



**Commission for Arts and Culture | Creative City Ad hoc Committee
Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Thursday, August 13, 2026

2:30–4:00pm

City Administration Building

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Zoom Link: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1659746852>

Committee Chair: Kamaal Martin

Committee Vice Chair: Imani Robinson

Commissioners: Chris Chalupsky, Abe Hughes, Jean Walcher

Community Members: Linda Cabellero Sotelo, Justine Murray, Rich Magale

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@san Diego.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 | Kamaal Martin, Chair
- Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment | Kamaal Martin, Chair
- Item 3: Chair's Reports | Kamaal Martin, Chair
 - **ACTION** – Review, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Other Reports
- Item 4: Creative City Workplan – Committee Priorities Review | Kamaal Martin, Chair
- Item 5: Staff Reports | Rachel Laing, Cultural Affairs Staff, Economic Development Department
- Item 6: Adjourn | Kamaal Martin, Chair



Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture
Creative City Ad hoc Committee

MINUTES

June 11, 2026

Commissioners Present

Kamaal Martin
Chris Chalupsky
Jean Walcher
Abe Hughes

Commissioners Absent

Chris Chalupsky
Imani Robinson

Staff Present

Bell Reza
Rachel Laing
Christie Marcella

Committee Members

Present

Justine Murray
Rich Magale

Committee Members

Absent

Linda Caballero Sotelo

- I Call to Order | [View Here](#)
Chair Kamaal Martin called the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture Creative City Ad hoc meeting to order 2:34 p.m.
- II. Non-agenda Public Comment | [View Here](#)
Chair Martin invited Project Manager Bell Reza to read any public comments submitted. It was noted that there were no public comments received, and there were no members of the public in attendance.
- III. Chairs Report's | [View Here](#)
A.ACTION –April 9, 2026 & May 14, 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Imani Robinson moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Chris Chalupsky seconded the motion. The motion carried.
B.Other Reports
- IV. Presentation: Economic Development Department Strategic Plan | Sean Karafin, Program Manager, Small Business Engagement Unit, Economic Development Department | [View Here](#)
- V. Staff Reports | Christie Marcella, Economic Development Department | [View Here](#)
- VI. Adjourn | Chair Kamaal Martin adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Creative City Workplan

Committee Priority Responses

Status: Responses received from 7 of 8 committee members | **Chris Chalupsky, Jean Walcher, Rich Magale, Justine Murray, Abe Hughes, Kamaal Martin, and Linda Cabellero Sotelo.**

Still outstanding: Imani Robinson

Rich Magale picked at the strategy level (e.g., 1.1, 2.5) rather than specific sub-items; his picks are shown with their full strategy description. Where a strategy-level pick and a sub-item pick from another member use near-identical wording, this is flagged in a footnote rather than folded into the overlap counts.

*Linda Cabellero Sotelo's submission included several items she flagged as candidates to merge into a single combined strategy (marked with * in the tables below). Merge suggestions are shown as one combined row and are not split into separate votes for overlap-counting purposes.*

Goal 1: Centering Artists, Creatives and Spaces

Individual Selections

Committee Member	Item #	Priority Description
Chris Chalupsky	1.1.1	Recognize City's cultural facilities as key asset; policy for equitable access.
	1.1.2	Create directory of City-owned spaces for artists and organizations.
	1.1.12	Ensure Dept. of Cultural Affairs is party to decisions on City-owned property use.
	1.1.13	Repurpose City-owned properties for cultural/creative purposes.
	1.1.33	Research/assess need for large outdoor performance venue(s).
Jean Walcher	1.1.13	Repurpose City-owned properties for cultural/creative purposes.
	1.1.15	Promote/facilitate creative space in private development projects.
	1.1.19	Creative use space program with BIDs/PBIDs for vacant spaces.
	1.5.1	Support organizations serving BIPOC communities.
	1.5.2	Support cross-sector work for specific populations (houseless, youth, veterans, disabled).
Rich Magale	1.1	Address the critical need for affordable creative spaces.
	1.4	Strengthen/create service organizations for artists and creative industries.
	1.6	Build capacity of creative industries via convenings and best practices.
	1.7	Partner large institutions with smaller orgs for mentorship/capacity building.

