind of their revolutionary plot, he responds fully with tragic and surprising consequences.

This production is presented as part of the Curtiss Theatre’s Amplify initiative.

Special Events

Pet Expo

The Brea Special Events Division held its annual Pet Expo event on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Brea Community Center. The Pet Expo showcased unique animals to guests and offered an experience to interact with reptiles, tarantulas, rabbits and of course dogs and cats. There were 100 vendors selling pet related products and services including toys, treats, collars, training, boarding and vet services. Both City of Brea and Anaheim Police Departments provided crowd-pleasing K-9 demonstrations throughout the event illustrating drug detection and bite simulation. There were 6 rescues on site with adoptable dogs, cats, and rabbits and we are pleased to share that there were 45 adoptions. It was a beautiful day with the community!



Social Media

 5.4K Followers

 10.3K Followers


BREA SPECIAL
EVENTS

@breaspecialevents

Special Events

Go. Serve. Brea.

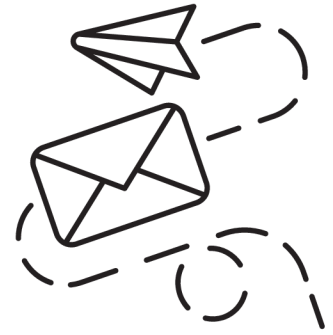
Over 330 volunteers went into the community to Serve Brea on Saturday, April 25. Volunteers worked on 21 projects across Brea on this community-wide service day. Project sites included residential homes, senior apartments, businesses, museums, parks, schools and event support. This event is possible because of the individuals, groups, and families who volunteered their time, monetary and in-kind sponsorships to cover the cost of supplies needed for projects and our partnership with the faith community who cook and provide lunch to the volunteers.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Apollo Electric, Create-A-Party, Flagship Design Group, Formation Church, Friends Community Church, Liberty Painting & Restoration, Republic Services, Service Champions, Southlands Church, The Cause Church, Titan Air Conditioning, Brea Plaza Shopping Center, Brea Historical Society, Brea/Orange County Plumbing, Communitea, Trader Joe's, Treeco Arborists, and West Coast Arborists.



Special Events



Correspondence

Thank you and your team for doing an amazing job! Gracious under pressure for sure! See you in November!

Terry

Thank you again Kristin, it was a great show and the weather is crazy. No criticism, maybe both days end at 4 or 5?

Liz

Thank you so much! It was so wonderful to be a part of this amazing event. I can't wait for Pet Expo next year!

Anna

Working at the museum for Go. Serve. Brea. was fun and a special time knowing that the visitors will enjoy the spotless area I worked on.

Nora

Thank you for organizing Go. Serve. Brea. every year, you do an amazing job!

Mika

Once again you and your team are outstanding, each person working the counter, entry gates, volunteer staff, fire department and maintenance crew are professional and always willing to help. There is always something new your teams brings to the table. You also had an amazing volunteer who kept checking on vendors asking if we needed assistance. Keep up the good work.

Brenda

I did not have a chance to chat with you this year at the welcome rally for Go. Serve.

Brea. – you were busy making this day amazing! Thank you for all your hard work, it means the world to us and we were able to make meaningful connections during the event. Already looking forward to next year!

Courtnei



MADE *in California*

Engagement

The Gallery was open for **4 Days**

Total Guests 612

- 12 Brea Resident
- 18 General Admission
- 15 Students/Seniors/Military
- 5 Child
- 2 Member
- 61 Preview Reception Tickets
- 499 Public Opening Reception

Total Revenue for April

\$6,882.87

4,151

Unique Website Visitors

7,564

Page Views

9,451

My Emma Email Subscribers

Social Media Impressions

Instagram **175,655**

Facebook **3,252**

Followers Gained

Instagram **144**
Total: 23,035

Facebook **0**
Total: 10,586

Twitter **0**
Total: 443



1 New Memberships

40 Total Members

3 Interns

SUPPORTING EMERGING ARTISTS

The Brea Gallery continues its tradition of supporting local and up and coming artists each year through Made in California free entries for Brea Residents and Giveaways on social media and at local colleges. Included in those free entries, this year are four Brea artists accepted into Made in California and Emerging Artist Recipient Vincent Aleksandr Martinez. Vincent attended a guest lecture by Gallery director Katie Chidester in the fall in a painting class led by former Brea Gallery exhibiting artist Yulia Gasio.

