



Commission for Arts and Culture

CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

AGENDA

San Diego Central Library, Mary Hollis Room

330 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

Friday, December 15, 2023

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.	I.	Call to Order & Statement of Purpose+Vision	Ann Bossler, Chair
1:32 p.m.	II.	Non-agenda Public Comment	Ann Bossler, Chair
1:40 p.m.	III.	Chair’s Reports	Ann Bossler, Chair
		A. ACTION – October 27, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes	
		B. Other Reports	
2:25 p.m.	IV.	Committee Reports	
		A. Policy & Funding Committee– ACTION – Impact Recommendations and Tentative Awards	Tyler Hewes, Committee Chair
		B. Public Art Committee – ACTION – Artist Selection Panelists for <i>here comes the neighborhood: Encanto</i>	Keith Opstad, Committee Chair
		C. Advocacy & Outreach Committee	Becky Phillpott, Committee Chair
		D. Commissioner Engagement Ad Hoc Committee	Fritz Friedman, Ad Hoc Committee Chair
3:00 p.m.	V.	Director’s Reports	Jonathon Glus, Executive Director
3:20 p.m.	VI.	New Business for Future Agendas	Ann Bossler, Chair
3:25 p.m.	VII.	Commissioner Speed-Round – What arts, culture and creative experiences have you had this month (who, what, when, where)?	Ann Bossler, Chair
3:30 p.m.	VIII.	Adjourn	Ann Bossler, Chair

VISION: Expanding our world by celebrating creativity in San Diego

PURPOSE: The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on promoting, encouraging and increasing support for the region’s artistic and cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination.

Meetings will be recorded. PUBLIC COMMENT: Any member of the public may address the Committee on any agenda item during agenda item public comment, or on any matter not presently pending or previously discussed at the Committee that is within the Committee’s area of responsibility during non-agenda public comment. Each public comment speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. In addition to in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments via a public comment [webform](#), or they may join the meeting as a “webinar attendee” at the link provided in the [Commission or Committee meeting website](#). For members of the public wishing to address the Committee under Public Comment via the [webform](#) prior to the meeting, instructions for word limitations and deadlines will be noted on the [webform](#). As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information to be made available in alternative formats, and any requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting the City Clerk at (619) 533-4000 or <mailto:cityclerk@sandiego.gov>. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility.



Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

MINUTES

October 27, 2023

Hyperlink to view full meeting available [here](#)

Commissioners Present

Ann Bossler, Chair
Tyler Hewes, Vice Chair
Kamaal Martin
Keith Opstad
Abe Hughes
Alessandra Moctezuma
Abe Hughes
Becky Phillipott
Imani Robinson
Dajahn Blevins
Udoka Nwanna
Tracy Dezenzo

Commissioners Absent

Fritz Friedman
Lee Ann Kim
Alberto Pulido

Staff Present

Christine E. Jones
Charles Miller
Bell Reza
Kip Eischen
Dr. Lara Bullock
Gabrielle Romberger

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- I. **Call to Order & Statement of Purpose Vision | [View Here](#)** –Chair Ann Bossler called the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture online meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Chair Bossler took roll call to confirm Commissioner attendance and called on Project Manager Bell Reza to review the guidelines for the meeting.
- II. **Non-agenda Public Comment |[View Here](#)**
- III. **Chair’s Reports | [View Here](#)**
- A. **ACTION** – September 29, 2023 Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Tyler Hewes made a motion to approve, Commissioner Alessandra Moctezuma seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - B. Other Reports

