



Commission for Arts and Culture Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda

Thursday, January 22, 2026

1:30-3:30 P.M.

City Administration Building

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Zoom Link: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1614689543>

Chair: Alessandra Moctezuma

Vice Chair: Keith Opstad

Commissioners: Dajahn Blevins, Chris Chalupsky, Vanessa Ybarra Davis, Dennis Doan, Fritz Friedman, Cathy Hasson, Abe Hughes, Kamaal Martin, Becky Phillpott, Alberto Pulido, Imani Robinson, Jean Walcher

Staff Liaison: Bell Reza

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Commission on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Written Comment through Webform: In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments using the [webform](#). When using the web form, indicate the agenda item number for which you are submitting a comment. Instructions regarding word limits and submission deadlines are provided on the form. On the web form, members of the public should select Commission for Arts and Culture.

Virtual Public Comment: During Non-Agenda Public Comment, after the Chair opens the comment period, raise your hand by tapping the "Raise Your Hand" button on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by dialing *9 on your phone. Speakers will be called in the order hands are raised. Each person may speak only once on a particular item. When staff calls on you, unmute your device by following the on-screen prompt or by dialing *6 on your phone.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. California's open meeting laws do not allow the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may add the item to a future agenda or refer it to staff or a committee. Individual comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. If a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, the Chair may limit the time for each speaker or for the item.

Requests for Accessibility Modifications or Accommodations:

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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, as well as requests for auxiliary aids, services, interpreters, or translation services to offer public comment, may be made by contacting Bell Reza at 619-559-7776 or Breza@sandiego.gov. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility and public participation.

Agenda:

- Item 1: Call to Order & Statement of Purpose+Vision | Alessandra Moctezuma, Chair
- Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment | Alessandra Moctezuma, Chair
- Item 3: Chair’s Reports
 - a. **ACTION** – December 17, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes
 - b. Other Reports
- Item 4: Presentation: World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana Impact Report
- Item 5: Presentation: Economic Development Department Overview
- Item 6: Committee Reports
 - a. Funding Committee – **ACTION** – Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates to Evaluate Proposals Submitted in Response to the Fiscal Year 2027 Organizational Support Program (OSP) and Creative Communities San Diego (CCSD) Application, Part 2
 - b. Public Art Committee
 - c. Advocacy & Outreach Committee
 - d. Creative City Ad hoc Committee
- Item 7: Staff Reports
- Item 8: New Business for Future Agendas
- Item 9: Adjourn



Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

MINUTES

December 17, 2025

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

Commissioners

Present

Alessandra Moctezuma
Keith Opstad
Imani Robinson
Becky Phillipott
Dennis Doan
Cathy Hasson
Jean Walcher
Abe Hughes
Chris Chalupsky

Commissioners Absent

Alberto Pulido
Fritz Friedman
Lee Ann Kim
Dajahn Blevins
Kamaal Martin

Staff Present

Rachel Laing
Christine E. Jones
Charles Miller
Lara Bullock

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- I. **Call to Order & Statement of Purpose & Vision | [View Here](#)** – Chair Alessandra Moctezuma called the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture online meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- II. **Non-agenda Public Comment | [View Here](#)**
The Chair called on Chuck Miller. No public comment was received in person, virtually, or in writing
- III. **Chair’s Reports | [View Here](#)**
- A. **ACTION** – November 20, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes
Minor spelling mistakes were noted. Cathy Hasson’s name was not included in the committee appointment approval.
Commissioner made Imani Robinson made a motion to approve, Commissioner Chris Chalupsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - B. **ACTION** – Confirmation of Committee Appointment
Recommend the appointment of Fritz Friedman to the Funding Committee.
Commissioner made Becky Phillipott made a motion to approve, Commissioner Keith Opstad seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - C. Other Reports
- IV. **Committee Reports | [View Here](#)**
- A. Funding Committee | Committee Chair Alberto Pulido not in attendance, Funding committee did not meet
 - B. Public Art Committee -**Action- Final Artwork Proposal for Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch by Nate Page**
Conflict of interest disclosures: no conflicts stated. Imani Robinson Commissioner made a motion to approve, Commissioner Keith Opstad seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - C. Advocacy & Outreach Committee

D. Creative City Ad hoc Committee

- V. Presentation: Balboa Park Parking Update | [View Here](#)
- VI. Staff Report | [View Here](#)
- VIII. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



Commission for Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE ISSUED: January 22, 2026

ATTENTION: Commission for Arts and Culture

SUBJECT: Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates to Evaluate Proposals Submitted in Response to the Fiscal Year 2027 Organizational Support Program (OSP) and Creative Communities San Diego (CCSD) Application, Part 2

REFERENCES: FY27 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelists Candidates
FY21-FY26 Approved Commission Advisory Panelist Candidate Pool

STAFF CONTACT: Olivia Jones, Senior Arts & Culture Funding Manager, City of San Diego Department of Cultural Affairs

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the slate of Commission Advisory Panelist candidates to evaluate proposals submitted in response to the fiscal year 2027 OSP and CCSD Application, Part 2.

BACKGROUND

According to the Commission's Rules and Regulations, the Commission may establish advisory panels to augment the work of the committees, to support goals of the Commission, to provide opportunities for community members to participate in City processes, and to utilize the input and feedback of panelists in the funding processes. When a Commission Advisory Panel is to be established, the Commission will recommend members of advisory panels after reviewing a slate of candidates presented by the Cultural Affairs staff.

Panelists from FY21-FY26 approved candidate pool may also be called upon to serve in FY27 panels. This report includes approved candidates who applied for the FY21 through FY26 candidate pool. Staff no longer anticipates retiring panelists from the approved pool after three years to ensure there is a diversity of candidates (e.g., council district areas, skill sets, areas of expertise) to draw from for panel assignment needs, which changes from year to year depending on the proposals submitted in response to OSP and CCSD Application, Part 2.

To prepare the slate of proposed Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates, staff drew from a pool of nominations obtained through an open call for self-nominations and third-party nominations, a review of individuals who have previously served on Commission committees or panels, and a review of individuals

On January 8, 2026, the Funding Committee voted (4,0,0) to recommend the slate of Commission Advisory Panelist candidates to evaluate proposals submitted in response to the fiscal year 2027 OSP and CCSD Application, Part 2.

NEXT STEPS

Following the Commission's recommendation of the slate, city staff will then coordinate panel assignments considering panelist availability, panel size, conflicts of interest, and a balanced representation of council district areas, skill sets, areas of expertise, prior history of serving as a panelist, etc.

To this end, some recommended candidates may not be assigned to a panel, some panelists may be assigned the role of understudy to assist if other panelists drop out, and some will not serve on a panel this year but will remain in the approved pool for future consideration without the need to reapply.

City staff may also assign individuals from the FY21-FY26 approved candidate pool to an FY27 panel. If expertise gaps emerge during the panel assignment process, City staff may augment with individuals with the required qualifications. This strategy will ensure the panels are well-equipped to evaluate the proposals thoroughly and effectively.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Status	Year	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Title	Please enter a brief biography
New	27	Alberto	Lau	Self	Writer/Photographer/Filmmaker	Alberto Lau-Chang is a bilingual writer, photographer, and documentary filmmaker. He previously was an architect and construction manager. He was born in Guatemala of Chinese parents. Mr. Lau-Chang has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Architecture from Yale University. At Yale he studied photography under Walker Evans and architecture under Charles Moore. He wrote for the San Diego Reader on photography, art, and architecture.
New	27	Amy	Crum	Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego	Associate Curator	Amy Crum is an art historian and researcher who specializes in contemporary art of the Americas. Amy Crum is the Associate Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Crum received her Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2011 and shortly thereafter became the manager of dnj Gallery, where she oversaw a rigorous program of contemporary and historic photography exhibitions that included prominent artists such as Claude Cahun, William Eggleston, Robert Heineken, and Sally Mann. From 2013 to 2017, Crum served as the Curatorial Assistant to the Art of the Ancient Americas department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, during which time she was instrumental in developing, designing and implementing the international traveling exhibition, Picasso and Rivera: Conversations Across Time. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Tulane University where her research explores issues of site, self-image, and performativity in the work of Latinx and Latin American contemporary artists. In addition to her graduate studies, she also works as a curatorial intern for the New Orleans Museum of Art in the department for Modern and Contemporary art where she is researching and developing written interpretive material on the work of William Kentridge for the forthcoming exhibition, Bodies of Knowledge, which will open in June of 2019. For her most recent project, Crum is co-curating an exhibition with colleague and arts writer, Marjorie Rawle, that promotes the idea of home as a frame through which artists interrogate issues related to domesticity, labor, transnationalism, memory and site.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Ann	Bossler	N/A	Former Arts Commission Chair & Grantmaker	Thank you for the opportunity to apply. I am the immediate past Chair of the City of San Diego Arts and Culture Commission (my tenure spanned almost 9 years). I have 25+ years of direct experience in grantmaking for San Diego arts organizations (both general operating and specific educational programming). My passion for the arts runs deep, and my desire to contribute remains strong. Thank you for all you do and for your consideration.
New	27	Audrey	Williams	University of Arizona	Business Coordinator	Audrey Williams is a Business Coordinator . MA in History of Art and Architecture, Boston University BA in Art History and French, Colgate University
New	27	Carina	Courtright	Crescentera,inc	Cultural producer	Born in Los Angeles to a multicultural and international family, Carina was raised between California and Mexico and educated in both the US and Europe. She has traveled extensively, has lived in several cities internationally, and maintains strong personal and professional bonds around the world.Carina received a BA in International Relations from the University of Southern California, with a minor in German, and completed the Cornell School of Hotel Administration professional program. More recently she completed her Masters Degree in Arts and Culture Management at the Rome Business School.
New	27	Colleen	Prieto	transcendANCE Youth Arts Project	Grants & Communications Specialist	As the Grants & Communications Specialist for transcendANCE Youth Arts Project, I've worked for three years now sharing the story of how participation in arts programs can lift up youth from marginalized San Diego communities. In my previous job, I wrote grants for 20+ years for a Head Start program, after a few years working directly with preschool-age children as a Head Start teacher. My own arts background includes writing and photography, both of which I enjoy as hobbies - and I have a BA in Child Study from Tufts University. As a panelist, I would enjoy bringing my grants experience and Creative Youth Development (CYD) knowledge to the table in evaluating proposals in support of the wonderful work in which San Diego organizations are engaged.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Corey	Dunlap	City of Pasadena	Public Art Manager	Versatile and knowledgeable arts administrator supporting government agencies, universities, and community arts organizations throughout Southern California. Skilled in Project Management, Contract Compliance, Proposal Development, Community Relations, Financial Tracking, Public Art Management and Graphic Design. Currently serves as Public Art Manager for the City of Pasadena, California.
New	27	Dennis-Michael	Broussard	Silk Road Productions	Event Producer	Dennis-Michael Broussard has been involved with the arts and culture scene in San Diego since 2008. He has been instrumental in producing and creating several large scale festivals in San Diego (previously worked but no longer involved with Linda Vista Street Fair, San Diego Chinese New Year Fair, International Cottages International Christmas Festival, House of China's Chinese New Year Fair, Poway Days Parade, Filipino American Heritage Festival ---- created but no longer producing the Asian Cultural Festival of San Diego, the AMP Music Festival, the San Diego Ramen Festival, the Filipino Sun Festival --- volunteered with San Diego Asian Film Festival, the San Diego International Film Festival, House of France, House of Pacific Relations, and others). He currently shifted direction towards pop culture conventions and has created the San Diego Anime Con, Scream Diego, and others. He also volunteers tirelessly to help develop San Diego's international community through sitting and working on the boards of the International Affairs Board, the San Diego World Affairs Council, San Diego International Sister Cities Association, and the United Nations Association of San Diego)
New	27	Diana	Benavidez	Mingei International Museum	Assistant Manager of Engagement, Learning, and Impact	Diana Benavidez is a San Diego/Tijuana-based artist working with piñatas as a creative medium since 2015. A pioneer in this form, she combines traditional techniques with unconventional materials and sewing to explore identity and border culture. Her work has been exhibited internationally. Diana holds a Visual Arts degree from UC San Diego and currently serves as the Engagement, Learning, and Impact Assistant Manager at the Mingei International Museum.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Emmy	Lam	Chinese Calligraphy Academy	Founder and Managing Director	Emmy Lam is a multifaceted cultural artist known for founding and directing programs in Chinese Calligraphy, Paper Cutting, and Origami, offering workshops for various ages through organizations like Dream Shapers, enriching cultural arts education with hands-on experiences for children, teens, and families. She is recognized as an experienced programmer who brings fun, educational cultural activities, often featuring calligraphy and paper arts, to the community.
New	27	Eric	Wallner	self	Arts Professional	Eric Wallner, SHRM has over twenty years experience in organizational development and team building, mentoring staff, artists and arts educators. He holds a B.A. from Brown University in Modern Culture and Media, a M.A. in Arts Policy and Administration from the Ohio State University and has taught in the Arts Management program at George Mason University. Past roles include CEO of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Executive Director at Zaccho Dance Theatre and Deputy Director at the Oklahoma Contemporary.
New	27	Gerard	Buckley	BUCKLEY CONSULTING GROUP	Pewardent, Non-Profit Management Consultant	Philanthropy & Advancement Consultant to Non Profit Organizations. Buckley has more than 40 years experience in development fund raising, public relations, and marketing. He last served as vice president of Development at the Escondido (Calif.) Humane Society. Buckley, who holds a bachelor's degree in English from St. John's University, New York, joined the Scripps Foundation in 1981, serving first as director of Annual Giving for Scripps Memorial Hospitals Foundation in San Diego, where he helped raise more than \$25 million for the organization. He completed his tenure in 1993 as vice president of Special Gifts for Scripps Foundation for Medicine and Science.
New	27	giselle	rocha	San diego creative youth development network	creative strategist	Born in Phoenix, AZ and moved as a toddler to San Diego, CA. I am a queer chicane multi-disciplinary artist, weaver and storyteller. my journey as an artist is rooted in amplifying voices and creating room for the authentic self in all of us. Paying homage to my roots, my matriarch and my inner niñes, as well as my lived experiences, growing up all over East/SouthEast San Diego & Logan Heights as well as my grandmothers home in Culiacan-Badiraguato, Sinaloa, MX.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Grace	Smith	La Jolla Music Society	Artistic Planning & Operations Director	Arts Worker with experience in nonprofit and academic arts organizations. Programming, planning, administration, artistic operations and production. Background in arts, culture, and humanities with undergraduate in Classical Studies, masters in International Arts Management and curiosity in creative place making.
New	27	Hanin	Zayat	TSRI	Research Administrator	Future health and education leader, current student and citizen of the world. Spanish Literature, UC San Diego Triton Research & Experiential Learning Scholars (TRELS)
New	27	Ileana	Ovalle	UC San Diego, The Qualcomm Institute, Museum of Us	Chief Strategy & Governance Advisor, Chair	Ileana Ovalle is serving in her second term on the board of the Museum of Us, starting in September 2019, and is the institution’s first BIPOC Woman chair. A leader with over 23 of public, private, and nonprofit sector experience, in June 2023, she accepted the role of Strategy & Governance Advisor at Qualcomm Institute – UC San Diego Division of Calit2 of the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology. She formerly led global product marketing and government partnerships for the life-saving COVID-19 Exposure Notifications app at Google/Alphabet.Ovalle is an avid volunteer in education, diversity and the environment and served as Chair and capital campaign member of Ocean Discovery Institute, Board of Governors of The San Diego Foundation, a Community Advisor to the Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, University of San Diego’s Nonprofit Institute Advisory Board and a Hispanas Organized for Political Equality leader. Ovalle was an appointed official on both the City of San Diego’s International Affairs Board and San Diego Public Library Commission. She was twice named Woman of the Year for California’s 80th Assembly District (2016 & 2017) and in 2021, received the Ring of Honor Award for MANA’s National Latina Leadership Organization.
New	27	Janis	McKay	SDSU College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts	Dean	I am currently the Dean for the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts at SDSU. Previously, I was the Vice Dean for the College of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and a full professor of music for 28 years. I served as Principal Bassoon for the Las Vegas Philharmonic until stepping down when I moved to San Diego. As a professional musician, I have performed with many orchestras and artists for over 40 years.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Jeff	Barber	City	Arts Supervisor	I have worked for the City of Santa Clarita as an Arts & Events Supervisor for 17 years. In this role, I managed the city's public art program, developed several on going events including the city's first Earth Arbor Day Festival, a Variety Show called 10 by 10, an Art Walk called Art Slams, and for the past 6 years have managed an 81 seat theatre for the City. Prior to this, I was the Community Education Manager for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for three years, and prior to this, I worked at The Autry National Center as a Programs Manager, where I developed an assortment of shows, events, programs and festivals.
New	27	John	Ball	MiresBall	Creative Director	With over forty years of design and business experience, I've built a body of work for global brands— including legendary audio icon Shure and technology pioneer Intel—as well as collaborations in the arts and public good space with the Smithsonian, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, San Diego. Additionally, while serving on the Lux Art Institute's board of directors, I led the creation of that innovative arts organization's brand identity and oversaw its award-winning communication program for fifteen years.
New	27	Jordan	Turkomani	Graphic Solutions	Designer	Jordan is a recent addition to the Graphic Solutions design team. Informed by her multidisciplinary background combining experience in architecture, interior design, and graphic design, Jordan takes a holistic and inventive approach to her work.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Jorge	Ceja	N/A	Public Artist	My pseudonym is Vezun. That is what everyone calls me. I am a local Las Vegas public artist. I look for ways of contributing my efforts to give back to the community. I try and serve and do work in the public realm that is for the people rather than my own purposes. So far, I have been making temporary public art with cardboard and wood/mixed media armatures. I look for-ward to producing permanent public art pieces and I am open to working with a fabricator or a foundry. I am also interest-ed in producing works from steel cut outs. In addition, I am interested in fabricating mosaic sculptures. My current art practice includes attending workshops and some-times conducting workshops. I organize art projects with the help of grants. I engage with the public through some of these pro-jects, volunteer work, showing artwork in galleries and through public art.
New	27	Kara	Greenwell	Studio Narrative	Visual Artist	Kara Greenwell is a California based visual artist who creates works of self-reflection and societal investigation. Ms. Greenwell’s work has been exhibited at museums and galleries nationwide including, Oceanside Museum of Art (CA), Haggin Museum (CA), Prince Street Gallery (NY), Tarleton State University (TX) and The San Diego Museum of Art (CA). Kara attended artist residencies at Cuttyhunk Island Artists' Residency, Vermont Studio Center and ChaNorth. Ms. Greenwell is a self-taught artist with an MBA from Harvard Business School.
New	27	Karyn	Williams	Creative Impact Collaborative	Co-Founder and Principal	Karyn Williams is the co-founder of Creative Impact Collaborative, a placemaking and public art consultancy that helps developers, cities, and community partners integrate art and culture into projects to build community, unlock long-term value, and support smoother approvals. With a background in the public sector and nonprofit leadership across design and arts organizations, she has spent her career advancing a more equitable built environment through community-centered planning, public art, and cultural strategy. Trained in landscape architecture and urban planning, Karyn brings a rare blend of design fluency, policy insight, and on-the-ground community experience to complex development and infrastructure projects.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Katalina	Silva	Enigma Creative / Tijuana Design Week	Designer	Katalina Silva is a transborder designer, co-founder, and creative director of Enigma Creative and Tijuana Design Week. She co-authored the proposal that led to San Diego–Tijuana's designation as World Design Capital 2024 and was a Designer-in-Residence at the UCSD Design Lab. Since 2014, she has led CreativeMornings Tijuana and serves on the Advisory Board of the Don Norman Design Award and the International Council of Design. She co-founded Here and There, a design residency between Mexico and the United States. In 2025, she presented Play Borderisms at the London Design Biennale, leading its conceptual development and creative direction.
New	27	Kate	Bae	Women's Cactus for the Arts	Artist	Kate Bae is a multi-disciplinary immigrant artist based in NYC and South Korea. Her practice encompasses painting, alongside the creation of site-specific installations and sculptural works. Bae holds an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BFA in Painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is the founder of Women's Cactus for the Arts and has exhibited nationally and internationally, including recent shows at the Jeju Museum of Art, Korea and the Brooklyn Museum, NY. Bae is a recipient of grants from the Puffin Foundation, Foundation for the Contemporary Art, the Real Art Award, the MVP Chapter Lead Grant from the Malukah Gender Justice Institute, and the Ora Lerman Trust. She has attended residencies at the Sculpture Space, Golden Foundation, the Studios at Mass MoCA, the Trestle Gallery, the Wassaic Project, Chashama, and the Lower East Side Printshop, among others.
New	27	Kathy	Fishkin	Warner Springs Cultural Association	CPA	I am a retired CPA who has major nonprofit experience. I have sat on art panels for California Arts Council and Public Corporation for the Arts in Long Beach, CA. I am also a collector of California Plein Air artists of San Diego and Orange County area.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Kellie	Quinn	IB Arts	Executive Director	Kellie Quinn is the Executive Director of Imperial Beach Arts (IBA) in San Diego, leading initiatives to expand artistic ventures like murals, music, and film, leveraging her background in arts advocacy, non-profit management, and community building. She previously directed the IRC Small Business Development Center in San Diego and worked with San Diego State University, focusing on public administration, international programs, and refugee support, and has experience with Project Soar in Morocco and DC.
New	27	Ligel	Lambert	THE ART OF LIGEL LLC	OWNER & CEO	Ligel Lambert is an interdisciplinary artist, designer, professor, and entrepreneur whose practice spans painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, assemblage, and sculpture. He holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art and Painting from RMIT University (Australia), an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of West Florida, and a BFA in Graphic Design, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia University's Teachers College. His work has been exhibited internationally in New York City, Savannah, Suzhou, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Virginia Beach, and Raleigh, and is held in public and private collections, including RMIT University and the City of Jacksonville. He has collaborated with notable artists, including Wycliffe Gordon, Howard R. Paul, and Bob James. He serves as an adjunct professor at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design and an adjunct lecturer at Hunter College, CUNY. His current and future projects explore identity, leadership, mentorship, and representation in higher education through large-scale Fauvist-inspired portraits and research-based series.
New	27	Molly	Terbovich-Ridenh	Arts Management Resources	Nonprofit Consultant	Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour is a nonprofit consultant and arts leader with over 20 years of experience guiding organizations through strategic growth, leadership transitions, and operational change. She is the founder of Arts Management Resources (AMR), a consulting practice focused on infrastructure, fundraising strategy, and sustainable development. Molly previously served as Executive Director of San Diego Civic Youth Ballet and Managing Director of Kinetic Light. She brings clarity, creativity, and strategic insight to every engagement and is based in San Diego, California.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Monique Horton	Park Takeover	Executive Director	Founder - Executive Director of Park Takeover Mother, Entrepreneur and Human Relations. Promoting healing within BIPOC families.
New	27	Munip Melih Korukcu	no affiliation	Retired Academician(Prof. Dr.) and Freelance Artist, Autor	Prof. Dr. Munip Melih Korukcu (Ph.D., M.A.) He graduated from the Dramatic Writing Department of the Theatre Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts. He completed his Master's and Doctorate (Ph.D.) at the Department of Performing Arts, Institute of Fine Arts, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir. He served as Head of the Drama and Acting Department at Aydin University's Faculty of Fine Arts, Istanbul. Korukcu has numerous publications specific to the performing arts. The last of his book on dramaturgy, "Play Analysis," was published in 2016. The second edition of the book was published by Habitus Publications. The author has also produced plays that premiered at the 24th International Istanbul Theatre Festival and are currently being performed. He also conducts seminars and workshops on topics such as Creating Imagination; Thinking Like an Actor; and Internal Image External Impact Design. Appointed a professor in 2023, Korukcu continues his academic and artistic endeavors.
New	27	Ozlem Yeni	Independent / Freelance Visual Artist	Dr	I am a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and arts professional based in Arizona, with international experience across Turkey, Australia, Japan, and the United States. I hold a master's degree and a PhD and have extensive experience in artistic production, arts education, and institutional engagement. From 2020 to 2023, I directed an artist-centered gallery in Australia, gaining hands-on insight into nonprofit arts operations, exhibition development, and community-focused programming.
New	27	Paige Satter	San Diego Symphony	Director of Venue Operations Administration	Paige Satter is the Director of Venue Operations Administration for the San Diego Symphony. She has spent over 30 years in production and venue management for organizations from Seattle to San Diego. She holds a BA in Arts Management from California State University San Bernardino and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Chapman University.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Peichi	Waite	Rutgers University - New Brunswick (but applying as self)	Director, Scarlet Arts Rx (an Arts and Well-Being Program)	I am a current Santa Barbara resident (and former San Diego resident) with a passion for and strong belief in the power of public art to bring about greater civic pride, healing, and economic growth. As an arts director at a large public university, I am working with multiple partners to bring to life 18 public art projects in 2025-26. These projects span murals, an interactive textile installation, a photography installation, public art care carts, a zine machine, interactive billboards, yarn and clay bombing, art pop-up stations, live painting, and a jazz music series for community well-being. I am well-versed in evaluating a wide range of public art types through a holistic lens including aesthetics, fabrication, contracts, installation/destallation, budgets, educational tie-ins, marketability, community relevance, and sustainability. In Fall 2025 alone, I oversaw 180 art events, mentored a team of 24 artists, and collaborated with 90 community partners, so I have broad experience with community-based arts. In addition, I bring more than 20 years of experience to the table as a practicing visual artist, including with public art projects (chosen after a statewide and a national call for art), and as a trained educator who knows how to connect art to the minds and hearts of intergenerational and culturally and economically diverse communities in engaging ways.
New	27	Roxana	Lopez	ICA SAN DIEGO	Exhibitions Manager	San Diego is my home and community to which I am deeply committed. For the past five years, I have worked at ICA San Diego, where I currently serve as Exhibitions Manager. My past includes assisting the de la Torre Brothers, writing for Vanguard Culture, volunteering at MOPA. In my role at ICA San Diego, I work closely with artists to realize their exhibition visions and present meaningful, impactful experiences to our community.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Shelley	Wang	The New Children's Museum	Grants Manager	<p>Shelley is a grants manager, social worker, and former creative professional with degrees and professional experiences in film, animation, and graphic/web design. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Television, Radio, and Film from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University in NY, with additional training in animation from USC School of Cinematic Arts and advanced web and interaction design from UCLA Extension. She also earned a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Southern California in LA, with a focus on community, organizational, and business innovation.</p> <p>Shelley began her career in animation studios, media agencies, and freelance creative work, producing videos, motion graphics, and digital materials for nonprofit and community-based organizations. She later transitioned into arts and nonprofit leadership and currently serves as Grants Manager at The New Children’s Museum, where she supports innovative, arts-based education programs serving diverse youth and families across San Diego by securing and managing public and private funding.</p> <p>An immigrant with bicultural experience in the U.S. and China, Shelley brings a cross-cultural lens to arts access, storytelling, and equitable funding decisions.</p>
New	27	Simon	Hanna	Mainly Mozart	Director of Development	<p>Simon Hanna is the Director of Development for Mainly Mozart in San Diego, a role he started in September 2025, bringing extensive arts administration and fundraising experience from organizations like The Actors' Gang and St. Ann's Warehouse, following a period as a Development Consultant.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Simone	Nelson	Maude	Head of Impact	<p>Originally a performer, she donned a power suit after realizing that producers were involved from conception to final production and distribution of creative projects. Inspired by cultural exchanges from her years abroad, Simone is passionate about work that creates emotional connections, pushes boundaries, changes hearts and minds, and motivates action. She’s produced everything from plays, immersive experiences, operas, festivals, concerts, conferences, online learning programs, digital media entertainment startups to films including the Sundance award winner “The Last Black Man in San Francisco.” Championing inclusivity, she spearheaded changemaking opportunities for new generations of diverse storytellers as President of Women in Film & Media and Managing Director of The Cal State Entertainment Alliance.</p> <p>Simone has worked with legendary artists and business leaders, from Sir Richard Branson to Daniel Day-Lewis to the head of Disney Studios and Theatricals. Her experience, along with her degrees from Northwestern University’s Theater program and the Yale Graduate School of Drama, has allowed her to recognize life as a series of tragic comedies where she often plays the fool. Like Shakespeare, however, she believes “better the witty fool than a foolish wit.”</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