Additionally, after viewing the Solo Show application of exhibiting artist Angel Lesnikowski, MICA Juor Andrew Hosner, director of Thinkspace Projects in Los Angeles offered her a solo show in his space this summer. We hope this exhibition continues to inspire and grant opportunities to artists across the state.

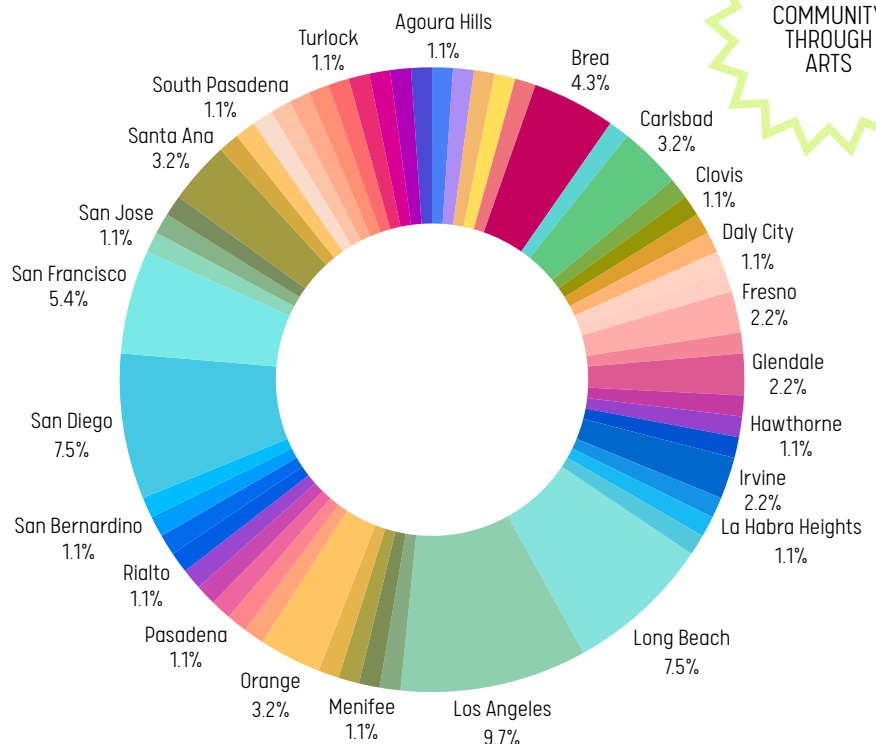
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the exhibition Opening Reception festivities, plaza activations included music by: Featherr Flowers, a live photo booth artist Tofu Booth, and print artist Porkbelly Prints teaching visitors linocut printing. Photographer Ryella Zar was on hand to capture the celebration. Everyone had a great time even with some light rain interrupting the party on the plaza.

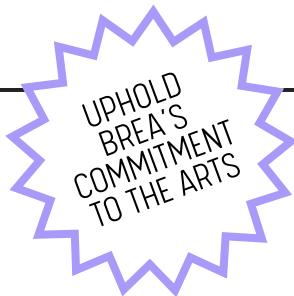


MICA BY THE NUMBERS

- 94 Artists on Display
- 4 Brea Resident Artists
- Over 50 Cities represented from across the state
- 63 Artists have never shown at the Brea Gallery before
- Over \$4,000 in awards will be granted to participating artists across the exhibition including the annual Popular Choice Award



AWARDS



First Place: \$1000

Nataly Barajas

Granddaughter of a Wetback

Acrylic, Collage, String, Fence

Wire on Wood, 2025



Second Place: \$750

Harmony Azul Vasquez

Battle Banner: Valor

Oil on Canvas, Wood,

Ceramic, 2025

Third Place: \$500

Joseph Heffernan

Siphon

Ceramic, 2026



Additional Awardees can be viewed on the Gallery's website.