- IV. **Committee Reports | [View Here](#)**
 - A. Policy & Funding Committee | Tyler Hewes, Committee Chair
 - B. Public Art Committee | Keith Opstad, Committee Chair
 1. ACTION- Final Artwork Proposal for Hidden Trails Park by Trevor Amery
Commissioner Tyler Hewes made a motion to approve, Commissioner Imani Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 2. ACTION- Final Artwork Proposal for Southwest Park by Beliz Iristay
Commissioner Dajahn Blevins made a motion to approve, Commissioner Abe Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - C. Advocacy & Outreach Committee Tyler Hewes, Committee Chair
 - D. Commissioner Engagement Ad Hoc Committee Fritz Friedman, Ad Committee Chair
- V. **Presentation | Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) Update | [View Here](#)**
- IX. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



Commission for Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE ISSUED: December 13, 2023

ATTENTION: Commission for Arts and Culture

SUBJECT: Impact Recommendations and Tentative Awards

REFERENCES: List of Impact Pilot Tentative Award Recipients

STAFF CONTACT: Kip Eischen, Senior Arts and Culture Funding Manager

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Policy & Funding Committee will make a recommendation on the tentative awards for the Impact Pilot. at the committee meeting scheduled for December 15, 2023 before the full City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) meeting.

Staff recommendation submitted to the Policy & Funding Committee follows: Recommend to the Commission the following ten applicants for Impact Pilot awards, as submitted by the advisory panel: All for Logan, Asian Story Theatre, Kim Phillips, Little Saigon San Diego, San Diego Made, South Bay Alliance Association, The Aja Project, The Urban Collaborative, Tu y Yo Theater, and WorldBeat Cultural Center.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego's (City) Impact funding category supports excellence, innovation and creativity within the San Diego arts, cultural and creative sectors through targeted City funding initiatives in alignment with the City's arts and cultural strategies and priorities. Depending on the initiatives within the Impact category, eligible applicants may include tax-exempt nonprofit organizations and artists.

The City issued the guidelines for the Impact funding category pilot on October 9, 2023. In this inaugural Impact cycle, the City acknowledged post-pandemic challenges to the arts and culture cultural ecosystems and historical imbalances in access to funding as well as the need to acknowledge, encourage and preserve the cultural heritage of all San Diegans. This inaugural cycle of the Impact category which focuses on transforming the future of San Diego through new models for creative change-making in and through the arts, responds to the City of San Diego's adopted Strategic Plan and its Goal to Protect and Enrich Every Neighborhood, and the City's equity commitment to bring resources to every neighborhood, recognizing the historical underinvestment in some areas of the city.

The competitive process was open to artists, nonprofit organizations and organizations conducting not-for-profit work lacking formal nonprofit status with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor to submit an application for a project that would take place in the San Diego Promise Zone or Communities of Concern and in response to one of the following focus areas: Arts and Heritage, Arts and Sustainability and Arts and a Just City. Each application required a designated lead applicant that may have been an artist or organization as well as a primary collaborating partner. Lead organization applicants were permitted to collaborate on an application with an artist or organization. Lead artist applicants were required to collaborate with an organization. The lead applicant, whether an artist or organization, was required to be located within the San Diego Promise Zone or San Diego Communities of Concern that had been designated with a categorization of having very low, low or moderate access to opportunity as specified in the 2021 City of San Diego Climate Equity Index. Both the lead applicant and the collaborating partner, whether an artist or organizations, were required to have annual budgets under \$500,000.

The Impact Pilot provides up to 10 collaborative partnerships with \$100,000 in funding for an 18-month activity period that is divided into two phases, one for project planning and development and one for project implementation and a benefit from City organized networking and capacity building opportunities. The first phase will take place from January through June 2024 to further develop their project. The implementation phase will take place from July 2024 to June 2025.

Twenty-four lead artists/organizations applied in response to the Impact Pilot Guidelines. Of those applicants, seventeen met eligibility requirements. On November 30, 2023, the panel for the Impact Pilot convened to evaluate eligible applications using standard criteria and scoring. After evaluation of the applications and scoring, the panel voted to recommend ten applications for awards in the amount of \$100,000 each.