New	27	Victoria	McKellips	CAMFT-CA Assoc. of Marriage & Family Therapists	Membership Outreach Manager	<p>I'm a nonprofit professional with over a decade of experience in membership engagement, donor cultivation, and strategic outreach. Currently, I serve as the Membership Outreach Manager at the California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (CAMFT), where I work to support and grow our statewide community of mental health professionals through intentional outreach and engagement strategies.</p> <p>Before joining CAMFT, I was the Client Development Manager at RSF Social Finance, where I had the opportunity to lead donor relations, coordinate high-impact events, and collaborate across departments to bring client-centered initiatives to life. I thrive on building meaningful connections and leveraging data to improve retention, engagement, and impact. My career has taken me through some incredible organizations—from the Oceanside Museum of Art to The New Children’s Museum, Pacific Arts Movement, and the YMCA of San Diego County. Across these roles, I’ve developed and implemented membership programs, led donor campaigns, managed complex CRM systems, and curated events that bring communities together. I take pride in finding thoughtful, strategic ways to align mission with engagement.</p>
New	27	Wendy	Wilson-Gibson	Bonita Museum & Cultural Center	Director	<p>As a professional arts administrator Wendy has extensive experience in media communications and production. From concept to final product Wendy enjoys collaborating with private collectors, clients, non-profits, and museums to conceptualize exhibitions and explore visitor experience and immersive experiences. As an artist she has studied and worked as a practicing artist in new media arts focused on the intersections of art and science as well as data collection and display. As a curator, she has conceptualized, funded, and produced multi-media installations and exhibitions exploring contemporary, new media, and theory-based subject matter as well as exhibitions exploring the history of personal collections and the relationships involved in art creation. Wendy received her Bachelors Degree in Radio, Television, and Film with an emphasis in Studio and Art Theory from California State University, Fresno., studying with artist Charles Gaines and gallery management with William Minshew. She is currently the director of the Bonita Museum & Cultural Center.</p>

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New	27	Zia	Sinclair	Pacific Arts Movement	Director of Development	<p>Zia Sinclair works in the arts and culture nonprofit sector, where she has built extensive experience in community engagement, storytelling, and fundraising. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with various teams on projects that promote cultural equity, creative expression, and inclusivity. She currently serves as the Director of Development for Pacific Arts Movement, the nonprofit presenter of the San Diego Asian Film Festival. As a visual artist, Zia has exhibited and shared her work at a range of galleries, including the San Diego Art Institute, the Oceanside Museum of Art, Bread and Salt, and La Bodega Gallery. She strongly believes that arts and culture play a vital role in fostering growth, creating economic opportunities, and strengthening communities. She views art as a powerful driver of social change, capable of expressing emotion, amplifying voices, and sparking meaningful dialogue that contributes to positive community development. Zia is deeply committed to building, creating, and making meaningful contributions to the communities she engages with. In her spare time, she immerses herself in arthouse cinema, reading, and visual art, often experimenting with both digital and analog photography as well as experimental videography.</p>
New	27	Zuzzie	Kapas	Athenaeum Music & Art Library	Operations Assistant	<p>Zuzzie Kapas is a San Diego–based arts and culture professional, interdisciplinary artist, and nonprofit operations specialist with extensive experience in program management, institutional operations, and community engagement within the arts sector. She currently serves as Operations Assistant at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, one of Southern California’s longstanding nonprofit arts institutions, where she supports operations and public programming across its La Jolla and Logan Heights locations. In this role, she oversees facilities and event logistics, licensing and compliance, resource coordination, and donor and member engagement, supporting exhibitions, concerts, lectures, and large-scale benefit events with attention to accessibility, community participation, and operational feasibility. In addition, Zuzzie serves as Gallery Assistant at Ashton Gallery at Art on 30th, a gallery and art education center focused on professional and emerging artists.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Alexandra	Uzarraga	Independent	Teaching Artist	Ale Uzarraga is a transborder female photographer born in San Diego, CA, and raised in Tijuana, B.C. She studied the technical photography career in Mexico and graduated with an Art Therapy certification and, Narrative Therapy. With more than 10 years of experience, she has practiced this art in different ways, mainly in the capture of landscapes and community projects by creating photography projects with different unrepresented communities in Tijuana and San Diego, CA. She makes use of her art as an exploration and expansion tool to generate a social impact and transform environments through the arts.
Returning	26	Alvaro	Diaz	Universidad Autónoma de Baja California	full time professor - Sund Artist	Álvaro Gabriel Díaz Rodríguez is a musicologist, researcher, and sound artist with a PhD in Musicology. His work focuses on sound studies, contemporary music, and the intersections of music, technology, and culture. He is a university professor and a member of national research and artistic creation systems in Mexico, with projects, publications, and presentations in international academic and artistic contexts.
Returning	26	Brooke	Whitaker-Royster	Mid Monday Morning, LLC	Consultant	An entrepreneurial strategist and relationship steward with a proven track record of leading complex, mission-based projects. I specialize in data-driven strategic planning and board development, guiding organizations through major transitions. My diverse portfolio includes spearheading collaborative grantmaking initiatives with philanthropic powerhouses, producing global arts education forums, and managing a city-wide NYC cultural festival with over 300 partners. I excel at building consensus and delivering high-impact results with minimal oversight, all while upholding the highest standards of integrity and collaboration.
Returning	26	Caitlin	Chavez	Chavez TLC	Nonprofit Consultant	Caitlin Chavez has two years of experience in nonprofit administration, ten years of writing experience, and ten years of experience in higher education teaching French, art history and humanities. Most recently, she served as director of Pioneers'; Museum in Imperial, CA and brought in more than \$200,000 of funding for education and preservation programs at the museum. Prior to moving to California in 2022, she served on advisory boards for art organizations in Beaumont, TX and organized different visual arts community events ranging from film screenings, pop up exhibitions, and a self-published magazine.

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Returning	26	Chenoa	Baker	Chenoa Baker	Curator, Writer, Cultural Strategist	Chenoa Baker (she/her) is a curator, wordsmith, and descendant of self-emancipators. The facets of her work can only be described as being a community art synergist. Being the Associate Curator at a gallery in Boston, adjunct professor of exhibitions and African American craft history, and a curatorial and education fellow at ICA/Boston was formative in her journey. Now, her independent curatorial portfolio extends from Massachusetts to Virginia and Pittsburgh. She’s working on Marie Gauthiez: TBD at Tephra ICA and the career retrospective of Ifé Franklin at the Fuller Craft Museum. She’s also worked on Gio Swaby: Fresh Up at PEM and Touching Roots: Black Ancestral Legacies in the Americas at MFA/Boston. She was awarded the 2023 Young Critics Prize from the Association Internationale des Critiques d’Art (AICA) and the 2024 Maker Award from WBUR, Boston’s NPR. She’s also the Chief Architect of Elbow Grease, a grassroots forum and editorial collaborative that advocates for women and nonbinary labor in the arts.
Returning	26	Clara	Bird	N/A - In Transition	Philanthropy Officer	Clara's artistic foundation runs deep. From an early age, she pursued visual art, dance, vocal performance, and theatre, and by her teenage and college years she was a company dancer with Southern California Ballet, member of one of California’s top-ranked and award-winning choirs, a three-time AP Studio Art and art history student, and an active performer and technician in numerous university and school theatre productions. She later served as a dance teacher with the Arts Education Project of the San Diego Unified School District. Today, Clara continues to champion the arts through her work in philanthropy. She began her career as a fundraiser at the world-renowned La Jolla Playhouse. She now serves as the Associate Director of Philanthropy at the Center for Community Solutions. Clara also volunteers as Director of Development and serves on the Board of Directors for the Golden State Ballet. Clara holds a Master’s degree from UC San Diego and enjoys painting, attending live performances, taking dance classes, Latin social dancing, interior and landscape design, hiking, photography, and exploring visual art and cultural museums.

