

**Minutes of Public Meeting**  
**CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL**  
**Friday, February 6, 2026**  
**10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**On Location**  
**Angels Gate Cultural Center**  
**3601 S. Gaffey Street**  
**San Pedro, CA 90731**

The members of the California Arts Council convened in San Pedro and via web conference to discuss and vote on various items as listed in the minutes below.

**Council Members Present:**

Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor  
Council Vice Chair Nicola Miner  
Council Member Caleb Duarte (Remote)  
Council Member Vicki Estrada  
Council Member Leah Goodwin  
Council Member Roy Hirabayashi  
Council Member Alex Israel  
Council Member Dorka Keehn  
Council Member Rick Stein

**Council Members Absent:**

Council Member Phil Mercado

**Arts Council Staff Present:**

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director  
Michelle Radmand, Chief Deputy Director (Remote)  
Sylvia Britt, Deputy Director (Remote)  
Carissa Gutierrez, Director of Public Affairs  
Kristin Margolis, Director of Program Services (Remote)  
Josy Miller, Arts Programs Manager (Remote)  
Megan Morgan, Race & Equity Manager (Remote)  
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager (Remote)

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Julie Estrella, Council Liaison  
Arielle Rubin, Arts Program Specialist  
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist  
Steve Mok, Graphic Designer  
Qiana Moore, Events & Outreach Coordinator  
Zachary Hill, IT Specialist

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

### **2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

Roll call was conducted and quorum was established with ten Council Members present.

### **3. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement**

The Council acknowledged its new and ongoing practice of inviting a local cultural bearer to deliver the Land and Peoples Acknowledgement at each meeting, honoring the communities and Indigenous lands where the Council convenes.

Lazaro Arvizu Jr., an artist, educator, musician, and cultural practitioner with deep knowledge of the Gabrieleno culture and the Los Angeles Basin, delivered the Land and Peoples Acknowledgement, recognizing the First Peoples of the region and their enduring cultural legacy.

### **4. Community Agreements**

Chair Messina Captor reviewed the Council's community agreements to guide engagement.

The community agreements read aloud were as follows:

- Practice listening to understand, not just hearing.
- Wait until you are acknowledged to speak.
- When it's your time to speak, state your name and intention clearly.
- Listen to others with an open mind. Try not to project your truth onto others.
- Practice both/and thinking rather than either/or thinking.
- Have a beginner's mind. Take 100% responsibility for one's own learning.
- It's okay to disagree—disagree with ideas, not with the person.

## **5. Opening Remarks**

Chair Messina Captor welcomed attendees and acknowledged the significance of CAC's 50th Anniversary year.

## **6. Welcome Remarks**

Amy Eriksen, Executive Director of Angels Gate Cultural Center, welcomed the Council and provided remarks on the organization's community impact.

## **7. Chair's Report**

Chair Messina Captor presented her report. The Chair's report can be read in its entirety [here](#) and acknowledged the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the CAC and priorities for 2026.

## **8. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Danielle Brazell delivered highlights from her [full report](#) where she noted the agency's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in 2026. Executive Director Danielle Brazell provided updates on:

- FY 2026–27 Budget: Proposed \$4M increase to Local Assistance
- Arts in Corrections: 19 nonprofit partners awarded contracts
- Grants Cycle Timeline: Launch underway with key milestones through August 2026
- Native American Grant Program: Advisory and listening sessions in progress
- 50th Anniversary Planning: April 20 Arts Awards and media campaign
- Strategic Planning RFP: Anticipated April 2026 release
- 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations with Key Agenda Items to be discussed

## **9. VOTING ITEM: Approval of Minutes**

Chair Messina Captor then presented the minutes from December 12, 2025. As there were no objections from the rest of the Council, the minutes were approved.

## **10. Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee Report**

The Ad Hoc 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee presented its [formal report](#) to Council. The committee provided updates on efforts to engage partners and the awards process.

## **11. DISCUSSION: Equity Committee**

The Equity Committee provided a presentation and facilitated discussion on advancing equity priorities across the California Arts Council's programs, policies, and decision-making processes.

Staff highlighted the Council's continued commitment to data informed decision making, including the integration of a Decision Support Tool (DST) to assess equity impacts prior to the implementation of key Council actions. This tool is designed to support more consistent, transparent, and proactive evaluation of how proposed policies and funding decisions may affect communities across California.

A key component of this work is the Council's use of the Healthy Places Index (HPI) as a data framework to help identify and prioritize historically underserved communities.

The Committee noted that HPI is one of several tools used to guide decision making and that it is most effective when paired with qualitative data, community input, and lived experience to ensure a more holistic understanding of need.

Staff emphasized that the use of the DST, in combination with HPI and other data sources, represents a shift toward proactive equity analysis, allowing the Council to assess potential impacts before decisions are finalized.

The Committee also discussed the development of the Native American grant program, including ongoing efforts to ensure that program design is community informed and culturally responsive. Updates included:

- Engagement with a Native-led advisory committee
- Planned and ongoing listening sessions with Native artists, Tribal leaders, and cultural practitioners
- Consideration of how traditional data tools such as HPI may not fully capture the needs of Tribal and Native communities

Council members discussed the importance of ensuring that data frameworks do not unintentionally obscure or misrepresent Native communities, particularly in cases where geographic or economic indicators may not reflect cultural realities. There was general alignment on the need to supplement existing tools with community specific engagement and alternative approaches to data collection and interpretation.

Council members further discussed the importance of continuing to refine CAC's approach to equity centered, data driven governance, ensuring that analytical tools

support thoughtful decision making while remaining grounded in community voice and cultural context.

Action: Informational item only; no vote taken.

## **12. Committee Reports**

Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Arts Awards Committee - Provided updates on adjudication process and event planning.

Legislative Committee - Shared updates on legislative priorities and engagement.

## **WORKING LUNCH**

## **13. General Public Comment**

Public comment was opened and can be found at the end of this document.

## **14. Open Council Discussion & Acknowledgement**

Council members shared reflections on priorities and acknowledged staff efforts.

## **15. In Memoriam**

Vice Chair Miner led an In Memoriam acknowledgment honoring members of the arts community.

## **16. Closing Remarks**

Chair Messina Captor thanked Council members, staff, and the public for their participation.

## **17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.