NEXT STEPS

Following Policy & Funding Committee's recommendation, the Commission will receive and vote to recommend the Impact Pilot Tentative Awards. The City will begin the process of entering into agreements with the funding recipients for the Impact Pilot running from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

List of Impact Pilot Tentative Award Recipients

1. The AjA Project
 - a. In collaboration with Fatuma Fadhil
 - b. This collaborative project aims to nurture and amplify the hyperlocal culture emerging from the experiences of young immigrants in City Heights. The collaboration envisions itself as a professional mentorship program, artistic incubator, and cultural asset mapping/community learning initiative contributing to preserving and innovating of City Heights' unique cultural identity amidst rapid gentrification. While this project is a new initiative, it builds on the foundation of AjA's Back Alley Poetry Club and aligns with the "Arts + Sustainability" and "Arts + Just City" focus areas.
2. All for Logan
 - a. In collaboration with Hector Villegas
 - b. In a community that faces rapid threats of gentrification and the lack of spaces for arts and culture, the organization will host monthly art shows showcasing as many as 50 local artists along the main business corridor. The corridor space will act as a gallery and multifunctional community space as a part of the ongoing "Barrio Art Crawl," it will be open to host workshops, artist "platicas" and artwork sales. The organization is also working on creating a database of active Barrio Logan artists that will not only serve as a rolodex-type tool to pull from when approached by agencies, property owners, institutions, and other businesses as candidates to create work for designated projects. The project intersects with all three of the Impact focus areas.
3. Asian Story Theatre
 - a. In collaboration with William Virchis
 - b. This performance project aligns with Arts + Just City and will be developed from personal experience with the United States Census and exploring if prejudice or disinformation discourages or prevents people from participating in the Census, creating a self-perpetuating disadvantage. There are deeply held and reasonably argued differences of opinion surrounding the Census. How you answer the question of race can affect the Census experience. The organization's producing director was a 2020 Census door-to-door enumerator assigned to nearby San Diego Promise Zone addresses; he heard both comic and troubling reasons about avoiding the Census.
4. Kim Phillips
 - a. In collaboration with San Diego Sister Cities
 - b. The New Avenue: Digital Archives of African American & Chicano Heritage in Logan Heights is a transformative initiative aligned with the belief that art can catalyze change. This project aims to redefine Logan Heights' cultural landscape, addressing cultural erosion and responding to the neighborhood's unique challenges, including those within the San Diego Promise Zone and San Diego Communities of Concern. By documenting untold stories, particularly from elders outside traditional archives, the project breathes life into forgotten narratives, inspiring pride in predecessors and historic buildings. Community members share stories through lived experiences and an interactive archive, fostering healing, reconnection, and rediscovery of common bonds. This initiative transcends conventional arts projects, laying the foundation for a vibrant, connected, and just community. The project intersects with the Impact focus areas Arts + Heritage and Arts + Sustainability.
5. Little Saigon San Diego
 - a. In collaboration with Indochinese Association of San Diego
 - b. At twenty historical sidewalk markers in the Little Saigon District and City Heights featuring the rich history, stories, and events of early Vietnamese people and businesses visitors can learn stories of those who helped shape the community. Visitors are encouraged to explore further with links to websites that offer in-depth visual storytelling with embedded elements like images, data illustrations, videos, and blogs. The project will intersect with Arts & Heritage and Arts & Just City by bringing history and heritage alive to promote loving kindness and empathy.
6. San Diego Made
 - a. In collaboration with Space 4 Art
 - b. "My Creative Journey" | "Mi Viaje Creativo", is a new initiative that will enhance the visibility of creative success models through free public events and opportunities centered around a unique quarterly residency for four local artists. These artists will have deep connections to the San Diego Promise Zone communities and embody

traditional art practices and cultural insights. Each selected artist will receive free studio space at the Made Factory for their quarter of residency, a living wage stipend to facilitate their work and the support of both collaborating organizations' teams and resources. Each selected artist's residency will produce a public speaking event, a visit for local students, weekly 'office hours' for community engagement, and a final event presenting an art project. The project embodies Arts + Just City by uplifting local artists with deep roots in the San Diego Promise Zone communities.