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Returning	26	Cornelia	Emerson	Cornelia Emerson, Ph.D.	Development & Strategic Planning Consultant	<p>Cornelia Emerson has spent her career in arts, cultural heritage and higher education in Los Angeles County, including stints at Art Center College of Design and Otis/Parsons (now Otis College of Art and Design). From 1992-2009, she was Development Officer at the UCLA Film & Television Archive, where she wrote scores of successful grant proposals to federal, state and local agencies—including NEA, NEH, IMLS, National Parks Service (Save America’s Treasures), the California Arts Council and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. She also raised funds from individuals (at both annual fund and major donor levels), and corporate and private foundation sources including the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Getty, Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. From 2010-15, Cornelia was a part-time, contracted Development Director for the Musical Theatre Guild, where she wrote a series of successful grants to the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture and the Actors’ Equity Foundation. Additional grant-writing clients included the middle-school theatre curriculum (Out)laws and Justice, the Ocular Research Symposium Foundation and the Los Angeles Center of Photography. Later, she was contracted by the City of West Hollywood Arts Division to offer fundraising and website development assistance to its grantee Saturday Night Bath Concerts—which brings music education to continuation high schools and justice-involved students across LA County. Cornelia earned B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English literature from Yale University, and taught at Yale and Pomona College in her earliest career years. She studied organizational development at UCLA’s Anderson School of Management (part-time, no degree).</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Courtney	Oliphant	Coastal Nonprofit Consulting	CEO	Courtney Oliphant, GPC, brings over 12 years of experience in nonprofit grant consulting and management. Driven by a passion for supporting under-resourced communities and fostering impactful change, she is dedicated to helping organizations unlock their fundraising potential. ;With a background in nonprofit bookkeeping and a strong foundation in arts and culture, Courtney has successfully raised over \$5.5 million for mission-driven organizations, prioritizing strategic institutional funding solutions. Courtney was a professional theatre artist for over ten years and currently writes young adult fiction in her spare time. She is the co-writer and producer of the Lagralane Spirits Podcast and an ;executive producer of the award-winning short films Ownership and Broken Castles, both of which have received multiple accolades on the festival circuit, including Best Short Film.
Returning	26	Cynthia	Noble	ART on THE MART	Executive Director	Cynthia Noble is the founding Executive Director of Art on theMART, the largest permanent digital art platform in the world. Inaugurated in 2018, the pioneering public-private partnership between theMART, its parent company Vornado Realty Trust and the City of Chicago provides nightly public access to compelling time-based media artworks mapped onto the Chicago River façade of theMART (formerly the Merchandise Mart). Ms. Noble also directs Art on theMART’s esteemed curatorial advisory board, artist and content partnership relations, operations, and marketing. Previously, Ms. Noble held appointments in museum learning and engagement at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago where she continues as lecturer. Through interpretation, programming, and audience development initiatives, she has advanced the conversation around the role of museums in society with a goal of inclusive, public access to the most relevant art of our time.She taught art history at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, and Columbia College. She has also independently provided interpretive cultural travel programs in partnership with museums and international art fairs.Ms. Noble studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (M.A., art history, theory and criticism) and at Miami University (B.A., international studies).

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Danielle	Swan	Drexel University	Department Administrator for Architecture, Design and Urbansim	Danielle has loved the arts as long as she can remember. She studied photojournalism in college and worked as a freelance photographer for theater productions. She went on to run to become the Audience Services Manager at a regional theater company before choosing pursue her Masters in Arts Administration. She volunteers her time to various arts organizations and has served on a handful of grant panels related to the arts.
Returning	26	David	Gonzalez	Femtasia Fest	Cheif Administrative Officer	David Gonzalez serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of Femtasia Fest. With a notable track record, he has presented his work at the California Sociological Association and curated diverse art exhibitions across Southern California. Currently employed at the California Institute of Technology, David brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Cal State Bakersfield, continued his education with postgraduate studies at UCLA, and recently completed a Master of Science degree at Johns Hopkins University. David's commitment to both the arts and academia reflects his dedication to a well-rounded and impactful career.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Diego	Plata	San Diego Symphony	Orchestra Operations Manager	<p>Diego's passion for music blossomed at an early age in his vibrant homeland of Colombia. A perfect match for his cross-cultural life experience, Diego was an instructor of World Music in English and Spanish at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, connecting with students and fostering a love for music across language barriers. Driven by a deep commitment to community engagement, Diego eagerly joined the board of the Utah Flute Association and eventually ascended to the position of President. Diego was recognized as a 2019 Community Outreach Fellow by the prestigious National Flute Association and was invited to share his insights as a speaker at the National Flute Convention that same year. Passionate about bringing art to underserved populations, Diego embraced the role of Teaching Artist with El Sistema@Salty Cricket, making a lasting impact through music education. Later, he assumed the position of Community Opera Fellowship Manager at Opera Omaha, where he oversaw innovative programming that bridged the gap between art and vulnerable communities in the area. Currently, Diego serves as ;Orchestra Operations ;Manager with San Diego Symphony, where he plays a vital role in the artistic and operational facets of the orchestra. His expertise and dedication contribute to the seamless functioning of the orchestra, ensuring unforgettable performances for audiences. ; Diego's educational achievements include a Master's in Music from the University of Arkansas and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Utah.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Elena	Muslar	Entertainment Community Fund	Managing Director, The Career Center	<p>ELENA MARIE MUSLAR (@elenamariemuse) is a bicoastal arts executive, enterprising educator, and executive coach dedicated to the collective cultural and economic progress of professionals of every level navigating careers towards, in, around, or beyond arts, culture, and entertainment. She is the Founder and Chief Empowerment Officer of Confide Creative, a coaching and consulting practice for creative leaders and legacy builders. Additionally, Elena serves as the Managing Director of The Career Center at the Entertainment Community Fund, formerly known as The Actors’ Fund. She previously held leadership roles at Fractured Atlas, overseeing the fiscal sponsorship program for artists, and Loyola Marymount University, where she coached and taught thousands of students to successfully launch their career dreams into reality throughout the creative economy (and was the first recipient of the Enrollment Management Division Creativity & Innovation Award). She has also guest lectured at USC, NYU, UCLA, CSULB, East LA College, University of Wyoming, and more. In 2018, she was recognized as a Towne Street Theatre Next Gen Honoree after getting her start in the arts there at age 8 which set the foundation and inspiration for her creative career. In 2019, the County of Los Angeles honored Elena, a native of South Central Los Angeles, for her leadership in the arts & creative economy, commitment to cultural equity & inclusion, and dedication to community affairs & civic pride. A sought-after speaker, occasional model, and enthusiastic poetic wordsmith who is diving into audiobook narration next, Elena is a UCLArts & Healing certified Social Emotional Arts Facilitator, UC Berkeley Executive Coaching Institute graduate, and holds an MFA in Theatre Management & Creative Producing from CalArts and a BA in Theatre Arts (with concentrations in Dance, African-American Studies, and Education) from LMU.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Ellen	Leslie	Community Arts Stabilization Trust	Development Officer	Ellen Leslie is a San Francisco native and an active member of the Bay Area arts community as both a performer and a fundraiser. She is passionate about the long-term health of the region’s vibrant cultural fabric, as well as about developing solutions at scale that can strengthen arts organizations across California and the country. As Development Officer for the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST), over the past five years she has played a direct role in raising more than \$15 million in philanthropic gifts to support CAST’s work in the Bay Area and Colorado. Alongside and informing her work at CAST, Ellen is an acclaimed classical soprano, and maintains a busy performance schedule with various orchestras and opera companies across the United States and Europe. She holds degrees in Voice and French from the University of Denver, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the Hochschule für Musik Leipzig.
Returning	26	Erin	Dougherty	High Museum of Art	Director, Public Engagement	Erin Dougherty is the Director, Public Engagement at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. She’s a creative and dynamic leader with over 15 years of museum experience. While she has developed and implemented programs for a variety of audiences, she also understands how to engage with stakeholders, community leaders, artists, donors, and board members. Erin believes that all community members should have access to museums. Dougherty holds an MA in Art Education and a BA in Art History. She was recently named to The Power 10 of blooloop’s 50 museum influencer list. She has served on the boards of T. Lang Dance and AIR Serenbe and was a member of the 2017 Getty Leadership institute NextGen class.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Ernest	Figuroa	Arts Consulting Goup	Associate Vice President	Ernest A. Figuroa has been a dedicated director, producer, actor and playwright in theatre, film and television throughout the country. Figuroa served as the Associate Artistic Director for the Sacramento Theatre Company from 1996 – 1998 where he also served as casting director and literary manager. He directed several productions on the Main Stage, Second stage, and school tours including: A Christmas Carol!, Trashed!, Shakespeare’s Circus, Apparently Shakespeare, and The Search for Signs..... He also served as Associate Producer for Love Letters and the Great Performances Festival Rep. He worked as the national Education Director for Plays for Living, Inc. in New York City and worked twice on the professional staff of the Pasadena Playhouse. He currently works as a Director and Associate Producer with Bonnie Franklin’s outreach program, C.C.A.P. – Classic and Contemporary American Plays. With C.C.A.P. he has directed staged-readings of All My Sons starring Ms. Franklin, A Touch of the Poet starring David Birney, Death of a Salesman starring Michael Gross, Toys in the Attic with Susan Clark and Broadway Bound with Harold Gould. From 2004-2006 he served as a Director and performer with the American Girl Revue, the second longest show in Los Angeles.
Returning	26	Ferchil	Ramos	Sound Future	CEO	Ferchil Ramos is a Movement Strategist and Cultural Architect who leverages a decade of experience at the ACLU and PolicyLink to transform complex policy into human-centered narratives for liberation. As the founder of For the Record Digital and the nonprofit Sound Future, he merges technical messaging architecture with a deep commitment to his roots in Southeast San Diego to empower mission-aligned organizations and the next generation of creatives. By centering truth-telling and digital strategy, Ferchil builds the infrastructure necessary for marginalized communities to reclaim their stories and design a more equitable future.
Returning	26	Gabriella	Johnson	La Jolla Playouse	Special Events Coordinator	I am a theatre artist with a focus on acting and writing. I most recently graduated from the University of California San Diego with a BA in theatre and a minor in Literature. In 2022, I became the Special Events Intern at La Jolla Playhouse. I was quickly promoted to assistant and finally offered the Special Events Coordinator role in January of this year.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Gabrielle	Piazza	University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance	Assistant Director, EXCEL Lab	Gabrielle Piazza (she/her/hers) is the Assistant Director of the EXCEL Lab within the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at the University of Michigan. Career development, especially within the ever changing landscape of the arts, is a passion of Gabrielle’s, and her work with the EXCEL Lab is an exciting way to build connections and relationships with and for the SMTD community. Prior to this role, Gabrielle supported a portfolio of student organizations as a Program Manager in the Center for Campus Involvement’s University Activities Center, and worked as Assistant Manager of the Michigan Union Ticket Office, serving campus and community organizations. She has worked with a variety of arts institutions including the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Purple Rose Theatre Company, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. As a performer and workshop facilitator, Gabrielle spent three years touring the US, Europe, and Japan with music outreach group The Young Americans. Gabrielle holds an M.F.A in Arts Leadership from Virginia Tech, an M.B.A. from Southern Utah University, and a B.A. in Mathematics and Musical Theatre from Adrian College. Within the national community, she is a member of Arts Administrators in Higher Education, serving as Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chair 2020-2022.
Returning	26	Kimberly	Doerr	Creative STEM & Arts	Director of Expansion	I’m Kimberly Doerr, a creative professional passionate about education, community building, and the arts. In my role as Senior Program Specialist and Expansion Director at Creative STEM & Arts, I’ve developed innovative programs, including fashion-focused initiatives for diverse learners, and expanded enrichment opportunities across multiple school districts and summer camps. My dedication to fostering equity and creativity drives my work, from serving as a Grant Review Panelist for the California Arts Council, supporting accessible arts programming, to capturing meaningful moments as the volunteer photographer for Kids Fashion Network’s Annual Toy Drive. I’ve also provided professional photography for political campaigns, helping to tell powerful stories through visuals. With experience in education, program development, and storytelling, I thrive on connecting people through art and creativity while driving impactful, inclusive projects.

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Returning	26	Laura	Hoffman	Self-employed	Consultant	My professional background includes a 15+ year career in proposal development and grant award management in the arts and the bio and health sciences. ; My experience includes serving as the Grants Officer for the Phoenix Art Museum. ; In this role, I collaborated with the curators and submitted numerous grants. I secured funding from the National Endowment of the Arts and from other private and public funders to support exhibitions and community and festival programming. I was appointed by the mayor of the City of Tempe, Arizona as a Tempe Municipal Arts Commissioner and elected as an executive member for the grants programs. ; In this role, I managed all aspects of arts funding from organizing community panels, training the panelists, and developing funding recommendations based on the reviews. The Tempe grants program supported organizational/infrastructure funding and project grants. ; As a commissioner, other responsibilities included evaluating artists and their work for the public art program and being on the jury for the Tempe Arts Festival. ; I was also selected and served as a panel member for the Phoenix Arts Commission’s grant program.
Returning	26	Linda	Swayze	Joffrey Ballet	Director of Community Engagement	LINDA SWAYZE, Director of Community Engagement at The Joffrey Ballet, has dedicated her life to the arts as a performer, teacher, and mentor—including a prestigious performance career as an artist with the Dance Theatre of Harlem for 17 years. A native Chicagoan, she is beloved by colleagues and students alike, a champion of aspiring artists and the performing arts. Swayze was instrumental in the development of Joffrey’s inaugural strategic plan for Community Engagement, leading to a partnership with Northwestern Medicine on Dancing with Parkinson's classes both in Lake Forest and at Joffrey’s South Loop studios.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Lisa	Riggs	Self	Event Specialist and Company Promoter. Artist.	My name is Lisa Riggs and I am a compassionate and creative professional seeking a dynamic role dedicated to enhancing the community. My roots of growing up in a bicultural and bilingual household contributed to my melting pot of skills and talents. I have over ten years of experience in leadership through luxury spas as well as involvement in event coordinating. I earned a bachelor's degree in painting and drawing and I have always been driven by a strong sense of community. My passion for philanthropy is derived from interning and volunteering for various non-profits with a focus on the accessibility of the arts and conserving wildlife.
Returning	26	Lisel	Gorell-Getz	UC San Diego	Director of Program Development	I am a theatre maker, teaching artist, arts educator, arts administrator, and community engagement specialist. I spent 12 years at the Old Globe Theatre as a foundational member of their Arts Engagement department where I worked in and among communities to democratize access to arts education and theatre making. After receiving my MA in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at USD, I joined the UC San Diego campus as Director of Program Development ;in the Office of Innovation where I now use my arts education and nonprofit strategy development skills to ;work with startup founders and ;entrepreneurs committed to innovation and social impact. For several years I have served as a community ;member of the VAPA Advisory Council for the San Diego Unified School District, which advises the school district on visual and performing arts strategic planning and implementation.
Returning	26	Marina	Gutierrez	Agua Caliente Cultural Museum	Museum Education Coordinator	I am a Salinan and Chumash descendant and Mexican-American professional, currently serving the Education Department at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs, CA. I previously was employed as a guest teacher at Hemet Unified School District and served the Youthbuild USA program ;at the California Family Life Center, preceded by my time as a Tribal Monitor for the Kizh Band of Gabrieleno.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Marinta	Skupin	Independent Artist and San Diego State University	Part-Time Lecturer	Marinta Skupin is a South African-born artist who lives and works in San Diego, California. She has an MFA degree from San Diego State University's School of Art and Design and a BA Fine Arts degree and MA Arts Administration degree, both from the University of New Orleans. Prior to returning to the studio full-time, she had a long museum career, her last position having been that of Curator of Education at Laguna Art Museum in Laguna Beach. Marinta's work has been exhibited at venues such as the Institute of Contemporary Art in San Diego, Gallery 825 in Los Angeles, and the Abercrombie Gallery at McNeese State University.
Returning	26	Marti	Gobel	OnWord Theatre	Producing Artistic Director	I am a nationally recognized Actor, Director and Teaching Artist. I currently serve as Producing Artistic Director of OnWord Theatre. I hold a degree from UW-Whitewater (2008) in Performance Arts and Philosophy (with an emphasis in Religious Studies). I completed my training as a Teaching Artist at the JF Kennedy Center specializing in Effective Residency and Lesson Planning. ;I have worked nationally as an actor, director and teaching artist in professional houses ranging from 70-2000 seats. ;Lastly, I have ;served as an adjunct professor at several reputable ; universities in the mid-west region, ;instructing ;Acting for Majors, Acting for Non-Majors, Acting Theory and Movement and Multi-Cultural Playwrights (a lecture course)

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Matt	Carney	San Diego Ballet	Executive Director	<p>Matt Carney is thankful for his career in the arts in San Diego working as an artist and administrator. This year marks his 15th year working with the San Diego Ballet and he is thrilled to be able to help advance its mission in his current role as Executive Director. Matt was drawn into the world of dance as another way to convey his interests in equality, social activism, and the simple joy of moving. After the recession in 2008, he began to dig deeper into dance on a systemic level. ;Questions on how to sustain this art form and preserve its legacy filled his head and led to a pathway of synergy between both his artistic and administrative sides. He has his BFA in Dance from the University of MO-Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music and Dance and while working on his Master in Public Administration from SDSU’s School of Public Affairs his research focused on organizational development, strategic planning, and communication. Matt guest teaches regularly at San Diego School of the Creative and Performing Arts, at the San Diego Ballet School, and the SDB Summer Intensive among others. Community commitments include immediate past Chair of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition, the Port of San Diego’s Art, Culture, and Design Committee, the UCSD’s Park and Market Advisory Council, and has served on grant panels for the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, Port of San Diego, and the California Arts Council</p>
Returning	26	May	Stearman	San Francisco Symphony	Community Engagement Program Manager	<p>May Stearman (she/her) is a non-profit arts professional for whom curiosity and connection are guiding principles. As Community Engagement Program Manager for the San Francisco Symphony, May specializes in promoting equitable access to the arts for all San Francisco-Bay Area residents, and forging enduring community partnerships rooted in collaboration. May is proud to have managed the Free Community Ticket Program, which, since 2021, has distributed tens of thousands of free SF Symphony tickets to Bay Area residents. Originally from the East Coast, May holds a B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.</p>