SAVE THE DATE



FRESH{AIR} Artist in Residence
May 30 & 31, 2026

Every exhibition, the Brea Gallery hosts a weekend artist residency, Fresh(AIR), where an exhibiting artist is in the gallery creating, answering questions, and hosting activities! Join us and three exhibiting artists in the galleries from 12-5 PM Saturday and/or Sunday as they demonstrate their process and chat with guests.

Admission for this event is free for visitors who mention "Fresh(AIR)" at the front desk!

COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Exhibiting Artists:

- “It was such an amazing opening night. The art, artists, Brea gallery staff and guests were incredible ✨”-Vanessa Morrow
- “The opening night of [@breagallery](#) 41st Annual Made in California exhibition was so much fun! I am so honored to have “Lights Embrace and Gentle Decay I” alongside so many amazing artists works.” - Sheeva Davari
- “I’m so grateful to be a part of this year’s “Made in California” Exhibit hosted by [@breagallery](#) !!!! It’ll be up until June 28th & it’d be so awesome sauce if you could see it in person 😊”-Asher Perez
- “Honored to be part of such a stacked show. This year’s annual MADE in California at [@breagallery](#) is one you don’t want to miss — up through June 28. Opening night was packed wall to wall... I literally had to wait until they were closing up to catch these shots. ...honestly there’s so much incredible work in this show it’s impossible to capture it all. Here’s a glimpse at some of the artists I was able to catch. Huge thank you to the Brea Gallery team, the show looks incredible. And major respect to the jurors ([thinkspace_art](#) [@jenirator_f](#) [@amyyoshitsu](#)), not an easy task narrowing it down from hundreds of entries.” - Cody Lusby
- “They’ve included my painting “Big Feelings”, and I’m extremely honored. Seeing the other pieces that are also included in this show, I’m not exaggerating to say I am humbled...Thank you again to Brea Gallery for including me. I feel like I am still just starting out my oil painting journey so being included in such a beautiful show means a lot to me ❤️” - Adam Singer
- “Beyond excited to have my painting “Nurse Paat” included in [@breagallery](#) ‘s 41st annual Made in California Juried Exhibition! This painting not only honors my mom, but also all healthcare workers, caretakers, and immigrants with dreams.” - Mariel Paat
- “Since moving back home to California, it’s been a goal of mine to be exhibited in [@breagallery](#) ‘s “Made in California” exhibition. It’s surreal to have that dream realized, especially for a piece that holds so much of my heart. ❤️” Lauryn Faye Dove
- “I am absolutely in love with this show card made by the fabulous team at [@breagallery](#). Thank you so much for the care and grace you all have put into this show! It has been wonderful working with y’all!!!!” - Amanda Santos
- “Big thank you to everyone that came out to [@breagallery](#) this weekend for the “MADE IN CALIFORNIA” Group show! This was a massive show with really amazing and talented work. The show will be up until June 28th - so you have time to check it out!” - Andrew Currey

SOCIAL MEDIA

Exhibiting Artists (Continued)

- “I got to show rave girl in Brea gallery this weekend :) There were sooo many awesome people I got to connect with and the pieces shown were incredible. I feel honored to be in a show displaying so much skill and creativity! I was inspired to work with fabrics again , one of my favorite pieces was this huge tufted rug. I wish I took more pictures and I’ll tag artists when I grab the catalog tomorrow !”
Anika Elsten
- “Such an incredible experience being a part of Brea Gallery's 41st annual Made in California exhibition. I'm truly honored to have been a part of a show with such immense talent from all across California, and especially alongside my fellow artists and friends of the Central Valley. Jose Soria
- “Yesterday marked the opening of the 41st Annual Made in California at [@breagallery](#) , in the Civic Center of Brea. For me, it was a very special celebration. This exhibition continues Brea Gallery's tradition of presenting a contemporary survey of art in California, highlighting emerging art movements and artists from across the state. Being selected by the curators to be part of this edition fills me with pride and brings me great satisfaction, especially alongside so many incredible artists. I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation, and my friends who came to support me and made this moment even more meaningful.” Leo Macias
- “Thank you [@breagallery](#) for a beautiful experience. “Wow!” *Bad Bunny voice* The vibes were vibing. So much beautiful art.” - Janel Claybon
- “Extremely grateful to Brea Gallery for having me back a second year in a row. 🇺🇸👥 Even more grateful to have shown alongside friends from my hometown and artists I've connected with through exhibitions over the years. I can't believe how lucky I am to be part of such an inspiring community. The gallery staff and curators did an incredible job 🙌 and the juried work genuinely left me inspired. I'm already looking forward to getting back into the studio and jotting down everything I took away from tonight.” - Angel Lesnikowski
- “ It's an honor to be included in this selective juried exhibition, and Brea Gallery is an incredible & beautiful gallery that has always been so wonderful to work with!” - Michelle Ramin