	1.10	Streamline procurement/contracting for arts and culture.
Justine Murray	1.1.19	Creative use space program with BIDs/PBIDs for vacant spaces.
	1.1.21	Develop Creative Enterprise Zones to support creative practice and space development.
	1.1.32	Consider Downtown Arts District as platform for potential new civic center.
	1.1.26	Consider public/private partnership to expand/leverage public funds for creative space projects.
Abe Hughes	1.1.13	Repurpose City-owned properties for cultural/creative purposes.
	1.1.15	Promote/facilitate creative space in private development projects (adds: create accountability and review around this).
	1.1.26	Consider public/private partnership to expand/leverage public funds for creative space projects.
	1.3.2	Identify external partners to encourage funding for individual artists.
	1.5.3	Consider establishing collaborative public/private fund(s), citing national collective impact models.
Kamaal Martin	1.1.1	Recognize City's cultural facilities as key asset; policy for equitable access.
	1.1.2	Create directory of City-owned spaces for artists and organizations.
	1.1.15	Promote/facilitate creative space in private development projects.
	1.1.16	Develop a toolkit to assist and encourage developers to embed creative space in their development projects.
	1.6.2	Develop programs to provide training and career development for artists and creative workers. (See also Goal 3, strategy 3.1.)
Linda Cabellero Sotelo	1.1.2	Create a directory of City-owned spaces for artists, organizations, and creative endeavors (or provide seed funding for this resource / expansion to non-City spaces).
	1.1.13	Repurpose City-owned properties for cultural and creative purposes.
	1.5.3	Consider establishing collaborative public/private fund(s), citing successful national collective-impact models.
	1.8.1–1.8.6*	Artist fellowship/residency program placing artists in City departments (recommends consolidating 1.8.1, 1.8.2, 1.8.4, 1.8.5, 1.8.6 — excludes 1.8.3, which does not exist — into a single strategy).

Overlapping Priorities

Item #	Priority Description	Selected By
1.1.13	Repurpose City-owned properties for cultural/creative purposes.	Chris, Jean, Abe, Linda
1.1.2	Create directory of City-owned spaces for artists and organizations.	Chris, Kamaal, Linda
1.1.15	Promote/facilitate creative space in private development.	Jean, Abe, Kamaal
1.1.1	Recognize City's cultural facilities as key asset; policy for equitable access.	Chris, Kamaal
1.1.19	Creative use space program with BIDs/PBIDs.	Jean, Justine
1.1.26	Public/private partnership for creative space projects.	Justine, Abe
1.5.3	Establish collaborative public/private fund(s).	Abe, Linda

Goal 2: Arts in Community

Individual Selections

Committee Member	Item #	Priority Description
Chris Chalupsky	2.1.3	Streamline regulations/permitting for arts events and activations.
	2.4.2	Support strategic plans for districts/zones (Downtown Arts, Black Arts and Culture).
	2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.
	2.5.4	Partner with districts/zones to fund/implement sector investments.
	2.5.5	Pursue affordable housing/spaces for cultural sector.
Jean Walcher	2.1.1	Greater opportunities for artists in community settings via grants.
	2.2.1	Require community/neighborhood plans include arts component.
	2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.
	2.5.5	Pursue affordable housing/spaces for cultural sector.
	2.6.5/2.6.6	Developer guidelines for creative space; DCA party to negotiations.
	2.6.8	Gallery/exhibition space in future City Hall; explore design center.
Rich Magale	2.1	Expand access to arts/cultural activities via library, parks, rec partnerships.
	2.2	Support arts/cultural elements as part of community plans.

	2.4	Formal designation/support program for arts districts and creative enterprise zones.
	2.5	Target arts/culture investment in historically less-resourced communities.
Justine Murray	2.1.3	Streamline regulations/permitting for arts events and activations.
	2.4.1/2.4.2	Recognize districts/zones as economic development tools; support strategic plans for districts and zones.
	2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.
	2.7.1	Initiate public art projects with Balboa Park stakeholders — specifically the “Big Park” commission.
	2.5.4	Partner with districts/zones to fund/implement sector investments.
Abe Hughes	2.1.1	Greater opportunities for artists in community settings via grants.
	2.1.14	Raise funds for community programming and activations through new foundation. (Recorded as written “2.1.14”; matched to 2.1.4.)
	2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.
	2.6.7	Explore combining/pooling public art funds for capital improvements and civic enhancement fees.
Kamaal Martin	2.1.4	Raise funds for community programming and activations through new foundation.
	2.4.1	Recognize districts/zones as economic development tools.
	2.4.2	Support strategic plans for districts/zones (Downtown Arts, Black Arts and Culture).
	2.4.6	Explore development of a transborder cultural district in San Ysidro and Tijuana. (See Goal 4, Transborder Artistry.)
	2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.
Linda Cabellero Sotelo	2.1.2	Designate dedicated liaison staff across City departments (Race and Equity, Library, Parks and Rec, Office of Child and Youth Success, etc.) to coordinate with DCA and expand access to arts/culture programming.
	2.1.3	Review, streamline, and increase transparency of regulations/permitting for arts events, activations, and nightlife.
	2.1.4	Raise funds for community programming and activations through a new foundation, targeting less-resourced communities.
	2.4.3	Enact an ordinance requiring all City departments to support implementation of districts'/zones' plans (“whole of government” approach).
	2.6.1	Develop a five-year work plan for the Public Art Program, building on Creative City engagement and the existing Public Art Master Plan.