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Returning	26	Megan	Boisvert	Dept. Parks & Recreation, San Diego Museum Council	Associate Governmental Program Analyst	<p>From organizing city-wide events with artists and communities to curating gallery exhibits, Megan Boisvert is a jack of all trades. Working in the visual arts industry for 10+ years, Megan has worked with arts organizations nationwide including Art Basel Miami, National Geographic, Director of art galleries, public art, and more. Passionate about the arts and bringing art to the people, providing accessible and inclusive art experiences for all.</p> <p>Megan has her BA in Art & Art History from Florida International University, Miami, FL, and a dual MA in Art Business from Sotheby's Institute of Art, Los Angeles, CA, and Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA. Megan is currently working for California State Parks overseeing small business operations within parks throughout Southern California.</p>
Returning	26	Michael Angelo	Camacho	San Diego ART Matters	Director of Government and Field Engagement	<p>Director of Government and Field Engagement. Before joining San Diego ART Matters, he served as Board Treasurer and was Executive Director of the Visual and Performing Arts Foundation. He earned an M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences. He is a nonprofit professional with solid experience in finance, fundraising, and philanthropy. With top-tier relationships across various sectors in San Diego, Michael has been involved in evidence-based program design, financial analysis, resource development, and civic engagement. The arts have a special place in Michael's heart. He has done dance ;demonstrations at the San Diego Fair and has been invited to exhibit work ;at the Spanish Village Art Center. Michael also contributes his talents as part of an up-and-coming theater company, where he helped produce a play, which he is proud to say shed light on immigrant issues in the community.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Michelle	White	The Menil Collection	Senior Curator	Michelle White is Senior Curator at the Menil Collection, where she has organized the exhibitions, Allora & Calzadilla: Specters of Noon, Lessons from Below: Otabenga Jones and Associates, Roni Horn: When I Breathe, I Draw, Leaps into the Void: Documents of Nouveau Realist Performance, Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip, Barnett Newman: the Late Work, Mona Hatoum: Terra Infirma and Vija Celmins: Death and Disaster, 1964—1966. She was the co-curator of the first retrospective of the drawings of Richard Serra that opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and traveled to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and organized the retrospective drawing exhibition of works on paper by Lee Bontecou for the Menil and the Princeton University Art Museum. She has worked with Claes Oldenburg on a publication and exhibition of the “Strange Eggs,” and has organized commissions for the Menil with artists Dario Robleto, Leslie Hewitt and Bradford Young. She is currently preparing exhibition on the work of Niki de Saint Phalle and Chryssa. She received her B.A. at the University of California, San Diego and her M.A. in Art History from Tufts University, and has held positions at the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
Returning	26	Natalie	Koski-Karell	City of San Diego	City Planner	I hold a BA in Theatre from Boston College, and higher degrees in the law and city planning from UC ;Law of San Francisco and UC ;Berkeley. During my 10 years in the Bay Area, I worked as a performer/educator in Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program, as an actress in various independent theatre productions in San Francisco, and as an assistant at Brava! Center for the Arts, ODC, multiple professional choreographers, and the Fresh Experimental Dance Festival, all while continuing my own training. I began my own theatre/dance collective called The Ouroboros Collaborative in 2023 as a vehicle to produce small works of moving art. ;Through this platform, ;I have produced/directed/choreographed pieces for SDSU's The Undone Show (2023) and ;San Diego Dance Theater's ;Emerging Choreographers Showcase ;(2024), and my short dance film was selected for the San Diego International Film Festival (2024). I ;maintain a consistent dance practice with the contact improvisation community in ;San Diego and beyond, and train ;regularly with Eric Geiger (formerly UCSD) ;and Jess Humphrey (SDSU/Portal).

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Nik	Whitcomb	Community Affairs Coordinator	TriMet	<p>Nik Whitcomb is a cultural strategist and creative producer dedicated to building more connected, inclusive, and vibrant communities. With over 15 years of experience spanning professional theatre, nonprofit leadership, and public engagement, his work lives at the intersection of creativity, equity, and civic life.</p> <p>Currently Nik is a Community Affairs Coordinator with TriMet in the Portland area where he spearheads engagement for the expansion of bus rapid transit in the western suburbs. He is the former Producing Artistic Director at Bag&Baggage Productions where he expanded access, deepened partnerships, and centered equity in operations and programming.</p>
Returning	26	Sneha	Craig	Fern Street Community Arts	Non Profit Operations Manager	<p>Operations Manager, Sneha Craig has been working in non-profit administration for almost 10 years. Conscientiously contributing to her community and lifting up others is of great importance to her. With diligence and grounding energy, she gradually improves systems and environments. A visual artist with a B.A. from San Jose State University, her work aims to honor nature and stretch imagination. She is so happy to be contributing to the organization that helped mold her husband, alumni from Fern Street Community Arts. At home along with their dogs they enjoy gardening, pottery, camping and rock climbing. ;</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Tom	Abruzzo	CCAETheatricals / University of San Diego	Director of Education & Engagement / Professor	Dr. Tom Abruzzo (he/him) is the Director of Education & Engagement at CCAE Theatricals and a faculty member in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) at the University of San Diego. He is also an Associate at the Nonprofit Institute. Tom’s career has taken him across the U.S., from New Jersey to Alaska and Florida, where he worked as a pianist, music director, and arts leader. His research focuses on inclusive leadership in the nonprofit performing arts sector, exploring the paradox of uniqueness and belongingness in historically exclusionary environments. In his current role, he develops sustainable and equitable creative youth development and workforce programs in theatre. Among many things, Tom is passionate about helping nonprofit leaders interpret and use research to improve program planning, evaluate outcomes, and make informed decisions. He holds a Master’s degree in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management from Colorado State University and a BA in Music from Rowan University.
Returning	26	Vanessa	Christie	City of San Diego	Administrative Aide	Visual Artist, and writer with experience in exhibiting artwork, and with grant writing. Completed training through Continuing Education in Media Arts, including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Final Draft, and After Effects. Experience in Screenwriting, with a screenplay accepted by a film production company. Recipient of grants from California Arts Council, The Getty, Pen America, and Rising Arts Leaders.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Wendy	Hovland	Wendy Hovland Voiceover/Act or	CEO	<p>Wendy is a film, theatre and voice actor trained in a hybrid Meisner technique.</p> <p>Her experience includes work in films, commercials, industrials, documentaries, and theatre as well as voiceover.</p> <p>Wendy’s work has won numerous awards and been featured in the HEAR Now: Audio Fiction and Arts Festival. Her voice is a popular choice for narration, e-learning, telephony and commercials.</p> <p>Wendy is also a frequent presenter, speaker and emcee for events and also serves as ‘Voice-of-God’ voiceover for conferences.</p> <p>She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University, where she majored in Public Relations and minored in Speech Communication.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	26	Yvette	Porter Moore	Root Digger Genealogy Research Services	Genealogist and Public Historian	Yvette Porter-Moore is a genealogist and public historian with 25+ years of experience. She is currently researching African American history in San Diego County, and is serving as a community connector, conducting oral history interviews for the San Diego ;History Center’s “All In” Project. Ms. Porter-Moore is the Founder & Owner of Root Digger Genealogy Research Services. ;Her business focuses on historical & genealogy research, consulting, and ;writing historical narratives. Ms. Porter-Moore was the historian for the Tubman-Chavez ;Wall displayed at the San Diego County Southeastern Live Well Center. Porter-Moore is a RISE San Diego Fellow and has an eclectic background in ;education as she holds a degree in Cross-Cultural Studies, BA in Human Development, ;Paralegal Certificate from USD, and Genealogical Research certificates from Boston ;University and the Midwestern African American Genealogy Institute. Ms. Porter-Moore volunteers her time as secretary of Common Ground Theatre, the ;Historian of the San Diego High School Alumni Association, the Nate Harrison Serenity ;Ranch Foundation, San Diego History Center’s African American Advisory Committee, ECC Historical Advisory Committee, Coronado Black History Advisory Committee, and founder of the Delilah L. Beasley Historical Society, and recently appointed to the County of San Diego Historical Site Board. ; Ms. Porter-Moore’s greatest accomplishment was organizing the San Diego community in naming two elementary schools after her father, Dr. Walter J. Porter. Her bucket list includes writing her adoption search memoir and writing various histories of San Diego
Returning	25	AMY	STIRNKORB	Self-Employed @ Stirnkorb Design	Graphic Artist, Designer, Creative Director, Glass Fusing Artist	I am an award-winning graphic designer, creative director, editor, and book and magazine publisher with more than 30 years of experience. Most recently, I became a partner/owner of Clicbitz, a San Diego-based children’s educational company that teaches college-credit approved technology and textile arts courses at City of San Diego Library branches and other locations around the county. With my Clicbitz partner, Tracey Herriot, we just founded a 501c3 non-profit called Educreate to promote STEAM classes for underserved youth in our community. Also, in the last few years, I have taken up the art of glass fusing, which I absolutely love.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Bruce	Turk	Independant artist and professional member of Actors' Equity Association and Screen Actors' Guild	Actor, Director, Visual Artist	Bruce Turk is a professional actor, director, and visual artist. He has performed leading roles On and Off Broadway, internationally, and at major regional theatres across the country. San Diego audiences have seen him in fifteen productions of Shakespeare at the Old Globe Theatre (Craig Noel Award). Also Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, ACT, Pasadena Playhouse, Seattle Repertory, McCarter Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center, Cincinnati Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, the Shakespeare Theaters in DC, New Jersey and Santa Cruz, and many more. He holds an MFA in Directing from Texas State University. Bruce studied drawing and painting at Northwestern University. His artwork has appeared in numerous literary journals and is held in collections in San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. His solo exhibition, "Archive," was held at Encinitas Civic Center last year. He has exhibited extensively at Arton30th, in San Diego, where he is a guest instructor and recently juried the mixed-media show, "All Mixed Up."
Returning	25	Carl	Schmitz	University of California, San Diego	Art historian	I owe my professional development to the arts. From being a frontline museum worker to supporting arts organizations in leadership and volunteer capacities, my professional life has been defined by a personal dedication to the arts. With a strong research skill base as an art historian, I am dedicated to service in the arts, the approachability of the arts, and the development of sustainability for arts workers. (Professional dossier: linkedin.com/in/carlschmitz/ Also: two of my favorite local museums are the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center and the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum!)