Other Comments:

- “It's a great gallery. I used to have students meet there to view the exhibit when I was teaching at CSUF.”- Dorte Chrisjansen
- “Didn't think you could top last year, but WOW! Wonderful show!” - Gallery guest

Marketing and Outreach

CITY OF BREAA
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES



During this year's Go. Serve. Brea, community members had the opportunity to get up and personal with 14 Art in Public Places sculptures around the city. Volunteers were given assignments to inspect and document the current state of a handful of APP pieces. The inspection forms and photos will be used by staff to follow up on any maintenance or structural issues. More opportunities for these type of community engagement in the APP program will be scheduled in the coming months!



Missing APP Works

- *Vicky*, Tanya Ragir (Whittier/Puente)
- *Porpoises at Play*, John Edward Svenson (Imperial Hwy./Lambert Rd.)
- *Jumping Deer*, Carlos Terres (Berry St and Northwood Ave.) - in process of repair
- *Just a Taste*, J. Seward Johnson Jr. (Placentia Ave and Kraemer Blvd.) - in process of replacement

Development Projects with Existing Sculpture

- Gaslight Square Redevelopment - *Lamplighter*, Robert Steinkamp
- Brea Mall Mixed Use - *Jupe d'Eau*, Pol Bury and *La Lune*, Niki de Saint-Phalle (reinstallation pending)
- Greenbriar Residential - *The Road Ahead*, Brad Howe
- Brea Plaza Apartments - *Pratu*, John Leighton
- Amazon Facility - *Stonework '82*, Seiji Kunishima

Development Projects Pending New Sculpture

- Brea Mall Mixed Use – Committee Approved / Installation Pending
- South Brea Townhomes – Committee Approved / Installation Pending
- 3200 Nasa St – Committee Approved / Installation Pending
- 424 Berry St – Application Pending
- Mercury Lane Apartments – Application Pending
- Brea 265 Planning Area I – Application Pending
- 250 S. Kraemer Blvd - Application Pending
- 2727 E. Imperial Blvd - Application Pending
- 895 Columbia Street - Committee Approved / Installation Pending

New Sculpture Pending Installation

- Centennial Door - Carlos Terres

Community Services Important Dates

Date	Event	Location
May 9	Because You're Mine: A tribute to Johnny Cash and June Carter	Curtis Theatre
May 17	Cowgirl Katarungan's Recipe for Adobo	Curtis Theatre
June 12-14 June 19-21	The Book of Will	Curtis Theatre
June 19	Family Films: A Bug's Life	City Hall Park
July 4	Country Fair	City Hall Park
July 8	Concerts in the Park: Symphonic Winds of the Pacific Wind Ensemble - Salute to America 250	City Hall Park
July 10	Family Films: Miracle	City Hall Park
July 15	Concerts in the Park: Country Nation	City Hall Park
July 17	Family Films: Elio	City Hall Park
July 22	Concerts in the Park: An Evening of Latin Jazz Soul3Sixty/1960s Motown & Soul	City Hall Park
July 25	Opening Reception: America 350	Brea Gallery
July 29	Concerts in the Park: Soto Band/R&B/Latin/Old School	City Hall Park
August 5	Concerts in the Park: y2k2k!/2000s Pop/Rock	City Hall Park
August 7	Brea Fest	Civic Center
August 8	An Evening of Latin Jazz	Curtis Theatre
August 14-16	Page to the Stage Festival	Curtis Theatre