Overlapping Priorities

Item #	Priority Description	Selected By
2.5.2	Partner with BIDs, Planning, EDD for district/zone resources.	Chris, Jean, Justine, Abe, Kamaal
2.1.3	Streamline regulations/permitting for arts events.	Chris, Justine, Linda
2.1.4	Raise funds for community programming and activations through new foundation.	Abe, Kamaal, Linda
2.4.2	Support strategic plans for districts/zones.	Chris, Justine, Kamaal
2.5.4	Partner with districts/zones to fund/implement investments.	Chris, Justine
2.5.5	Pursue affordable housing/spaces for cultural sector.	Chris, Jean
2.4.1	Recognize districts/zones as economic development tools.	Justine, Kamaal
2.1.1	Greater opportunities for artists in community settings.	Jean, Abe

Goal 3: Creative Entrepreneurship

Justine Murray asked whether the Downtown San Diego Partnership (DSDP) can also be mentioned alongside the Chamber and EDC, given DSDP's role co-leading Civic Center Redevelopment and the Arts + Design District with Prebys — not scored as one of her five picks.

Individual Selections

Committee Member	Item #	Priority Description
Chris Chalupsky	3.1.3	Align with other economic development agencies and plans.
	3.2.2	Use existing networking/business infrastructure to connect innovation and creative economies.
	3.3.1	Partner with EDD and outside partners to build markets for creative industries.
	3.6.1	Identify growth industries: music, film, visual arts, nighttime economy.
	3.7.1	Create DCA position focused on creative economy investment.
Jean Walcher	3.1.3	Align with other economic development agencies and plans.
	3.2.2	Use existing networking/business infrastructure to connect innovation and creative economies.
	3.5.2	Support/incentivize programs for districts/zones to attract creative businesses.

	3.6.3	Partner with regional agencies to recruit creative-industry companies.
	3.7.2	Serve as liaison to implement creative entrepreneurship strategies.
Rich Magale	3.2	Explore overlap with regional innovation economy (capital, infrastructure, recruitment).
	3.3	Target small business support for creative businesses.
	3.4	Establish coalition for inclusive workforce development of creative workers.
	3.5	Partner with districts/zones to provide small business support to artists.
Justine Murray	3.1.3	Align with other economic development agencies and plans.
	3.2.2	Use existing networking/business infrastructure to connect innovation and creative economies.
	3.3.2	Establish a small creative business catalyst fund with internal and external partners.
	3.2.1	Partner with SDREDC to integrate creative economy into Inclusive Growth Initiative.
	3.6.1	Identify growth industries: music, film, visual arts, nighttime economy.
Abe Hughes	3.2.1	Partner with SDREDC to integrate creative economy into Inclusive Growth Initiative.
	3.3.1	Partner with City EDD and outside partners to build markets for creative industries.
	3.3.3	Advocate for integration of creative industries into business/economic development strategies among partner agencies.
	3.7.1	Create DCA position focused on creative economy investment (or alternatively, an EDD-based Arts and Culture liaison).
Kamaal Martin	3.1.1	Acknowledge and build upon the two San Diego creative economy reports and recent design industry research; develop a creative economy strategic growth plan.
	3.2.2	Use existing networking/business infrastructure to connect innovation and creative economies.
	3.5.3	Create a capital investment fund to incentivize facility and space projects serving the arts and other creative uses in the districts/zones.
Linda Cabellero Sotelo	3.3.3	Advocate for integration of creative industries into business/economic development strategies among partner agencies (SDREDC, Workforce Partnership, County of San Diego, SD Chamber of Commerce).
	3.6.3/3.6.4*	Partner with regional agencies to recruit large creative-industry companies to San Diego; consider incentives/regulatory relief

		for targeted industries (recommends combining 3.6.3 and 3.6.4 into one strategy).
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Overlapping Priorities