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Carlos	Palacios	Independent curator	Curator	<p>Carlos E. Palacios is an art critic and curator based in Mexico since 2010. He has a Master in Curatorial Studies, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York.</p> <p>Between 2004 and 2009 he was curator of contemporary art at the Cisneros Foundation / Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection. He was chief curator at the Carrillo Gil Museum of Art in Mexico City. Since 2011, he has taught both undergraduate and master's degrees courses in the areas of history, theory, and curatorship at the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos, the Morelos Center for the Arts and in the University of the Californias International in Tijuana, Baja California. He currently lives in Ensenada, Baja California where he directs Lamoderna Ensenada, an alternative space dedicated to contemporary art.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Chris	Kim	Occidental College	Choi Family Director of Instrumental Activities	<p>Chris came to Occidental from Cornell University, where he directed the Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra. The League of American Orchestras/ASCAP has recognized his advocacy of contemporary music by awarding him the Adventurous Programming Award six times between 2008-14. The American Prize has also recognized his work in multiple categories. Chris has premiered over 250 new works for orchestra, and he has sought to program worthy, unknown repertoire with orchestras.</p> <p>In the 2016-17 season, all concerts by the Cornell Symphony Orchestra featured a work by a woman composer both present and past: Kristin Kuster, Gabriela Lena Frank, Jacqueline Keeyoung Kim, Tonia Ko, Joan Tower, and Lili Boulanger. During the 2017-18 season, jazz-influenced works permeated the repertoire of the Cornell Symphony Orchestra: Duke Ellington, Gunther Schuller, Charlie Parker, and Wynton Marsalis.</p> <p>Cornell Chamber Orchestras was a featured ensemble at the CODA National Conference in 2012. The Cornell Orchestras have formed multiple collaborative relationships with the Royal Academy of Music in Dublin, Ireland, Conservatorio de Puerto Rico in San Juan, PR, Sinfonía del Neuquén in Argentina and have taken multiple visits to these sister cities. In January 2019, Cornell Orchestras embarked on a tour to Taiwan to collaborate with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra as well as Engagement activities with five different student orchestras across the city of Taipei.</p> <p>Chris has appeared with orchestras in the United States and abroad, including ensembles such as the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Delta Festival Ballet, Symphoria, Divertimento Ensemble of Milan, Italy. He has appeared in music festivals such as Kinhaven Music Center, Skaneateles Music Festival, and International Bartók Festival in Szombathely, Hungary among others. Each summer he is a part of the faculty at Cortona Sessions</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Craig	Hyman	Numinous Music & Productions	CEO/Founder - Artistic Director, Curator, Artist Manager, Consultant	<p>Craig S. Hyman is a music industry veteran with more than 30 years experience in the music and entertainment industries. Passionate about music, with a talent for identifying emerging artists around the world, he is CEO and Founder of Numinous Music Presents and Productions, a Los Angeles, California and New York City based entertainment arts consulting company specializing in presenting, programming and curating live music performances.</p> <p>Craig's most recent accomplishment is the creation of the 2023 Los Angeles Global Music Festival for which he was the Producer & Artistic Director. Craig has produced TV, film and events in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Austin, Nashville, Washington D.C., San Jose, Vancouver, Toronto, Hawaii, France, Poland, Iceland & More. Craig recently served for three years on the Board of Directors for the Center for World Music in San Diego, California, and held the position of Chairman of Programming for the organization. worked successfully as a freelance music journalist. A strong advocate for world and all music in a global community, Craig possesses that rare combination of artistic sensibility and business know-how.</p>
Returning	25	Felicia	Morgenstern	The Poetic Passports Project	Writer/Artist/Founder	<p>Felicia Morgenstern, award-winning writer, artist, performer & educator, hails from Washington, DC. HFelicia was awarded Maryland State Arts Council's Individual Artist Award in Poetry, and she has performed in museums, schools & galleries from Baltimore to Buenos Aires. Felicia served as a MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) Poet-in-Residence, and has been featured in Maryland Poetry Review recordings and videos. She enjoys performing with musicians such as flamenco and jazz guitarists, drummers & flutists. Felicia is the founder of The Poetic Passports Project, utilizing poetry and prose to promote self-reflection, self-expression, and community connection.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Iren	Tete	San Diego State University	Assistant Professor - Ceramics	<p>Originally from Sofia, Bulgaria, Iren is currently based in San Diego, CA where she is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. She holds an MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.</p> <p>Investigating poetic and theoretical systems of thought, seeing, and navigation, Irene's sculptures collapse language of the industrial-infrastructural and human-organic. She has participated in residencies at the Hambidge Center, the Archie Bray Foundation, Zentrum fur Keramik, and will be in residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in summer of 2024. Iren's solo exhibitions include those at the Sarasota Art Center, Galleri Urbane, Parallelogram Gallery, and Gallery 371. Recent group exhibitions include biennials in Italy and Latvia and shows at Kouri + Corrao, the Dallas Art Fair, and Untitled Art, Miami Beach.</p>
Returning	25	Jan	Phillips	Livingkindness Foundation	writer/musician/multi-media artist	<p>Jan Phillips is a writer/photographer/activist. She is the author of 11 award-winning books and her work has appeared in the New York Times, Parade, Christian Science Monitor, People, Ms. Magazine. She is founder and Executive Director of the Livingkindness Foundation and co-founder of Syracuse Cultural Workers, publisher/distributor of artwork for social justice. Jan has a podcast, The Sound of Light, a youtube channel, and 3 CDs of original music. She teaches around the world connecting the dots between creativity, spiritual intelligence and social action. www.janphillips.com; https://www.syracuseculturalworkers.com/; https://livingkindness.org/</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Jessica	LaFave	San Diego State University Research Foundation	Development Specialist	For nearly 20 years, I have worked in a variety of non-profit organizations in San Diego County primarily focused on grant writing, development, and event coordination. I most recently worked at Living Coast Discovery Center directing their grant program and overseeing the application and stewardship of up to 40 proposals annually. The position also allowed me to develop my skills as the coordinator of our annual fundraising event and I participated in board meetings contributing to the minutes and compliance. I am a musician and president of the board of directors for Kearny Mesa Concert Band leading our efforts in creating a fundraising program and engaging with the board and our community. I currently work at San Diego State University Research Foundation working with faculty to develop the non-programmatic elements of their research proposals such as budgeting and compliance.
Returning	25	Jessica	Roberts	City Of Encinitas	Arts Supervisor	I have been a community musician in the UK, worked at non-profit arts center, tour managed international artists around the world, ran an events company, ran festivals, now I'm an arts supervisor for a city.
Returning	25	Jose	Trejo Maya	Independent Artist	Interpreter	He is a remnant of the Nahuatlacah oral tradition a tonalpouhque mexica, a commoner from the lowlands from a time and place that no longer exists. He was born in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico and has been published in various journals/sites in the UK, US, Spain, India, Australia, Argentina, Germany and Venezuela. Pushcart Prize nominee in 2015, New Rivers Press Many Voices Project Finalist 2018, 2020 Jack Straw Writers Fellow. Mozaik: Ecosystems X 2022 Future Art Awards Group Exhibition Special Mention. Exhibitions in US, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Australia, Korea, Portugal, Ukraine. Public art outdoor sculptures in WA and OR.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Kelly	Purvis	City of Coronado	Sr. Management Analyst - Arts and Culture	Kelly Purvis is an experienced arts administrator with a demonstrated history of working in both government and the private sector. She serves as the first Arts Administrator for Coronado since 2013 and supports the Cultural Arts Commission. She manages Coronado's extensive public art collection and collaborated on the launch of the free Coronado Public Art Walking Tour app highlighting the collection. Skilled in nonprofit organizations, development, community grants, event management, social media, volunteer engagement, public art administration, and team building “ skills that contribute to the arts thriving in Coronado. In 2023 she received the Coronado Rotary's Bob Watson Service Above Self Award and was named a Coronado Historical Association Island Icon.
Returning	25	Laura	Potter	Les Dances	Executive Director	Laura Potter has extensive experience as an arts administrator, performer and educator. She is currently the Executive Director of an early music ensemble and previously served as Development Director at CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, and has held development and operations roles with the Indiana Music Education Association and the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. Additionally, she has served on the music faculties of Indiana State University and Dickinson State University. Laura is committed to making art music accessible and relatable through creative programming representing diverse voices, building community partnerships to connect with new audiences, and providing intergenerational programming that enhances lifelong involvement with the arts.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Leslie	Pierce	Artist Leslie Pierce/ And Something Different Studio Gallery	Professional Full Time Visual Artist	Born in New York, Leslie spent part of her childhood behind the scenes at the Museum of Natural History where her father worked as a scientist. Mesmerized by the T-Rex skeleton, dinosaur exhibits, and life-sized dioramas, these early experiences influenced her adventurous spirit and formed her love for art and artifacts. Pierce relocated to Austin, Texas to attend The University of Texas at Austin. She holds two art degrees; a B.F. A. from U.T. Austin and an associate degree in Video Game Art from A.C.C. While living in Austin she organized, designed, and curated group art exhibits, taught Painting and Drawing for the Austin Museum of Art's Art School at Laguna Gloria, and founded and hosted a popular all-male model Life Drawing and Painting group for the Austin Visual Arts Association. Ms. Pierce relocated from Austin to San Diego, California, and opened a studio gallery in Arts District Liberty Station. She continues to work on the Code Defied series, adding new paintings, and adding multi-media components to the series including Video Art and 3D.
Returning	25	Lisa	Huppert	Studio L. Visual Communications	Creative Director/Design Educator	Lisa is an art director, creative entrepreneur, and educator. She currently practices design with a focus on print communications and branding for clients throughout Southern California. She has been partnering with companies for 20+ years to help them communicate through design in Industries such as life sciences, water conservation, higher education, and social outreach organizations. Lisa is also passionate about sharing her experiences with students, helping them identify and expand their potential as young designers. She has lectured at the University of San Diego and San Diego State University where she currently teaching beginning and advanced design courses. Lisa's professional design accomplishments include recognition in 2015 FOLIO, Eddie & Ozzie Awards, 2013 Marcom Awards, 2012 International Association of. Business Communications, and 2008 San Diego Ad Club Creative Show. Her work has been featured in How Magazine and Powerful Page Design.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Louise	Potash	Art Works For Change	Arts and Activism Mentor	I am a retired educator and writer who loves the arts and cultural offerings in San Diego. Having worked for Arts for Learning (Miami), prior to moving to San Diego 6 years ago and serving on the Board of Directors for A4L/Miami, I then served as a board member for A4LSD upon moving to San Diego. I have worked with other nonprofits in the arts and beyond, including as a volunteer with San Diego 350. Currently, I am an Arts and Activism Mentor with Art Works for Change, guiding youth as creative environmental activists in our internship program. I focus on using the arts to catalyze actions to mitigate the climate crisis. I am deeply interested in how the arts connect ideas and people and provide inspiration to propel people to engage with ideas and with one another more deeply. My work as a teacher has always involved infusing the arts throughout curriculum, and I have managed to bring my experience as an educator to arts programming and outreach to nonprofit work. I continue to pursue elevating and maximizing ideas and communities through the arts.
Returning	25	Lukas	Volk	San Diego Event Coalition / AspenOUT	Executive Administrator / Marketing Director	My education consists of a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design. I spent time from 2007 until 2012 managing an entertainment company After 6 years as Marketing and Events Director, I have ventured off into new territories of design, marketing, and advertising. My knowledge of social media marketing, photography, and my degree in Graphic Design have all shaped me into a well-rounded media guru.
Returning	25	Maria	Rodriguez	None	Visual artist	I grew up in Tijuana, Mexico. I relocated to San Diego in 2013. In 2018, I decided to go back to college to pursue my BFA in art. I participated in some art exhibitions through these years. Finally, I graduated from CSU San Marcos and I decided to be a full time artist based in San Diego.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Mark	Salinas	City of Berkeley, Civic Arts	Public Art Program Lead	For over 20 years Mark Salinas has served in public, private, and nonprofit sectors providing public art policy, curatorial content, and program management for organizations including the Municipality of Carson City, Pace Wildenstein, and Forecast Public Art. Mark is a practicing public artist and founder of 7Train Murals, a nonprofit mural organization established in New York City. As the new Public Art Program Lead for the City of Berkeley, California, Mark is responsible for the development and implementation of public art programming, policies and procedures. Mark is the past Chair of the City of Reno Arts & Culture Commission as well as board member of the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts and the Nevada Arts Council. He is a former contributor to PBS Reno Art Views, initiating in-depth essays amplifying BIPOC artists within Nevada and Northern California and a 2022 Nevada Governor's Point of Light awardee.
Returning	25	Miki	Vale	SoulKiss Theater	Hip Hop Artist/ Playwright/ Founder and Artistic Director SoulKiss Theater	Mikiea Perkins, professionally known as Miki Vale, is an international Hip Hop performing artist and cultural ambassador, Teaching Artist, Old Globe-commissioned playwright and founder of SoulKiss Theater, an arts education organization for queer Black womxn. Her work serves to amplify community consciousness around relationships, wellness, and justice. Miki has performed and participated in panels at landmark venues and festivals in the US and internationally, from Hollywood and D.C. to Mumbai and Cairo. For her contributions to Hip Hop culture, Miki has earned a San Diego Hip Hop Honors Award, a Female Perspective Award, and the 2021 San Diego Music Award for Song of the Year for "Bad Wolves", a song condemning anti-Black racism. For her work within the LGBTQIA+ community, Miki was awarded the 2017 Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Honor.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Patricia	Williams	PTWO- Push The Word Out	CEO/Founder	Dr. Patricia Williams is the CEO/Founder of PTWO- Push The Word Out Foundation. She has been working in San Diego communities for over 10 years as a liason for non-profit community organizations. She is a volunteer for many community programs as well as a supporter of school reform programs. She has volunteered in the Arts communities to help continue arts, music, culture, dance, mime, and other creative art programs. She has her Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership Development, Masters in Education, and Bachelor's in Business Administration & Technology. She is an author, publisher, educator(30yrs), and grant writer.
Returning	25	Rebecca	Webb	Rebeccawebbs tudio	Artist	Rebecca Webb (b. Radford, VA, 1967), received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University in 1990. Also an independent curator, Webb recently worked with Oceanside Museum of Art on a major hotel project in Oceanside, CA. In 2018, she produced an immersive "24 hour" installation Ama: Into the Deep for Wonderspaces at the Lafayette Hotel in San Diego, California, and curated the exhibition San Diego: The Architecture of Four Ecologies at the La Jolla Historical Society in La Jolla, California. In 2014, Webb launched and curated/produced the Filmatic Festival at UCSD to present immersive experiences at the intersection of science, cinema, and technology, which ran annually until 2016.
Returning	25	Rio	Villa	Out of the Boondocks	Arts Producer and Theatre Artist	I am a second-generation Filipina-American artist and arts producer from San Diego. I am the producer and co-host for the "Out of the Boondocks" docuseries that just aired/streamed its second season on KPBS/PBS. The series is an educational project that relies on non-profit funds, platforms, and mentorship from KPBS. Before that, I worked at The Old Globe Theatre as an Arts Engagement Project Coordinator for programs like Globe for All, a free theatre tour in non-theatrical spaces, and Reflecting Shakespeare, a theatre education program for incarcerated people. I hold a BA in Theatre (UCSD 2014), an MA in Arts and Cultural Management (UIC Barcelona 2018), and professional certifications in Trauma and Resilience (FSU online 2021) and, soon, Neurodiversity (FSU online 2024). My final group dissertation in grad school was the conceptualization and business plan for a non-profit contemporary cultural center in Barrio Logan.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Robert	Wagner	La Jolla Country Day School	Direction of Visual and Performing Arts	<p>Robert started working at La Jolla Country Day School in 2012 and has taught Middle and Upper School dance and drama and choreographed and directed all of the theatrical productions. Robert received his Bachelor of Arts in theater and dance from Muhlenberg College. He founded a nonprofit high school performing arts program for inner-city youth in Allentown, Pa. and served as the manager of education and outreach for Muhlenberg College's Summer Music Theatre.Â</p> <p>Professionally, Mr. Wagner performed with the Enchantment Theatre Company's national tour of The Velveteen Rabbit, sang and danced his heart out in countless summer stock productions on the east coast, and choreographed and assistant-directed the La Jolla Playhouse W.O.W. Festival productions of Heaven on Earth and Under Construction. He has served on the board of the international nonprofit Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc., and was the Director of Performing Arts at the Swain School for four years.</p>
Returning	25	Ronald	Lauderbach	Point Loma Optimist Club	Poet, retired teacher	Retired high school English and journalism teacher. San Diego resident for 60 years. Fifty-one year member of Point Loma Optimist Club. Active in local poetry organizations. Published in journals and newspapers.
Returning	25	Sam	Lopez	Stay Strange	Curator	I have been curating experimental music and art shows in San Diego for close to 20 years. Our goal is to keep the music and art scene in San Diego as vibrant and interesting as other big cities by bringing in artists who push the boundaries of their art. Keeping our programs diverse and including the community is also a huge passion of ours.
Returning	25	Sandee	McGee	Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center	Assistant Manager of Community Services / Art Curator	Sandee McGee was Umpqua Valley Artists (UVA) Curator and Exhibitions Program Director and has been creating and directing transformative and engaging public arts and culture programs for 10+ years. Prior to her work at UVA, Sandee McGee was the Assistant Professor of Art at Umpqua Community College. She received her MFA from the University of Oregon in 2010. McGee currently serves as Curator and Assistant Manager of Community Services at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center in California.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Shari	Roberts	justfauxyoupainting, llc	painter, art instructor	I began my career as a professional Contract Interior Designer and after 20 plus years began refinishing furniture. This led to painting furniture, which led to painting faux finishes on furniture and walls and objects. It then reignited my passion for fine art and I began painting on canvas, again. Throughout this period, I was teaching art to children after school as enrichment. I rented studio space for 9 years that was under the umbrella of a non profit theater. There were 16 visual artists in this space that was in the same building as the theater, so we were very linked.(The studios no longer exist.)
Returning	25	Stina	Peek	BlackFoodNerd	Foods Writer	I have worked as a wardrobe stylist on music videos and television. I have worked as a clothing designer and dressmaker. I have worked as a costume stitcher. I work as a textile artist, collaborating once a year for work to be shown in galleries in Los Angeles County. I graduated from California College of the Arts with a BA in Visual Studies, focusing on visual rhetoric, art theory, art history, and semiology. I currently work in computer sales and am completing coursework in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Accessibility work in preparation for a graduate certificate.
Returning	25	Thomas	Powers	Powershaus	Artist/Educator/MFA	I have worked in every facet of the Arts for 50 years. I have a HSD from North Carolina School of the Arts, a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, a MFA from Laguna College of Art and Design. I studied with Wayne Thiebaud at UCD, contributed to the "Original" VAPA Framework (SC), Co-founder of the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center. Co-creator of "American Civics" with Shepard Fairey, First Education Director for the Southern California Indians. Art History professor at Palomar College. Worked with Howard Gardner to develop Arts PROPEL and finally co-creator of Online/Distance Learning. I can back-up all my claims.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Victor	Payan	Founding Director of Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA)	Writer, Interdisciplinary Artist	<p>Victor Payan is an award-winning writer, humorist, and interdisciplinary artist whose work promotes social justice, community empowerment, and tolerance through engaging and playful public performances that educate, enlighten, empower, and entertain. Through his “practical social practice,” Mr. Payan combines arts advocacy with performance strategies to engage civic leaders in policy change. He founded LAFTA: The Latin American Free Thought Agreement, Mexistentialism and the Keep on Crossin' Project, a multifaceted manifesto on immigration and borders of mind, body and spirit.</p> <p>He is also Founding Director of Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA), which operates the TVGB Digital Maker Space, MASARTE Gallery and produced the OC Film Fiesta multicultural film festival. Mr. Payan is recipient of the 2019 Creative Capital Award for his Dreamocracy in America project and the 2023 California Arts Council California Creative Corps Fellowship and Individual Artist Fellowship. He is also a recipient of the 2023 Tempe Vibrant City arts grant and the 2010 Idea Fund Grant, a Texas initiative funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and winner of the 2005 NALIP Latino Media Market. He was selected as the August 2009 City of San Antonio Artist of the Month. As a multidisciplinary artist, Victor’s work has been featured in exhibitions, screenings and performances at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Weatherspoon Museum in North Carolina, the Bihl House in San Antonio, Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco, the Centro Cultural de la Raza in San Diego, the Sweeney Art Gallery in Riverside, as well as Mexico, Bolivia, Chile, Montreal and Berlin.</p>
Returning	25	Whitney	Peskin	Whitney Shay	Performer/Songwriter/Recording Artist/Bandleader	<p>In her hometown of San Diego Whitney Shay has been honored to win 5 San Diego Music Awards. Shay has toured extensively throughout Europe and South America, and was nominated for a national Blues Music Award in 2019. Shay has an extensive background in theatre; graduating with a B.A. from San Diego State University in Theatre-Performance in 2008. Shay is currently in her final year in the award winning program at San Diego City College finishing Associate Degrees in both Graphic Design and Interaction Design.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	25	Yin	Yu	San Diego State University	Assistant Professor in Interior Architecture at the School of Art and Design	I am an artist, designer, engineer, and tenure track assistant professor at the San Diego State University School of Art and Design. My research investigates the potential of interactive multimedia environments and the intersection of architecture, human-health, and emerging technologies. My practice covers a broad spectrum, including product design, furniture design, architectural design, interactive design, wearable design, and art installation. I have a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering, a Master of Science in Information Technology, a Master of Science in Interior Architecture, and a Doctorate in Media Arts and Technology.
Returning	24	Alyssa	Junious	Continuum Arts & Pilates / Soultry Sisters / William Male Foundation	Pilates Practitioner, Choreographer, Dance & Theater Performing Artist, Teaching Artist	My name is Alyssa "Ajay" Junious, and I am a San Diego-based artist, educator, and creative entrepreneur. I have worked professionally as a performance artist for the past 10+ years. My local performance credits include La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet Theater, San Diego Musical Theater, New Village Arts, Oceanside Theater Company, Teatro San Diego, San Diego Dance Theater, PGK Dance Project, and Continuum. As a community-centered artist, I have collaborated and partnered with various arts organizations to facilitate arts engagement events and community workshops, and public performances. Credits include Oceanside Public Library, Mingei Museum, LUX Art Institute, New Village Arts, Hill Street Country Club, Mira Costa College, SDSU, SouthWestern College, Art Produce, Oceanside Museum of Art, and Disco Riot. I value connecting artists with resources and building collaborative social capital. I practice that value by serving on Rising Arts Leader's steering committee and William Male Foundation's grant selection committee. The common thread in all that I do is connecting people through community-based arts and wellness experiences.
Returning	24	Amy	Miller	California Academy of Sciences	Interim Dean of Education; Director of Public Programs and Academy Volunteers	Amy Miller has led public programs at the California Academy of Sciences for more than a decade. Previously she worked at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. for approximately ten years. Amy currently oversees a team of 25 staff and 300 volunteer educators. This team is responsible for facilitated programming at the Academy as well as managing three special venues. In the dean role Amy supports the larger education division including teacher and student education and youth engagement programs.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Andrea	Mota	The Blue Azul Collection	Gallery Owner	I am the owner of The Blue Azul Collection art gallery and originally opened in La Jolla, moved to Mission Hills and settled in Little Italy. I have always worked well with people from all walks of life and one day I opened an art gallery because I like traveling and exploring all things creative. I often look for hidden gems in all the places I visit. I also work well collaboratively with artists and enjoy putting on art exhibits/installations and having conversations with the public, clients, artists and anyone who shows a genuine interest in art. I enjoy attending art exhibitions in both galleries, museums, local art events and others because I believe when supporting the arts is caring for the communities we live in. I am also an art patron, enjoy sharing my passion for the arts and supporting artists.
Returning	24	Anne-Marie	McKaskle-Davis	City of Austin Cultural Arts Division	Cultural Funding Specialist Senior	Anne-Marie McKaskle-Davis is a Cultural Funding Specialist Senior with the City of Austin’s Cultural Arts Division. She helps to manage over 400 cultural contracts annually. She provides in-depth grant writing training to new and current applicants and assists in the development, implementation, and management the of 3 Cultural Arts Funding Programs. She has participated in Undoing Racism training, and Grantmakers in the Arts Equity workshops, and will complete the Cultural Equity Learning Community summer 2022 Cohort in December 2022. Anne-Marie served as a reader for the NEA's Challenge America Grant in summer 2022. Previously, she was the Membership Services Director at Austin Creative Alliance where she provided grant writing training, and arts non-profit consulting services for over 7 years. In 2012 she co-founded Austin Emerging Arts Leaders, an organization that provides professional development to Austin’s early career Arts Administrators and artists. She served as the Board Chair from 2012 to 2016.
Returning	24	Belen	Islas	Belen Islas Studio	Visual Artist	I am a visual artist and designer with more than ten years of experience. My work ranges from large-scale murals to fine art. My artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Recently, I created public works for the City of Los Angeles and Starbucks. Most of my work is community-oriented; for example, for an upcoming mural for a San Diego elementary I am working with the 4th and 5th-grade students. I am originally from Mexico. I live and work in San Diego with my husband and two young children.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Brigid	Parsons	Oceanside Arts Commission	Chair, Arts Commission	Brigid Parsons (she/her/hers, Oceanside) worked as a Civil Engineer and in IT before focusing on photography and arts administration starting in 2008. Since then, Brigid has had her photography appear in local shows including at the Oceanside Museum of Art (OMA) and supported a number of different projects in the Oceanside arts community including spearheading grassroots organizations such as Oceanside Art Walk, the North County Arts Network (NCAN) and the San Diego Countywide Arts & Culture Confab. She was the administrator for a James Irvine Foundation Exploring Engagement grant with OMA, a multi year program that involved place making art exhibitions and interactive experiences in non-art spaces which often involved historically underrepresented communities. She is currently the chair of the Arts Commission for the City of Oceanside, a founding board member and secretary (2015-2022) of NCAN and has certifications in Green Design (LEED AP) and Feng Shui as well as degrees in Digital Photography (AA, Mira Costa College), Civil Engineering (BS, Carnegie Mellon University) and Technology Management (MBA, University of Phoenix). Through the Arts Commission, she has championed the arts across the entire city, and works on efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in all aspects of the Commission's work.
Returning	24	Brittany	Alston	Sunflower's Muse	Administrative/Cas e Management	I am a self-taught photographer/visual artist currently living in Charleston, SC. Whether it's photography, cinema, exploring museums or art galleries, watching documentaries, sitting in the audience of various shows such as theater, ballet, etc., I am intrigued!