7. South Bay Alliance Association Incorporated
 - a. In collaboration with John Roy Sound
 - b. This project will produce art, music and health wellness event(s) at local parks such as Chicano Park and or Cesar Chavez Park as well as a yet-to-be-determined Park in San Ysidro that is free to the public. The project is to feature a full production-managed stage for local and regional musical acts, poets, songwriters, and composers to perform on and to provide a SafeZone for the public to gather, for artists to exhibit artwork for sale, for HIV/HCV/HARM REDUCTION outreach, health testing, linkage to care and other services, promote environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and art and music education. The project will create an environment to foster living traditional and folk-art practices through these events in response to the Arts and Heritage Impact focus area.
8. The Urban Collaborative Project
 - a. In collaboration with Maxx Moses
 - b. "Shine Forever" encompasses the broader vision of what the organization feels is imperative for the success of our young people within the community. The project involves recruiting twenty-four teenagers who reside in the San Diego Promise Zone from Lincoln Park and Encanto. To develop participants into global citizens, the organization will teach them cultural competency, invite them to explore outside of their current identities, and include exploring across the city's diverse landscape where cultural differences and different art forms can be embraced. It will conclude with a youth-led community exhibition with diverse local community members. The project aligns with the Impact focus areas Arts+Sustainability and Arts + Just City.
9. WorldBeat Cultural Center
 - a. In collaboration with Centro Cultural de la Raza
 - b. This project will engage the community in the designing of the Cultural Plaza between WorldBeat Cultural Center and Centro Cultural de la Raza. Programming and events will engage the local community and encourage cultural exchange. Strategic partnerships with local businesses and community organizations can provide support and increased visibility. Ensuring communities from throughout the city that are traditionally underrepresented in Balboa Park will prioritize Arts + Heritage and the sustainability of living traditional and folk-art practices by gathering these communities at the Cultural Plaza.
10. Tu y Yo Theater
 - a. In collaboration with Veronica Marquez
 - b. The project, "Mitos," is a dynamic fusion of immersive theater, historical research, and community engagement that aims to create a visual counter-history of community cultural wealth in San Diego's Communities of Concern. The organization conducts in-depth research into pivotal moments in the community's struggle for justice and equity that will serve as the foundation for the immersive theatrical experience and an accompanying exhibition. Audiences will be transported into the heart of historical events such as The Lemon Grove Incident, the Founding of Chicano Park, and local activism by members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. "Mitos" intersects with the Impact focus area of Arts + Sustainability in several significant ways.



Commission for Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE ISSUED: December 13, 2023

ATTENTION: Commission for Arts and Culture

SUBJECT: Artist Selection Panelists for *here comes the neighborhood: Encanto* Public Art Project

STAFF CONTACT: Charles G. Miller, Senior Public Art Manager

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the following panelists for the *here comes the neighborhood: Encanto* Public Art Project: 1) Denise Rogers with Commissioner Imani Robinson as an alternate for the seat of the Public Art Committee Member, 2) Gaidi Finnie for the seat of the Visual Art/Design Professional #1, 3) Lani Bautista Cabanilla for the seat of the Visual Art/Design Professional #2 with recommended alternates, in no particular order, to serve as three of the five ad hoc artist selection panelists.

SUMMARY:

City staff will administer the artist selection process for *here comes the neighborhood* public art initiative. The artists selected for the second iteration of *here comes the neighborhood* through the competitive process will work with the City to create permanent, visually engaging and conceptually rich artworks for the Encanto neighborhoods in and around the San Diego Black Arts and Culture District. Up to three artists will be commissioned. The anticipated artist fee for each artist in the second iteration is \$40,000.