Item #	Priority Description	Selected By
3.2.2	Use existing networking/business infrastructure.	Chris, Jean, Justine, Kamaal
3.1.3	Align with other economic development agencies and plans.	Chris, Jean, Justine
3.2.1	Partner with SDREDC on Inclusive Growth Initiative.	Justine, Abe
3.3.1	Partner with EDD and outside partners.	Chris, Abe
3.3.3	Advocate for integration of creative industries into economic development strategies.	Abe, Linda
3.6.1	Identify growth industries.	Chris, Justine
3.6.3	Partner with regional agencies to recruit creative-industry companies.	Jean, Linda

Rich's strategy-level pick 3.5 ("Partner with districts/zones to provide small business support to artists") closely parallels Kamaal's sub-item 3.5.3 ("Create a capital investment fund ... in the districts/zones"). Not counted in the tally above since they sit at different levels of specificity, but likely reflects a shared priority.

Goal 4: Global Creative City

Individual Selections

Committee Member	Item #	Priority Description
Chris Chalupsky	4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity to include arts/culture.
	4.2.1	Expand cultural tourism to include creative tourism.
	4.2.2	Create a division or program of cultural and creative tourism potentially within the Department of Cultural Affairs.
	4.2.4	Support SDTA Stewardship Plan, incl. Destination Stewardship Council.
	4.2.5	Research/develop cultural and creative tourism experiences/products.
Jean Walcher	4.2.1	Expand cultural tourism to include creative tourism.
	4.2.3	Enhance destination marketing as global arts/culture hub.
	4.2.4	Support SDTA Stewardship Plan, incl. Destination Stewardship Council.

	4.3.2	Partner with SDREDC on international business development.
	4.3.3	Create investment fund for international promotional efforts.
Rich Magale	4.1	Expand destination marketing to incorporate arts, culture, creativity.
	4.3	Strengthen awareness/success of SD arts economy in global marketplace.
	4.4	Produce signature/destination event(s), building on WDC learnings.
	4.5	Recognize and support expanded transborder artistry.
Justine Murray	4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity to include arts/culture.
	4.1.5	Create long-term plan to redefine San Diego's identity as global creative hub.
	4.5.9	Leverage World Design Capital as platform for international relationships.
	4.4.2	Consider major new art/design signature event (art fair, biennial, Nuit blanche, theatre festival).
	4.3.1	Integrate arts/culture/creative talent into regional/global economic development strategies.
Abe Hughes	4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity to include arts/culture.
	4.2.3	Enhance destination marketing as global arts/culture hub.
	4.2.5	Research/develop cultural and creative tourism experiences/products.
	4.5.3	Expand eligibility for project funding to accommodate artists from both sides of the border.
	4.5.6	Explore development of a binational cultural council.
Kamaal Martin	4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity to include arts/culture.
	4.2.1	Expand cultural tourism to include creative tourism.
	4.3.3	Create investment fund for international promotional efforts.
	4.5	Recognize and support expanded transborder artistry.
Linda Cabellero Sotelo	4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity to include arts/culture and creative industries (music, visual arts, film, design, etc.).
	4.2.1	Expand cultural tourism to include creative tourism; build awareness with local tourism industry.

	4.2.5/4.2.6/4.3.1*	Research/develop cultural and creative tourism products; organize into strategic focus areas; integrate creative talent into regional/global economic development strategies (recommends combining 4.2.5, 4.2.6, and 4.3.1 into one strategy).
	4.5.1/4.5.2/4.5.7*	Elevate visibility of transborder history/culture; streamline border crossings for artists and materials; create a SD–Tijuana artist residency exchange (recommends combining 4.5.1, 4.5.2, and 4.5.7 into one strategy).

Overlapping Priorities

Item #	Priority Description	Selected By
4.1.1	Partner with SDTA to evolve global identity.	<i>Chris, Justine, Abe, Kamaal, Linda</i>
4.2.1	Expand cultural tourism to include creative tourism.	<i>Chris, Jean, Kamaal, Linda</i>
4.2.5	Research/develop cultural and creative tourism experiences.	<i>Chris, Abe, Linda</i>
4.2.4	Support SDTA Stewardship Plan.	<i>Chris, Jean</i>
4.2.3	Enhance destination marketing as global arts/culture hub.	<i>Jean, Abe</i>
4.3.3	Create investment fund for international promotional efforts.	<i>Jean, Kamaal</i>
4.3.1	Integrate creative talent into regional/global economic development strategies.	<i>Justine, Linda</i>

Rich's strategy-level pick 4.5 and Kamaal's sub-item 4.5 use identical wording ("Recognize and support expanded transborder artistry"). Not folded into the tally above since Rich's picks are recorded at the strategy level throughout, but this is effectively a shared priority.