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Carissa	Gutierrez	Latino Center of Arts and Culture	Executive Director	Carissa is the Director of the Latino Center of Art and Culture in Sacramento, CA. She has a proven track record in creative community engagement, operations optimization and coalition building. She has worked in various spaces including mental health, violence prevention, local and federal government, hospitality, non-profit and academia. She is dedicated to her community and manages cultural projects to elevate the voices of those who are most often overlooked and disenfranchised- to make visible what is often made to feel invisible. Through her work she remains committed to social justice and equitable reform and approaches all opportunities with an intersectional lens. A proud Chicana, she graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, where she focused on globalization and development in Latin America and lives by the motto "think globally, act locally."
Returning	24	Chitra	Gopalakrishnan	San Diego State University	Lecturer Faculty	Chitra Gopalakrishnan is a graphic designer with a great affinity for new media and traditional art forms. She has an MFA in Graphic Design from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and the ESAG Penninghen, France. She is the co-founder of a 15 year-old handloom revival project called Kara Weaves in India which exists at the intersection of design, craft and ethical trade. She is currently a graphic design lecturer at the San Diego State University concurrently with an active studio and design practice.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Christine	West	DesignsW, LLC	Cultural Programs Manager	<p>For over twenty years Christine West has produced creative cultural programs, most free and accessible to the public. An art administrator, curator, and community connector, she cultivates projects that facilitate opportunities for artists, many that they may not otherwise be able to consider. In her current post as a cultural programs consultant for Houston First Corporation, she not only manages over forty works of art in the City of Houston Civic Art Collection, but also curates rotating exhibitions and develops interactive public art activations throughout the Avenida (convention center) and Theater Districts in Houston, Texas. West previously served as Executive Director of Lawndale Art Center, where she began a long standing artist residency and established a rotating mural program. Prior, she was the Executive Director of the Galveston Arts Center where she secured a National Treasures grant for the restoration of their historic building. West has served on several boards including the Houston Museum District Association, Houston Arts Foundation, Glasstire, Midtown Arts and Theater Center, and the Texas Association of Museums. A longtime advocate for local creatives, she has curated and juried numerous art exhibitions, and participated on grant review panels for local, state, and national granting organizations. Having recently moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, West and her husband Ramon formed DesignsW, LLC., specializing in providing a variety of digital and creative services.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	DR. BRENDA	EDGERTON-WEBS	Penned Eloquence	Consultant - Executive Grant Writer/Strategic Planner	<p>An executive administrator in higher education, with leadership experience in the effective management of programmatic/academic units and personnel, budget and equipment resources, and funding/development plans I bring executive-level expertise in areas of funding development and grant writing/management, student service and program instruction, personnel professional development, and accreditation compliance management. As a Certified Anti-bias Facilitator for the San Diego Anti-Defamation League (ADL-SD), I conduct a series of IDEA trainings for secondary and college-level leadership throughout the state of California and several other states across the country. Additionally, I perform duties as an Admissions Enrollment Advisor for National Education Partners (NEP)/National University “ Military and have conducted anti-bias training for teams within the School of Education as a pilot project for future administration upon completion of the pending merger between NEP/NCU and National University (NU) in late 2022. I also provide services to the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD) as a Media Communications Adjunct Professor; Data Literacy Coach for Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (RPIE); Academic Senate Representative to the Student Success & Equity Committee and Chancellor’s Task Force on IDEA efforts. Additionally, in each of these roles, I promote an inclusive culture and build trust with coworkers by sharing my expertise in IDEA instructional and student-success program delivery, professional development of administration/faculty/staff student-success data use, and effective online course (California Community College (CCC) Campus Emergency Response Training (CERT) and Distance Education (DE) certified) development. Most recently, I received an appointment to the Association of California Community Colleges Academic Senate Committee on IDEA Data & Research.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Erica	Mohan	Broward Cultural Division	Contract Grants Administrator	Erica Mohan is a visual artist whose work explores her understanding of martial arts principles and currently focuses on investing her cultural heritage and ancestry. Born in Toronto, Canada, she migrated to the United States with her family in 2000. Her work has been exhibited at the Hollywood Art & Culture Center in Hollywood, Florida. She was the first recipient of the Girls' Club fellowship in Fort Lauderdale. She worked as Shop Superintendent for Miami-based artist, Asif Farooq, building a life-sized Soviet jetfighter made entirely out of paper. Currently, Mohan works as Contract Grants Administrator for the Broward County Cultural Division where she creates and facilitates grant programs for individual artists of all disciplines. She is also a member of the National Grantmakers in the Arts, Support for Individual Artists Committee. Mohan obtained a Bachelor of Fines arts in painting from Florida Atlantic University.
Returning	24	Jacqueline	Warfield	Artist	Artist & Activist	Jacqueline Soraya is an activist, Mother and visual artist based in Southern California, fluent in Spanish & Farsi, she is an Amercian Persian born in Oklahoma in 1978. Jacqueline received her B.A. Visual Arts in Studio, with honors, from UCSD in 2007 and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of a Chinese Traditional Medicine at Pacific College. Meditations of the Sea 2011 Jacqueline's first solo show in La Jolla Shores featured 20 color and black & white oil paintings. Her series of "Life as an artist in Mexico and Downtown San Diego artworks were represented in the show "10 skateboard decks" in 2017. Jacqueline's still life series inspired by Southern California culture through an artist's eyes and hand selected burger portraits painted large scale on panel. Her latest solo show In San Diego 2022 featured large portraits of spirit animals and Persian iconography.
Returning	24	JOEL	TROUT	iServe Leadership Group	CEO	I have extensive experience in the non-profit space as CEO of several non profit organizations locally. My artistic experience began as a musician, (trumpet, bass, and keys), then extended to choral director, composer, producer and promoter. I have produced or participated on 6 recording and had national distribution. I have enjoyed national radio airplay of my material. I held a radio program, "Bread for Living" on the Salem Network for 14 years.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Kara	Greenwell	Self-employed	Visual Artist	Kara Greenwell is a San Diego based visual artist who creates works of self-reflection and societal investigation. A former marketing executive with an MBA from Harvard Business School, Kara brings a unique combination of creative and analytical thinking to the arts. Her gestural, mixed media paintings juxtapose vivid personal narrative with provocative feminist themes. Ms. Greenwell's award-winning work has been exhibited at museums and galleries nationwide including, Oceanside Museum of Art (CA), Atlantic Gallery (NY), Tarleton State University (TX) and The San Diego Museum of Art (CA). In 2022, Kara attended ChaNorth Artist Residency in Hudson Valley, NY and was a featured panelist in "Family Matters: Art Conversations with Teresia Bush," educator and curator at Hirshhorn Museum, the Smithsonian Institution and Rutgers University.
Returning	24	Lola	Claire	n/a	Actor, writer, director	Lola Claire is an American/Canadian actor best known for the roles of Becca in The Power and Bex in A Playful Love. Based in Vancouver, Lola was born and raised in San Diego, California. Lola began acting while in high school where she was awarded the Cliff Robinson Acting Scholarship. Partaking in the Acting Conservatory at the world renowned La Jolla Playhouse, Lola was one of two young actors chosen to workshop an international film. Lola's training was furthered with participation in the Musical Theatre Intensive at the Arts Club Theatre Company.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Peggy	Ellithorpe	City of Austin Cultural Arts Division	Cultural Funding Specialist	Peggy has more than 20 years of experience in film, music and digital content festivals, most notably: South by Southwest Conferences and Festivals (SXSW), American Film Institute Los Angeles Film Festival (AFI FEST), and North by Northwest Music Festival (NXNW). She has worked in a variety of roles including operations, logistics, communications, and artist management for companies including Austin City Limits Music Festival (ACLFest), Portland Waterfront Blues Festival, WESTDOC Conference, and Downtown Film Festival of Los Angeles (DFFLA.) She’s also served on staff managing fiscally sponsored projects, as well as volunteer and intern programs. She has been a key logistics and staffing strategist, running large-scale events, conferences, and award shows for several arts nonprofits such as the International Documentary Association, Austin Music Foundation, The Film Collaborative, Austin Creative Alliance, and Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts. Peggy joined the City of Austin’s Cultural Arts Division in June 2017 as a Cultural Funding Specialist.
Returning	24	Ramon	Montano Marquez	Tepwe Human Rights & Restorative Justice Consultants	Consultant	Ramon Montaño Marquez (Kickapoo, Kumiai/Paipai Tribal Nation’s/Mexican/Xicano) is a San Diego based Community Advocate from the beautiful and thriving neighborhood of City Heights, growing up in City Heights has deepened his connection to his communities and pushed him to be the advocate he is today. He has been a strong advocate for the implementation of Restorative Justice and Restorative Practices in both the Educational and Juvenile Justice System, and also has a strong background in government accountability specifically around police practices and community oversight. https://www.linkedin.com/in/ramon-monta%C3%B1o-marquez/

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Sarah	Tanguy	Independent	Curator & Arts Writer	<p>Sarah Tanguy is an independent curator and arts writer based in Washington, DC. The daughter of a US diplomat, she holds a BA in Fine Arts from Georgetown University, and a MA in Art History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. After interning at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Tanguy worked at the National Gallery, the International Exhibitions Foundation, The Tremaine Collection, the International Sculpture Center, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, The Hechinger Collection, and the Office of Art in Embassies, U.S. Department of State, where she curated temporary exhibitions and permanent collections for US diplomatic facilities overseas.</p> <p>A strong believer in hands-on collaboration and in the power of art to connect with our lived experience, she enjoys exploring the intersection of art with such topics as food, tools, books, and science. Recent projects include SUSTAIN, a temporary, outdoor and community-rooted audio-visual installation between the residents of Washington, DC, and of Katakali, Bangladesh; Past & Present, a juried show of outdoor sculpture on this historic property of Oxon Hill Manor; Reveal: The Art of Reimagining Scientific Discovery and Twist-Layer-Pour, both at the American University Art Museum; and TRACES at The Kreeger Museum. In addition to exhibition-related essays, she contributes to Sculpture and Metalsmith, among other publications.</p>
Returning	24	Scott	Burton	LA Review of Books	Literary Interview	<p>Scott Burton grew up in San Diego, and studied political science in New York and London. He has worked for public policy, literary, and arts organizations in New York, London, San Diego, and Idaho. Scott is a regular contributor to the LA Review of Books.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	24	Susan	Neil	Field Museum of Natural History	Exhibitions Planning Director	Susan Neil directs exhibitions planning for the Field Natural History Museum in Chicago. She programs its temporary exhibition galleries, works with exhibition leadership to plan permanent exhibition projects, develops collaborative projects with institutions, and supervises the museum's outbound travelling exhibition program. Susan holds an M.A in Cultural Anthropolgy from the Unviersity of Wisconsin Madison. Prior to joining the Field Museum in 2014 she was a museum curator. She has curated more than a dozen exhibitions featuring textiles, historic dress and ethnographic clothing, published related articles and made research presentations at national and international symposia including the Costume Colloquium in Florence, Italy.
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Adam	Greene	Independent Artist	Composer/Scholar	<p>Adam Greene (b. 1970) is a composer and writer whose creative work references interests in literature, linguistics, and cognitive science in music that explores multiplicity, fragility, and instability, often through intensive examination of instrumental practice. He has received grants and awards from The Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard, ASCAP, NACUSA, The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), The American Music Center, and The American Composers Forum. His music has been played by the San Diego Symphony, SONOR, NOISE Ensemble, the Formalist Quartet, Speculum Musicae, and Ensemble Resonanz, and counts his work with several soloists as particularly critical in developing his approach to instrumental writing. He has participated in several festivals and residency programs that have featured his works, such as UCROSS, ACO EarShot, the soundON Festival of Modern Music, the International Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (Darmstadt), the Composers Conference at Wellesley, the Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano Performance (at the New England Conservatory of Music), and the Long Beach Summer Arts program. His compositions appear on recordings from Aucourant Records and Chen Li Music.</p> <p>Originally trained in music as a guitarist, Greene pursued early studies in Anthropology and creative writing before committing himself to composition. He holds degrees in Music and Anthropology from Connecticut College, and earned a Master’s in Composition at the New England Conservatory of Music. He then studied in Italy before moving to California, where, at UC San Diego, he received the Ph.D.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Cat Chiu	Phillips	Artist	Artist/ Public School Teacher	Cat Chiu Phillips creates installation work in public spaces often using traditional handicraft methods. By using various found materials including plastic and electronic waste, discarded items became an interest because of their contextual value. Inevitably this has inspired her to create installation and public art projects using various recycled products. Her public art commissions include numerous national and international projects, including being part of the permanent collection for the city of San Diego and the City of Redmond, Washington. Phillips has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and was recently awarded the California Arts Council's Established Artist Fellowship. She has been an educator in the public schools for over 20 years, a Filipino-Chinese American, public artist, mother, and wife of a USMC veteran.
Returning	23	Chloë	Flores	homeLA	Executive + Artistic Director	Chloë Flores is a Latinx Yaqui Native curator, writer, arts producer, and community organizer whose work centers on body-based and performative practices and the dynamic relationship of public/private space in the production of culture. She is the Executive and Artistic Director of homeLA, a LA-based nomadic dance-centered performance organization and a Co-Founder of the Los Angeles Dance Worker Coalition. In 2011, she founded and directed GuestHaus Residency (GHR), a housing residency that supports Los Angeles nonprofits and artist-run spaces through free housing for visiting artists, writers and curators. Currently on hiatus due to the pandemic, the GHR has partnered with 40 LA-based organizations and institutions to provide over 70 residencies as well as host fundraisers, art events, film screenings, performances, and networking social functions.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Christopher	Schram	Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra	Director of Development	Christopher Schram is the Director of Development for the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra in Kalamazoo, Michigan and has served as Executive Director/Artistic Director and/or Director of Advancement/Development at a number of institutions in Michigan, Illinois, and Florida including art museums, theaters, and multi-disciplinary organizations, such as the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (Kalamazoo, MI), Victory Gardens Theater and Court Theater (both in Chicago, IL), and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts/youngARTS (Miami, FL). He has served on grant review panels throughout the nation, including the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (five years), Florida Council on Arts and Culture (six years), Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (Cuyahoga County/Cleveland, Ohio area), the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the City of Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, and the Southern Arts Federation. He is also a producer, director, choreographer, actor, dancer, singer, classical pianist, and composer/lyricist. A cum laude graduate of Washington & Lee University, Mr. Schram holds a BS in business administration and a BA in French.
Returning	23	Denise	Pate	City of Oakland, Cultural Affairs Division	Cultural Funding Coordinator	As the Cultural Funding Coordinator, Denise Pate manages the City of Oakland's competitive, cultural arts grants process awards over \$1 million dollars to Oakland individual artists and nonprofit organizations. She has spent over 25 years working in the non-profit management community as an executive director, program manager, board member, development professional, dancer, and choreographer. She has raised funds, managed programs, and provided technical assistance for over 20 non-profit organizations in San Francisco, Alameda, Solano, Marin and Sonoma counties. She is the former Associate Director of Operations for California College of the Arts' Center for Art and Public Life (2005-2007). Her past affiliations include Young Audiences of the Bay Area, Wolftrap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts, Youth in Arts, Community Action Marin, and World Arts West. She is the former Executive Director of CitiCentre Dance Theatre, a multi-cultural arts center that was once anchored Oakland's Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts. She received her B.A. in Movement Education, and has an M.B.A.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Denise	Rogers	San Diego Mesa College	Art History Professor	I am a San Diego native, mother of two and Professor of Art History at San Diego Mesa College. I earned a B.A. in Visual Arts/Criticism from U.C.S.D., an M.A. in Art History from SDSU and a Ph.D. in Visual Studies with an emphasis in Feminist Studies from U.C. Irvine. As a Professor at San Diego Mesa College I teach courses from the Pre-Historic to Contemporary period, and specialize in Modern Art and Contemporary art with emphasis in the art of Women, African Americans and the Diaspora. I served as Educational Advisor and Board member of the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art, Coordinator for the Mesa College Constance C. Carroll Humanities Institute, and currently the Chair of the Mesa College Foundation World Cultures Arts Council. I curate the Mesa College World Cultures Art collection and curate yearly exhibitions in the Campus World Cultures Glass Gallery. I was awarded a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship grant to produce a textbook on African Art. I have curated and co-curated exhibitions at the San Diego Public Library, Mesa College Art Gallery, collaborative exhibitions for the SDMAAFA and SDMA. I also served on the Public Art Committee for the City of San Diego. I have presented on African American art and the Diaspora at the California Community College Association yearly conference, San Diego Museum of Art, Grossmont College, and local libraries.
Returning	23	Diana Y.	Chou	University of San Diego (January 2021)	Consulting Curator/Dr.	I have both M.A. and Ph.D. in art history (both Western and East Asian Art), and have established myself as a scholar and museum professional in the fields by my publications, exhibitions, and years of university teaching and curatorial records as a museum curator. Although I am formally trained in the arts of pre-20th century, I have rigorously learned and keen to contemporary trends, especially Global art field, through prestigious awards, including from the National Endowment for Humanities, National Museum of Korea, and Qatar Foundation. In addition, I have collaborated with several local institutions such as San Diego Opera and San Diego Symphony during my museum career. My dedication and passion for fine arts qualify me for a life-time advocate for arts and culture, and perhaps will expand SD's art and cultural scenes.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Doris	Bittar	Public Address, FIG, East County Magazine Board, Union-Tribune Community Advisory Board	Artist, Writer, Curator, Community Organizer	Doris Bittar is an artist, writer, curator and community figure. Bittar curated about 8 exhibits in San Diego County from 2012-2016. Her writing covers a wide array of art, art and politics, Arabic calligraphy, and community concerns. Bittar's family immigrated to New York from Lebanon when she was a child. Her migration to the US is mirrored and strengthened by her understanding of the interconnectedness of culture, history, art making and community building.
Returning	23	Elizabeth	Miller	UC San Diego	Lecturer, Muir College Writing Program	I have a Ph.D. in Art History, Theory, and Criticism from UC San Diego, where I currently work as a lecturer and teach a wide range of museum studies and art history topics. I have professional experience in various museum and arts non-profit settings, including at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Museo Reina Sofia, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and Creative Time, a public arts nonprofit in New York City. I've also produced and co-produced a number of arts programs and exhibitions at UCSD between 2011 and 2014.
Returning	23	Eun	Park	Southwestern College	Faculty	Eun Jung Park is a professor of art history at Southwestern College, where she serves on several committees including the Academic Senate and Honors Committee in addition to teaching art history survey courses in Asian Art as well as Modern and Contemporary art.
Returning	23	Glenn	Ayars	City of Dallas, Office of Arts and Culture	Cultural Programs Manager	Glenn Ayars is the Cultural Programs Manger for the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture. Overseeing the Cultural Programs Division, Glenn manages various project- and operational-based funding programs for the department allocating \$6 million a year to Dallas-based artists, artist collectives, arts and culture organizations, and other non-profit organizations. Glenn's tenure in public service in the field of arts grantmaking adds to his other experience working with non-profit arts organizations, higher education, and arts instruction.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Inas	Al-soqi	Coalition on Homelessness SF and ArtSpan SF	Artist	I am a collage artist and curator based in San Francisco and New York City. Over the past fifteen years, I assisted with numerous VIP programming, coordination, and sponsorship initiatives at art fairs around New York. The seasonal art fairs consisted of The Armory Show, The Fine Art Print Fair, The Outsider Art Fair, The Other Art Fair in Brooklyn, and Frieze New York. Additionally, I have extensive experience working at art galleries in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Lower East Side, Boston, and Martha's Vineyard as well as holding diverse positions in Venice (working at the Biennial), Amsterdam and Romania. These roles had allowed me to be creative but also equipped me with the knowledge required to conduct logistical tasks, proper archival procedures, and strategies for sales and curatorial processes.
Returning	23	Jasmine	Regala	City of Los Angeles, Dept. of Cultural Affairs	Arts Manager	Jasmine Regala is a Los Angeles-based arts management professional and currently serves as the Art Manager in the Public Art Division for the City of Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs. Jasmine works with all 15 LA Council Districts to create public art in local communities and oversees private developer public art projects within the Arts Development Fee program, liaising between commissioned artists, Council Offices, and other City agencies. Prior to working in the government's Public Art Division, Jasmine established her career in the non-profit performing arts sector working at the historic Pantages Theatre, Center Theatre Group, LA Conservancy, and the LA Children's Chorus (LACC). Jasmine received her B.A. at the University of California, Riverside, in Art History and Communications. She is an Arts for LA Cultural Policy Fellow (2016), National Endowment for the Arts Panelist (2020), a CORO Southern California Lead LA alumnus (2020-2021), and a California for the Arts Panelist (2021).
Returning	23	Joël	Pointon	Consultant - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Principal of Sole Proprietorship Consulting Business	Master of Science in Public Health and have worked in the Environmental, Health and Safety Field my entire professional career. Originally from the East Coast, I have been a resident of San Diego for twenty-two years. I have been involved in many community organizations (Clairemont Town Council, etc.) and also volunteer actively for Senior Health Care.