In alignment with *here comes the neighborhood* project plan, the artist selection panel for the second iteration will be composed of five voting members: a Public Art Committee member, two visual art/design professionals, a Planning Department representative, and a community representative, City staff members will attend the panel meetings as non-voting advisors. The Public Art Committee is authorized to recommend appointment of three of the five panel seats for the public art project.

In January of 2021, the PAC and Commission took action to recommend three of the five panel seats as described for the *here comes the neighborhood: Encanto* initiative. Delays to this initiative were incurred primarily due to the emergency implementation of the *SD Practice* and *Park Social* artist relief initiatives over the course of and emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. In the intervening time, the PAC members recommended in January of 2021 to serve as panelists and alternates no longer serve as members of the PAC. Additionally, the Visual Art/Design professional recommended for Panel Seat 2 in January of 2021 is no longer able to serve. On December 8, 2023, the Public Art Committee voted (8,0,0) to recommend the following updates for panel seats:

Panel Seat 1

Denise Rogers, which **Commissioner Imani Robinson** as an alternate

Panel Seat 2

Gaidi Finnie, Executive Director of the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts

Gaidi Finnie is the Executive Director of the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts. Finnie has a diverse and lengthy career in service of San Diego's arts and culture sector, including having served as a member of the board of directors or in management positions with North Coast Repertory Theatre, the Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park Conservancy, and the Port of San Diego's public arts committee. With the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts, Finnie has organized

numerous exhibitions, many in collaboration with partner institutions throughout San Diego. These include the San Diego iteration of the *Say Their Names Memorial*, *Black Life: Images of Resistance and Resilience in Southern California* in collaboration with the San Diego Museum of Art, *Legacy in Black* in collaboration with the San Diego History Center, and *Dimensions of Black* in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, among many others. In 2020, Finnie served as an artwork selection panelist for the City's *SD Practice* collecting initiative.

Panel Seat 3

Lani Bautista Cabanilla, Manager, Community Impact, The San Diego Foundation

Lani Bautista Cabanilla is an arts administrator and community organizer with over 15 years of experience serving the arts and culture field. She was recently appointed as a Manager of Community Impact at The San Diego Foundation. Prior to that, she served as Senior Manager, Programs at The New Children's Museum in San Diego, where she collaborated with artists and community partners to develop innovative projects and installations that welcome over 250,000 children and families annually. In the last decade, Cabanilla has created arts education programs for five thematic exhibitions and curated dozens of hands-on studio experiences. Prior to joining the museum in 2008, she worked in community-based education programs, at independent design firms and on set-design projects in Los Angeles. Cabanilla has a BA in Art from San Diego State University, an AA in Visual Communications from The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and studied Human-Centered Design at The Design Academy. She also serves as a Board Member and Managing Director for Made in Paradise Hills - PH Night Market in Southeast San Diego.

Should the Visual Art/Design Professionals be unable to serve on the panel specified above, City staff recommends that the following alternates be contacted in no specific order:

- Leah Goodwin, CEO Leah Goodwin Creations, San Diego
- Alena J. Williams, Art Historian and Assistant Professor, University of California, San Diego
- Danielle Dean, Artist and Assistant Professor, University of California, San Diego
- Elizabeth D. Miller, Art Historian and adjunct professor, University of California, San Diego
- Tatiana Ortiz Rubio, Artist and Adjunct Professor, University of San Diego
- Rebecca Romani, Writer, Filmmaker, Curator, Adjunct Professor, San Diego State University
- Chantel Paul, Gallery Director, San Diego State University
- Hugh M. Davies, Director Emeritus, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- John C. Welchman, Professor of Art History, University of California, San Diego
- Lissa Corona, Artist and Art Teacher, La Jolla Country Day School
- Tina Yapelli, Professor of Museum Studies, San Diego State University
- Roxana Velásquez, Maruja Baldwin Executive Director, San Diego Museum of Art
- Lauren Lockhart, Executive Director, La Jolla Historical Society
- Hector Perez, Architect and Educator
- Karla Centeno, Director, Education and Engagement, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Kathryn Kanjo, David C. Copley Director and CEO, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Mathieu Gregoire, Artist, Project Manager, Stuart Collection, University of California, San Diego
- Chi Essary, Arts Writer and Independent Curator
- Michael Krichman, Executive Director, inSite
- Christie Mitchell, Executive Director, Athenaeum Music & Arts Library
- Tomoko Kuta, Senior Director of Education and Visitor Services, San Diego Botanic Garden
- Megan Dickerson, Director of Exhibitions, Birch Aquarium Scripps
- Andrew Ütt, Executive Director, Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Wendy Maruyama, Artist and Professor Emeritus at San Diego State University
- Jill Dawsey, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Mark-Elliott Lugo, Art Writer and Independent Curator
- Vicki Reed, Arts Writer, Critic and Art Historian
- Lynda Forsha, Independent Curator and Art Advisor
- Mary Beebe, Director Emeritus of the Stuart Collection, University of California, San Diego
- Vallo Riberto, Independent Curator
- Anita Feldman, Deputy Director, Curatorial Affairs & Education, San Diego Museum of Art
- Dinah Poellnitz, Co-Founder, Hill Street Country Club
- Leah Ollman, Arts Critic and Writer
- Ladan Akbarnia, Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, San Diego Museum of Art
- Sara Solaimani, Art Historian, Curator, and Educator

- Victoria Fu, Artist and Associate Professor of Film/Video Art, University of San Diego
- Perry Vasquez, Artist and Professor of Art, Southwestern College
- Sarah Trujillo-Porter, Director of Operations, Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Sally Yard, Professor of Art History, University of San Diego
- Robert L. Pincus, Art Critic and Writer
- Guusje Sanders, Curator, Mingei International Museum
- Kara West, Librarian, Gensler
- Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres, Curator and Art Historian
- Larry Herzog, Urban Planner and Professor Emeritus, San Diego State University
- Linda Caballero-Sotelo, Director, New Americans Museum
- Alex DeCosta, Director, Hyde Art Gallery, Grossmont College
- Lisa Hutton, Artist, Professor of Art at Grossmont College

San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture
Advocacy Committee
Advocacy Priorities 2024

VISION: Expanding our world by celebrating creativity on San Diego

PURPOSE: The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on promoting, encouraging and increasing support for the region's artistic and cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination.

PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS

We advocate for the restoration of reduced arts funds, maintenance of existing funding, and support increased funding and resources for public arts and culture agencies, nonprofit arts organizations, and individual artists, to advance and drive an equitable and inclusive creative economy, specifically:

- Increase Arts & Culture Funding from the city's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to equal 1 cent out of the 10.5 cent TOT, as described in the "Penny for the Arts Five Year Blueprint" approved by the City Council in 2012.
- Provide and expand a variety of Arts & Culture funding mechanisms, such as Impact, to support emerging artists, expand access to arts and culture throughout the city, address systemic challenges in arts and culture ecosystems and transform historically underserved communities through the arts.
- Increase funding to support administrative oversight and program management to extend program reach and help community organizations applying for funds.

ADVOCACY PLAN

Communicate Commission advocacy priorities to the mayor and members of the City Council:

- Meet with councilmembers and mayor formally and informally throughout the city budget process.

Identify and engage with artists and cultural organizations, both City funded and independently funded, in our neighborhoods, council district and city-wide, to seek advice, receive input and participate in the advocacy process.

Participate in advocacy actions with other local and state arts advocacy organizations such as San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Commission (SDRACC), San Diego Arts+Culture, Californians for the Arts, California Arts Council, and National Council for the Arts.

NOTE:

We anticipate the Mayor's Creative City Cultural Plan will provide a funding priority framework when it is presented in winter 2025.