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Returning	23	Julia	Franklin	Bravo Greater Des Moines	Community Investment Specialist	Julia Franklin, a 2018 Iowa Artist Fellow, is a creator, connector, and collaborator who uses found objects to tell the stories about what we leave behind. She designs interactive art installations and community engagement projects to spark curiosity, start conversations, and bring people together. Franklin resides in West Des Moines, Iowa, and works as a Community Investment Specialist for Bravo Greater Des Moines, a regional arts and culture funder. She recently served as the Anderson Gallery Exhibitions and Community Engagement Manager at Drake University, assisted arts nonprofits with grant writing, and facilitated professional development sessions for emerging artists. Franklin also served as Professor of Art at Graceland University for 18 years, where she received awards in both Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship and founded Art Academy, a summer art camp for children in rural Iowa. Julia maintains a studio at Mainframe Studios where she works on new projects and commissions. Franklin has exhibited artworks in over 85 shows across the nation and created 8 site-specific installations in Iowa and Vermont.
Returning	23	Julia	Murphy	Cuyahoga Arts & Culture	Grant Programs Manager	Julia Murphy is a grant program manger at Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder for arts and culture located in Cleveland, Ohio. In her current role she works to build relationship and provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to grant recipients and applicants. She oversees portfolio of grantee organizations and coordinates the General Operating Support program. Julia is a Cleveland native and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College of Wooster. Before joining CAC she worked at the Cleveland Institute of Art as Assistant Director of Continuing Education + Community Outreach, developing courses and programming for adults, young artists, and art teachers, and chairing the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her previous experiences with community relations and public programming include working with a variety of public institutions and nonprofits including Heights Libraries and North Union Farmers Market, and internships with the Cleveland Museum of Art and Ingenuity Cleveland. In her free time Julia is an avid reader, rock climber, and vegetable gardener, and is involved with her family's organic farm in Chautauqua County, New York.

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Returning	23	June	Kim	The Juilliard School	Grants Manager	June Kim (she/her) works as Grants Manager at The Juilliard School. Previously, she was Development Manager at the Santa Fe Opera, where she also worked as Executive Office Assistant. Her educational background in flute performance consists of bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Olaf College and Indiana University – Bloomington, where she also earned a master's degree in arts administration. In her work and throughout her career, June strives to make the arts accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all.
Returning	23	Kate	Kammeyer	Consultant	General Manager and Artistic Administrator	Kate started her career working for major summer music festivals including Interlochen, National Repertory Orchestra, and the Aspen Music Festival, followed by the position of Orchestra Personnel Coordinator at the Manhattan School of Music. During Kate's ten years with The Philadelphia Orchestra, she planned and executed over thirteen tours, oversaw six recordings, and helped to lead global initiatives including the Orchestra's residencies in China and two televised concerts with Pope Francis and the World Meeting of Families. In 2016, Kate became General Manager and Artistic Administrator at the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra overseeing operations, artistic planning, personnel and LACO's education and community activities. During her time in Los Angeles, she helped create and manage several programs including The L.A. Orchestra Fellowship, the Lift Every Voice Festival, and SESSION, a collection of composer-curated evenings in unexpected locations. Most recently, after serving as Assistant Dean of Artistic Planning at the Longy School of Music in the 2019/2020 school year, Kate was named Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. There she led artistic programming and operations during the pandemic and created a new streamed series, "Truth is of No Color", focused on historically marginalized voices in composition, and in partnership with arts and social justice organizations. Kate holds an A.D. from SUNY Purchase, a M.M. from the Hartt School, and a B.M. from the University of Iowa all in Oboe Performance. Kate was a member of the 2017 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Program of the League of American Orchestras and in September 2020, she completed a certificate in Change Management from Cornell University.

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Returning	23	Katlyn	Heusner	UC San Diego - Rady School of Management	Managing Director of Development	Kate is head of development for UC San Diego's Rady School of Management, a top-ranked business school in Southern California focused on innovation and impact. Previously, Kate held leadership positions at Lux Art Institute in Encinitas overseeing philanthropy and earned revenue strategies, and with Galerie Mor Charpentier in Paris, France launching the gallery's international sales portfolio in the UK and NALA markets. She has designed partnership strategies and curatorial projects stewarding grants for numerous art organizations including the City of Paris Office of Cultural Affairs, University of Oregon, MFA, Boston, MASS MoCA, Oregon Bach Festival, Coos Art Museum, the Oregon Center for Contemporary Art (formerly Disjecta), Canson Paper, and FIDM.
Returning	23	Laura	Aguiar Machado	City of Las Vegas, Office of Cultural Affairs	Visual Arts Specialist II	Laura Aguiar Machado is an experienced project manager and proud member of the Office of Cultural Affairs team with the City of Las Vegas, pairing her passion for arts administration with her love of Public Art. Machado's role in managing the city's Public Art Program includes overseeing and administering the Las Vegas Arts Commission, the Percent for Arts Fund, project management of both temporary and permanent works, and the maintenance and conservation of their permanent collections. Laura Aguiar Machado has been working within arts administration for over twenty years and with the City of Las Vegas since 2012. She received her bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University with a major in Fine Arts.

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Returning	23	Ligeia	Gorre	City of LA, Department of Cultural Affairs, Public Art Division	Arts Manager II	<p>Ligeia Gorre is an Arts Manager with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Public Art Division. Ligeia manages a multi-tiered arts program for DCA in partnership with Los Angeles World Airports featuring temporary exhibitions, performance, special initiatives, and new commissioned public art and conservation projects. She created the art program for the new Midfield Satellite Concourse scheduled to open early 2022 at LAX. The inaugural exhibition presented by a local curator from The Underground Museum will feature artists working in video, sound, and new media. Ligeia has maintained an ongoing, volunteer-based relationship with The Morningstar Foundation, a local non-profit with the mission to preserve and protect sacred Indigenous knowledge and sacred sites. Her passion for art, culture, and indigenous plant medicine teachings has led her to pursue research in sustainable systems, civic policy and social practice. Ligeia received a Master of Public Art Studies degree at University of Southern California, a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at University of California, Davis and is a Certified Permaculture Designer Trainee from the Permaculture Institute USA and the Permaculture Academy of Los Angeles.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	MaeLin	Levine	VISUAL ASYLUM / Urban Discovery Schools	Designer / Board President	MaeLin’s work has been nationally recognized and was awarded the prestigious AIGA Fellow Award in 2008. Originally from Leadville, Colorado, Levine holds a BFA in Graphic Communications Design from the University of Denver and participated in the AIGA professional program at Harvard Business School. MaeLin most recently lead and designed the SD/TJ World Design Capital 2024 bid efforts for Design Forward Alliance. MaeLin served on the board of the San Diego Chapter of AIGA – the professional association of design – for sixteen years and was president for four years. In that role she was part of the team that envisioned and launched the Y Conference, now in it’s 25th year, and developed the first ever international chapter of the organization. MaeLin is the Founder and President of the Board of Trustees of the Urban Discovery Schools (TK-12) – a highly successful K-12 charter school. This unique learning environment integrates the creative DNA of Visual Asylum into its curriculum and character development programs. Levine is also a design instructor at UCSD Extension, where she developed the new certificate program in Communications Design. Levine’s hallmark style incorporates bold use of color and whimsical touches, and she is inspired by Alexander Girard, Charles & Ray Eames, Edith Head, folk art, toys, dolls, fabric and paper. Collaborative by nature, MaeLin appreciates working with clients who challenge the status quo and value the big picture.
Returning	23	Marily	Lindberg	CEO Creative Targets, Inc. Rockers2read, SDYS , Keeshan	CEO of Creative Targets, a strategic marketing company	Educational Marketer for Fortune 500 companies: Apple, IBM, Microsoft, GM, American Express, Assoc. of Publishers, Time, Inc. McGraw Hill, etc. Reading, Special Ed teacher and founder of rockers2read. Lecturer at UCSD and Queens College. Producer of the SD STOP THE SPREAD campaign. Advisor to young start up CEOs. Philanthropic entrepreneur. Worked at OSU library. Great supporter of Libraries.

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Returning	23	Martha	Gonzalez	Self Employed	Engineering Consultant	After having worked as a Structural Engineer for more than 20 years, Martha is currently working on a Metalsmith diploma focusing on jewelry making. Trained as an Architect Engineer, her passion for the marriage between beauty and stability nurtured Martha's love for architecture, the arts and structural design. This cross disciplinary background is what inspired her to pursue jewelry making as a complement to the structural engineering profession. Martha's experience in the arts includes artistic director for an art and photography collaboration, the Port of San Diego Public Arts Committee (1998), Schindler House volunteer (Mak Center for art and architecture), among other arts organization participation. Martha was born and raised in Tijuana and moved to the US in 1990 to pursue a degree in Architectural Engineering at the California Polytechnic State University, SLO. Since then, she has worked in several high profile engineering firms designing institutional buildings as well as theaters and museums.
Returning	23	Meher	McArthur	JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles	Art & Cultural Director	I am trained as an Asian art curator, author and educator, specializing in Japanese art. I worked for 8 years as Curator of East Asian Art at Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena, CA, where I curated about 20 exhibitions of Asian art. I then worked independently teaching, curating exhibitions and publishing books and articles primarily on Asian art and culture. In the past 5 years, I worked as Creative Director for the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden in Pasadena and as Academic Curator at Scripps College. I joined JHLA as Art & Cultural Director overseeing exhibitions and cultural programming in September 2020.

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Returning	23	Michelle	Deziel Hernandez	Independent	Independent Art Consultant, Curator and Arts Advocate	Michelle Deziel-Hernandez is an Independent Art Consultant and Fine Art Curator with over 25 years of professional experience working with artists, art museums, galleries and non-profit organizations in Southern California. Deziel-Hernandez previously served as curator of 20th century art at the Norton Simon Museum of Art in Pasadena, CA for more than a decade, where she curated numerous exhibitions, co-organized three city-wide art festival, co-founded Art Night Pasadena, sat on Pasadena City College's Public Art Board and served on Pasadena's Cultural Nexus Plan Board. In 2012, she curated a major retrospective of noted Los Angeles artist Ynez Johnston at the Mingei Museum, San Diego in conjunction with the Getty Museum's initiative Pacific Standard Time. Deziel-Hernandez is currently collaborating with the Los Angeles-based artist collective California Locos on a publication chronicling the history of art in L.A., managing the archives of artist Ynez Johnston, overseeing a district-wide K-12 student art program for the Orange Unified School District, works as an Orange County Arts Now Leader for Create California, and holds numerous art and culture-related volunteer positions in her community.
Returning	23	Natasha	Ridley	Monarch Retirement Group & Artists Building Community	Registered Sales Assistant, Contemporary Dancer	Natasha Ridley is a native of San Diego and attended the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. She is a registered assistant with Commonwealth Financial Network® and has worked in the financial services industry for 14 years servicing a client base with roughly \$250 million in assets under management. She currently holds her FINRA Series 7 and 63 securities registrations. In addition to working in the financial service industry, Natasha is also a professional Contemporary Ballet Dancer and Choreographer with 20 years of experience, and a co-founder of the Artists Building Community Project which produces an annual visual and performing arts community engagement event entitled MOSAICS. The event draws roughly 100 attendees yearly for the last 4 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from San Diego State University and a Master's degree in Leadership Studies from the University of San Diego. Natasha is passionate about providing access to the arts in underrepresented communities and representing women of color in dance.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Oscar	Romo	Alter Terra	Executive Director	In my professional career as an Architect, Researcher, College Professor and Artist I consider myself a practitioner of Natural Systems Design, my work has taken me around the world consolidating partnerships and implementing projects to preserve our global and regional natural resources
Returning	23	Prince	Graham	Buy black san diego	Director	I have been involved in he arts community in San Diego for 20 years teaching dance at ever major studio as wells as sdsu and ucsd. I have been a member of sag and sdpal as well as other professional arts org. I have run programs within the sd school district as well as my own summer arts program
Returning	23	Rebecca	Kinslow	Self-employed	Arts & Culture Consultatn	Rebecca Kinslow has over 20 years of experience as an arts leader, specializing in event-planning, marketing, community development, grantmaking, program management and organizational development in the non-profit, higher education and government sectors. Rebecca has led the development and oversight of programs, partnerships, financial investments and cultural and racial equity strategies designed to support stronger arts & cultural organizations. She holds an Executive Certificate in Arts & Cultural Strategy and a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership from University of Pennsylvania. She has served on Americans for the Arts’ County Arts Network and Equitable Investments Advisory Committee, the Create Justice Network Peer Learning Action Group, the Program Advisory Committee for the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville and the Government Alliance for Racial Equity Arts Workgroup.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Rick	Dahlseid	PBO Advisory Group	Consulting CFO	As a consulting CFO at PBO Advisory Group, Rick Dahlseid is not only an asset to the firm and the clients he serves, but also to the nonprofit community. With over 20 years of experience, his personal mission is to leverage his talents and expertise to serve nonprofit organizations that help people flourish. A CPA with a master's in taxation, Rick is a financial expert by trade. His professional background includes serving in financial leadership roles at national companies in a variety of industries including agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. This diverse background allows him to apply solutions from a wide pool of experiences to solve many of the unique challenges nonprofits can encounter. Rick's passion lies in advising leadership teams and boards of directors for high-functioning nonprofits on how to achieve greater sustainability and impact. His servant leadership perspective and warm personality give him an advantage in perfecting corporate vision and ensuring organizational efficiencies. In his unique role at PBO Advisory, Rick is currently serving many nonprofit organizations in San Diego including: La Jolla Music Society, Regional Task Force on the Homeless, Nature and Culture International, Solutions For Change, Bayview Church, The Maritime Museum, San Diego Oasis, University of St. Katherine, and Community Resource Center.
Returning	23	robin	brailsford	Brailsford Public ART	artist	My work, The Grand Canyons of La Jolla is up for the Grand Orchid this year, and at one point (still?) I had/ve more public artworks in SD than any other artist. I am a founding member of Public Address and my work and philosophy can be found at www.robinbrailsford.com .
Returning	23	Steven	Pollack	SoftMirage Art Advisors	Director, Digital Curation	Steven Pollack has 20+ years in art acquisition, gallery technology and digital solutions for worldwide clients. I have worked with corporate clients for public art placement and curatorial projects. Providing day-to-day marketing services to artist and galleries using web based technologies.

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Returning	23	Susan	Roll	Upper Peninsula Arts & Culture Alliance	Grantwriter, Volunteer, Semi-retired person!	<p>Susan Roll graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering. She worked in the electronics industry for over 20 years, primarily with Intel Corporation. Over time her career transitioned from engineering to program management to Human Resources. She has lived and worked in Ireland, China and Malaysia. She has over 20 years of management and training experience. Sue moved back to the Midwest in 2000 to raise her children among family. In 2003 she founded Coaching for Results and offered coach services to business teams and owners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 2015 she returned to full time work - first as a business manager and then as Executive Director of the William Bonifas Arts Center Center (bonifasarts.org) in Escanaba. Sue stepped down from her E.D. position in late 2020. She supports the new Bonifas E.D. with history and advice (when asked) as well as grant research and writing. Sue began writing grants in 2013 and became a grant panelist for Michigan’s Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs in 2017 and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture in 2021. Sue is President of the Upper Peninsula Arts and Culture Alliance after participating in its formation for the last 4 years. The Alliance is dedicated to creating an environment where arts and culture can thrive in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Her focus work in 2022 will be on an Economic Impact Study and the creation of an artists directory for the rural Upper Peninsula.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	Tomoko	Kuta	San Diego Botanic Garden	Senior Director, Education & Visitor Services	<p>Tomoko Kuta has been working in San Diego’s non-profit arts and culture sector since the late 1990s. During this time, she has developed expertise in arts programming, education, exhibitions, commissioning contemporary artists and most of all, turning these opportunities into highly engaging and memorable experiences for diverse audiences. In April 2021 she joined San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) in the newly created role of Senior Director of Education and Visitor Services. At SDBG, she oversees public and student programming, visitor engagement, and revenue growth through admissions, the membership program, and fundraising via grants, individual donors, and sponsorships. Previously with The New Children’s Museum from 2011 to 2021, she contributed to that organization’s tremendous growth eventually leading the museum to earn the prestigious national medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for community impact. Tomoko has a B.S. from Cornell University and an M.A. from the University of Chicago where she studied the visual arts through the lens of society’s broader culture and history. Tomoko is currently a Vice President with the California Association of Museums and has recently contributed a chapter to the soon-to-be released American Alliance for Museums book, “Museum Education for Today’s Audiences.” At the Garden, Tomoko infuses the arts into her work as she leads talented teams dedicated to sharing plant wisdom and healthy stewardship of our planet.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	23	wayne	holtan	domusstudio architecture	architect	<p>Wayne has over 30 years experience in the planning, design and construction of complex public and private projects. With broad ranging architectural experience, he has specialized expertise in education classroom buildings, public libraries and fire stations, and multi-purpose performance spaces . His management skills lends itself to multi-discipline project teams. Wayne's success has been based on user and project team integration during the full design/construction process. He has extensive experience in facilitating the design process, technical knowledge for the document generation, problem solving during the construction phase administration, and communication skills for client interaction at all phases.</p> <p>Wayne volunteers his time to serve as Master Commissioner/Subject Matter Expert for the California Architects Board - Supplemental Exam Development. He also participates on the Tierrasanta Community Council, Local Planning Committee, as chair of the Community Development Committee. He has also volunteered as adhoc jurors at the New School of Architecture for student presentations and events.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Ashley	Shabankareh	Artist Corps New Orleans/Upbeat Academy Foundation/New Orleans Jazz Museum	Collaborative Action Strategist/Director of Learning & Development/Education Specialist	<p>Ashley Shabankareh (she/her) is a musician, music educator, arts administrator, and music education and creative economy advocate. She received her M.M. and B.M.E. from Loyola University, New Orleans. Ashley is a certified K-12 music educator and spent her early years in New Orleans teaching PK4-8th grade students. She transitioned from full-time music instruction to assist in the creation of the curriculum and program guidelines for the Tulane University Music Rising Program. In addition, Ashley previously served as the Director of Programs for Preservation Hall Foundation, working with culture bearers and serving over 35,000 per year in programming in schools, detention centers, and community centers. In 2016, she was named a Top Female Achiever by New Orleans Magazine, a New Orleans Hero by the Times-Picayune, and a Woman of the Year by New Orleans City Business. In 2017, she was named a Top Millennial in Music by the Spears Group and I Heart Media.</p> <p>Ashley currently serves as the Collaborative Action Strategist for Artist Corps New Orleans, Education Specialist for the New Orleans Jazz Museum, and Director of Learning and Development for Upbeat Academy. She serves as the Vice President for the Jazz Education Network, Board Chair for the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans (MaCCNO), and Board Member for Elan Academy. Ashley performs as both a trombonist and vocalist, and has played alongside Aretha Franklin, Allen Toussaint, Jimmy Buffett, Big Sam’s Funky Nation, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and in her own projects, Marina Orchestra and the Asylum Chorus.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Audrey	Gamez	C4 Atlanta	Education Director	Audrey Gámez brings 13 years of education experience to her role as Education Director for C4 Atlanta. She is a sought after speaker for local panels and events. Audrey has also presented nationally at the Association of Performing Arts Service Organization Conference and the Artists Thrive Conference on advocacy and professional development for artists. Audrey was a member of the 2018 Points of Light American Express Leadership Academy. At C4 Atlanta, prior to her role as Education Director, she was previously a facilitator for the Ignite class. Before coming to C4, Audrey served as Education Coordinator for MASS Collective. Audrey began working in arts administration as an intern with WonderRoot in 2014. An active volunteer, Audrey has worked with several community and arts organizations around Atlanta. In addition to her responsibilities with C4 Atlanta, Audrey continues to work as a professional singer and music educator, maintaining a private voice studio. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University.
Returning	22	Deonté	Griffin-Quick	DGQ Culture	Consultant	Deonté Griffin-Quick is an emerging, visionary arts leader with extensive experience in state-wide program management, non-profit theatre administration, digital communications, and theatre producing. He is committed to the advancement of professional American theatre while advocating for diversity and equity in the arts. Currently, Deonté serves as the Manager of Programs and Services at New Jersey Theatre Alliance. In an effort to connect, empower, and cultivate other arts and cultural leaders of color, in 2019 Deonté developed and spearheaded the New Jersey Arts and Culture Administrators of Color Network. He was recently honored by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies with the Inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Individual Award. He has served as a grant panelist for Alternate ROOTS, the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production, and county arts agencies.

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Returning	22	Eddie	Matthews	Point Loma Nazarene University	Instructional Designer and Adjunct Professor	My name is Eddie Matthews, I moved to San Diego in 2011 for college and fell in love with the city. During my undergraduate degree at Point Loma Nazarene University, I interned at the San Diego Union Tribune and learned about the artistic communities that comprised San Diego’s identity, eventually writing a Sunday Arts profile of the jazz program at Francis Parker School. In 2016, while pursuing an M.A. in Education, I researched the learning barriers facing high schoolers in City Heights and outlined solutions in my thesis. To better understand the artistic process, I enrolled in a Ph.D. in Creative Writing program at Swansea University, in Wales, and wrote my dissertation novel about the economic disparities between Tijuana and San Diego. I worked as an editor and marketing officer at the Welsh independent publisher, Parthian Books, where I edited Ironopolis, a novel that was nominated for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. While in Swansea, I also worked for the Cultural Institute, a branch of the university devoted to enriching Welsh culture and amplifying Welsh voices both internally and abroad. I would like to do the same for San Diego. I believe that we can build a stronger artistic community by discovering new voices and commissioning projects that strengthen collaborations between San Diego and Tijuana, working to unify the artistic centers of these two cities into one San Diego-Tijuana community. This would be my priority if I were chosen as a panelist.
Returning	22	Eileen	Truong	Hyde Park Art Center	Director of Finance & Operations	Raised in San Diego, Eileen recently moved back from Chicago to be closer to family. She is currently the Director of Finance & Operations at Hyde Park Art Center, which works to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago through education, exhibition and residency programs. Her work includes leading and supporting a variety of areas, including finance, human resources, administration, IT and DEIA. Eileen has served as a Steering Committee member of the Emerging Leaders Network with the National Guild for Community Arts Education, and associate board member for Links Hall. She earned a MA in Humanities with a focus on Art History & Cultural Policy from the University of Chicago and a BA in Art History with a minor in Accounting from UCLA.

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Jake	Sinatra	Cuyahoga Arts & Culture	manager - special projects & communications	<p>Jake Sinatra is an arts administrator, creative, and marketing professional based in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the manager of special projects & communications at Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC). Serving Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Ohio, CAC is one of the largest local public funders of arts and culture in the nation, investing more than \$207 million in more than 436 organizations since 2007. Jake joined CAC in 2012 and since 2015 has managed the public funder’s communications, public relations and marketing efforts. Jake works across disciplines to lead projects in grantmaking and organization-wide. Jake has served since 2016 as the appointed alumni advisor of the Kappa-Phi Chapter of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in Berea, Ohio. He is a founding member of the Alliance for the Great Lakes Young Professional Council Cleveland, a member of the 2016 class of Downtown Cleveland Alliance City Advocates, and has served as a board member of Young Nonprofit Professionals Network Cleveland. Jake graduated magna cum laude from Baldwin Wallace University's arts management degree program with a Bachelor's in management and marketing, and a minor in music. His personal creative pursuits include piano, songwriting, poetry, and mixed media art and design.</p>
Returning	22	Melissa	Cirone	Sacramento Office of Arts & Culture	Program Manager, Education & Community Programs	<p>As Program Manager for the Office of Arts & Culture in Sacramento, Melissa leads the City's arts education and community arts projects and initiatives. She developed the City's first Creativity Summit for high school students, as part of a nationwide youth creativity and workforce development initiative, and also runs the City's Any Given Child program, supporting equity and access to arts education for underserved youth in Sacramento County. Currently, she is piloting a citywide program, Sacramento Healthy Hearts & Minds, which pairs artists, mentors, and mental health professionals with students in 26 schools, who are struggling with Covid-19 related trauma. She also manages a citywide artist-in-residence program placing artists in community spaces. Melissa has also served as Executive Director for both literary arts and arts service organizations in the Bay Area and has extensive experience in development and communications for dance, theater, and community-based cultural organizations and individual artists.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Neha	Patel	Naad Studios	<p>Founder and Artistic Director, Naad Studios</p>	<p>With more than 35 years of experience in performing & teaching, Neha Patel is a skilled Bharatanatyam and Kathak virtuoso who has carved a niche for herself in San Diego and abroad. She is most notably known for her stylized and fluid grace, thoughtful and sensitive rhythmic sense, expression, and complex choreographies. Neha graduated from the world-renowned Darpana Academy of Performing Arts in Ahmedabad, founded by the legendary Mrinalini Sarabhai, and has earned the title “Natya Bhushan.” She is also trained in rare folk-art forms of India & theater. Neha has been able to positively impact the community of San Diego and the lives of her students through a teaching philosophy that nurtures students while also upholding high standards of dedication and learning. She excels in breaking down the intricate nuances of the art form in ways that children can understand and providing the guidance necessary to help students of all levels meet the physical and mental challenges of Indian dance. Under her guidance, children have developed the skills necessary to earn diplomas in Indian dance styles. She is the founder of “Antarnaad” in 1996 in Chicago, IL which later spurred the creation of “Naad Studios” in San Diego and Temecula. Neha and her students regularly perform in major cultural events in southern California and abroad. Neha’s extensive training in the theater is apparent through her involvement with award-winning stage dramas and educational documentaries that helped educate rural tribes in Gujarat. Many of Neha’s performances as both an actress and a dancer were broadcast on local & national television in India. Neha conducts lecture-demonstration & teaches at for-profit and nonprofit organizations, schools, universities, international museums, religious conferences, and various dance festivals in the USA, India & worldwide. Also, she has served as a judge in many dance competitions in the USA and abroad. Neha is currently a board member of the management committee of IFAASD (Indian Fine Arts Academy, San Diego) and served as cultural chair of FIA (Federation of India Association, San Diego) & House of India, Balboa Park. She has been an</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Richard	Stein	Arts Orange County	President & CEO	<p>Rick has served for over 12 years as President & CEO of Arts Orange County, the countywide nonprofit arts agency which provides programs (Día del Niño, VOICES: Veterans Storytelling Project, Imagination Celebration Festival) and services for artists, arts organizations, arts education and municipalities, and also serves as a grantmaker in the arts. Most recently, his advocacy efforts resulted in the granting of more than \$2.7 million in COVID-19 relief funds for artists, arts organizations and arts-related businesses in Orange County. A member of the Board of California Arts Advocates & Californians for the Arts since 2009, he served as their President for three terms. He has been a grants reviewer/panelist for National Endowment for the Arts, Western States Arts Federation, New England Foundation for the Arts, California Arts Council, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Pasadena, Riverside Arts Council, Louisville, KY Fund for the Arts, and Connecticut Commission on the Arts. His long career as a theatre producer and director includes more than 17 years as Executive Director of Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, and as a founder of a theatre company in Syracuse, New York, now in its 43rd year of operation. He holds degrees in English from Columbia and Syracuse Universities, returned to Columbia on a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, and was sent for a cultural exchange to South Korea by the International Theatre Institute-US. He is a resident of San Juan Capistrano.</p>
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Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	22	Sadie	Weinberg	LITVAKdance	Artistic Director	<p>Sadie Weinberg is the founder and Artistic Director of LITVAKdance, a non-profit dance company currently based in Encinitas, CA. In its short tenure, LITVAKdance has commissioned over 13 diverse guest artists to create dance on a small group of dancers that mirror the changing demographic of our region. Weinberg has also hosted an array of master classes through the company, both live and virtual from teaching artists across the country. Along with presenting the work of other artists, Weinberg has also created work for the company to much acclaim. LITVAKdance/Weinberg has received grants on the state and local level including the California Arts Council, California Humanities and the Cities of Encinitas and Carlsbad. Through the company, Weinberg has collaborated with the La Jolla Historical Society, LUX Art Institute, the Oceanside Museum of Art, Women’s Museum of California and the Lawrence Family JCC to name a few. Prior to starting LITVAKdance, Weinberg presented her work as an independent artist and performed with the companies of John Malashock, Jean Isaacs, Nancy McCaleb and others. Weinberg has been teaching in higher education in San Diego for more than 15 years continues to hold teaching positions at UC San Diego in the Department of Theater and Dance, MiraCosta College and Canyon Crest Academy.</p>
Returning	21	Dan	Faltz	Academy Museum of Motion Pictures / West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission	Specialist, Foundation and Government Relations / Arts and Cultural Affairs Commissioner	<p>My passion is connecting people to art and encouraging expression. At the Academy, I’ve coordinated weekly screenings series, educational tours, public programs, an internship program, an international conference, and assisted with exhibitions. As an arts commissioner, I have collaborated on West Hollywood’s cultural equity statement, strategic arts plan, and arts programs. I have served on the Leadership Council and Programming Committee for Emerging Arts Leaders / LA and the ACTIVATE Steering Committee for Arts for LA. I developed and proposed inclusion and outreach initiatives as part of Arts for LA’s ACTIVATE leadership program, and prototyped arts initiatives as part of LA County Arts Ed Collective’s Art of Leadership program. I have participated as a mentor for Spark LA, as well as a peer grant review panelist for Weho Arts and the LA County Dept of Arts and Culture. I find art inspiring, impactful and transformational, and essential to the health and vibrancy of any community.</p>

Fiscal Year 2027 Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates

Returning	21	Gloria	Arjona	Arts Council for Long Beach	Spanish Lecturer/Singer	I hold a PhD in Spanish literature, and teach Spanish language and literature at Caltech. I am also a published author, and a singer. I founded a house concerts project known as “Casa Arjona”, where we hosted renown Jazz figures, such as Abraham Laboriel, Justo Almario, and Carlitos del Puerto to name only a few.
Returning	21	Jose Antonio	Aguirre	Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles	Executive Director	Binational muralist and multidisciplinary Visual Artist. In 1982 he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master of Fine Arts degree from California Institute of the Arts in 1990. Currently resides and works in Pasadena, California. Aguirre has mounted over 15 solo exhibitions of painting, drawing in mixed media and prints in the United States and Mexico. Throughout his art career, Aguirre has also been an installation artist, a cultural journalist for Spanish publications in Los Angeles, Austin and Chicago. For over 30 years he has established a strong reputation as a cultural worker and a visual arts educator. Jose Antonio Aguirre has received national and international awards, including the Fulbright-García Robles award. In 2013, Mr. Aguirre was appointed Executive Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles, in 2020 he joined William James Association as board member. Aguirre continues to work actively as an artist, lecturer and educator.
Returning	21	Tariana	Navas-Nieves	Denver Arts & Venues (City & County of Denver)	Director, Cultural Affairs	Tariana Navas-Nieves, Director of Cultural Affairs for Denver Arts & Venues, City and County of Denver, has 30 years of experience in management, equity and race and social justice work; museum and curatorial practice; grantmaking; translation and interpretation; television, and communications. With a curatorial expertise in Latin American art, she also served as Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Curatorial Consultant for the Denver Art Museum, Curator for the Museo de las Americas, and curator for private collections. Navas-Nieves’ experience spans into television, having worked for Telemundo as an arts reporter; translation and interpretation working for the Federal Court of Immigration, Children’s Hospital, and others. She was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico.