

Minutes of Public Meeting
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
Monday, April 20, 2026
Sacramento, California

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Monday, April 20, 2026
6:30 P.M. – 8 P.M.
On Location
Sacramento Memorial Auditorium
1515 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

The members of the California Arts Council convened in Sacramento to celebrate the agency's 50th anniversary, honor its founding Council, and present awards to influential artists, creatives, and culture bearers listed in the minutes below.

Council Members Present In-Person:

Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
Council Member Roque Barros
Council Member Gerald Clarke
Council Member Caleb Duarte
Council Member Vicki Estrada
Council Member Leah Goodwin
Council Member Roy Hirabayashi
Council Member Alex Israel
Council Member Dorka Keehn
Council Member Phil Mercado
Council Member Rick Stein

Arts Council Staff Present:

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
Michelle Radmand, Chief Deputy Director
Sylmia Britt, Deputy Director
Kristin Margolis, Director of Program Services
Gloriela Garcia, Director of Operations
Carissa Gutierrez, Director of Public Affairs
Elisa Gollub, Arts Program Manager
Josy Miller, Arts Program Manager
Megan Morgan, Race & Equity Manager
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Qiana Moore, Events & Outreach Coordinator
Zachary Hill, IT Specialist
Kala Kowatha, IT Specialist
Leslie Giovannini, Arts Program Specialist

Natalie Peeples, Arts Program Specialist
Carlos Casillas, Arts Program Specialist
Emily Taggart, Arts Program Specialist
Gabrielle Rosado, Arts Program Specialist
Matthew Canty, Legislative Affairs Manager
Annastasia Wolfe Griffin, MA, Policy and
Records Management Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Public Affairs Director Gutierrez called the roll and quorum was established with Council Members stating their name and profession.

3. Land and People's Acknowledgement

Raquel Williams, Vice Chairwoman of the Wilton Rancheria Tribe provided the land and Peoples acknowledgement.

4. Opening Remarks

Chair Roxanne Messina Captor welcomed the honorees, awardees, and attendees to the agency's Council meeting and 50th anniversary celebration. Her Chair's report is available [at this link](#).

5. Director's Report

Director Danielle Brazell provided her remarks on the agency's 50 years of service to the state of California and its artists and arts community. Director Brazell's report can be found [here](#).

6. Presentation: Recognizing Founding Council Members with Certifications

Chair Roxanne Messina Captor invited all founding members to the stage to accept their certificates from Council Member Stein. Certificates were presented to:

- William Allaudin Mathieu (not present)
- Gary Snyder
- Peter Coyote

- Suzanne Jackson
- Luis Valdez
- Ruth Asawa (in memory) – Paul Lanier accepted on her behalf
- Noah Purifoy (in memory) – Joe Lewis accepted on his behalf
- Karney Hodge (in memory)
- Alexander Mackendrick (in memory)

Founding Council Member Peter Coyote spoke on behalf of all founding members about the formation of the Council and the importance of its purpose within state government.

7. Remarks from Senator Ben Allen

Senator Allen provided remarks on California's powerful Creative Economy and the impact of arts and culture

8. Remarks from Speaker Robert Rivas

Speaker Rivas offered remarks on the importance of the arts for all and in his life recognizing Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino as an influential organization in his life growing up in San Benito County. Speaker Rivas also made mention of the impact of CAC's Arts in Corrections programming on transforming the lives of incarcerated Californians.

9. Presentation of Arts Awards by California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick

Herrick provided a brief biography of each awardee before presenting the awards to:

- Cheech Marin
- Mildred Howard
- Magic Theatre by Sarah Nina Hayon
- Sage Romero
- San Jose Taiko, Executive Director Wisa Uemura and Artistic Director Franco Imperial
- Josie Talamantez
- Luis Valdez (*Award presented by Álvaro Daniel Márquez, Senior Arts and Culture Officer, California Community Foundation*)
- David Gaffen
- Barbara Kruger
- Charles Ray

10. Presentation of the poem "My California" by California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick

11. Closing Remarks

Chair Roxanne Messina Captor thanks the attendees for joining the 50th anniversary celebration and awards ceremony and asks the audience to grab a cupcake and enjoy the sounds of the Sacramento Pop Choir, seated in the balcony, as they exit.

12. Adjournment

Chair Roxanne Messina Captor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

- **CAC PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS
COUNCIL MEETING/50th Anniversary Event
APRIL 20, 2026**

- **Pat Bitton (She/Her/Hers)
Humboldt County**

Just wondering if this event will be streamed online, since Sacramento is a loooooong way away.

- **Ann Michel Tuomey (She/Her/Hers)
Arts 2 Me LLC, Contra Costa County**

As Twyla Tharp said, "Art is the only way to run away without leaving home." Art and creativity allow for escape and unity. Culture leads. Prioritize it.

- **Anonymous**

Looking forward to the event!

- **Kyong Lee (She/Her/Hers)
Kwang Myung Mission, Los Angeles County**

Subject: Commemorating 50 Years of Visionary Art and Architecture

Congratulations to the California Arts Council on your 50th anniversary. As the Chief Executive of Kwang Myung Mission and a professional architectural designer, I am honored to share my vision for the future of California's cultural landscape.

Currently, I am leading the Sun Village Project in Los Angeles County—a sanctuary and cultural hub designed to integrate sustainable modular architecture with innovative urban farming. My architectural vision focuses on "Eco-Healing," utilizing solar energy and organic structures to create spaces that serve both as artistic landmarks and community sanctuaries.

In tandem with this, I am developing a cinematic epic titled "Creation," utilizing 8K and IMAX technology to push the boundaries of immersive storytelling. I believe that the next 50 years of California arts should be defined by this synergy: where architectural design, advanced technology, and environmental stewardship meet to heal and inspire our communities.

I hope the Council continues to support multidisciplinary projects that bridge the gap between functional architecture and transformative art. I look forward to contributing to California's vibrant future.

- **Galen Hazelhofer (She/Her/Hers)**
Sacramento County

Thank you for making the arts important!

- **Catherine Humphers Smith (She/Her/Hers)**
Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra • TACO, Santa Clara County

I have followed the CAC with interest as someone who runs a small nonprofit in Santa Clara County with a spin-off group in Los Angeles County. I am very proud to be a Californian and to know we have this wonderful statewide organization supporting creativity throughout our state, encouraging collaboration and community building, arts enrichment and education for all ages, and nurturing the cultural life of all Californians. Congratulations on a successful 50-year run, with all best wishes for continued growth into our futures.

- **Anonymous (He/Him/His)**
Fresno County

There's an impression that CAC promotes works by artists and authors who are recipients of CAC's support and is oblivious of superior works by others.

- **Daniel Omar (He/Him/His)**
Artqe, Los Angeles County
Current or Former Grantee: Arts and Public Media; Artists in Communities;
State-Local Partnership

I am very inspired with opportunities where arts turn to reality.

- **Sandra Richardson (She/Her/Hers)**
Richardsonlees Author/Artist, Los Angeles County

Congratulations I am very honored to attend your 50th Anniversary celebration! Kudos

- **Jorge Santana (Prefer not to answer)**
Santana Press and Travel, Sacramento County

I commend all those who have worked to recognize artists.

- **Colton Dennis (He/Him/His)**
Merced County Arts Council, Merced County
Current or Former Grantee: California Creative Corps; California Cultural Districts; Arts Education Exposure; State-Local Partnership

Happy 50th Anniversary, California Arts Council! Thank you for your many decades of support and partnership through arts and culture. Together, we make California great!

- **Michelle Amador (She/Her/Hers)**
Nevada County
Current or Former Grantee: California Creative Corps

Congrats to 50 years of California recognizing the power of the arts in every aspect of our daily lives! Here's to 50 more with expanded funding!

- **Nancy Hill (She/Her/Hers)**
Shasta County Arts Council, Shasta County
Current or Former Grantee: California Cultural Districts; Impact Projects; Local Impact; State-Local Partnership

Thank you to the California Arts Council for all your support and hard work in our state. You rock. Happy 50th Birthday. You only get better with age.

- **sujata tibrewala (She/Her/Hers)**
Indian American Artists Association, Santa Clara County

Love the work that you do, maybe we can work on affordable housing for artists

- **Gioia Fonda (She/Her/Hers)**
Artist/Community College Art Professor (Sacramento City College), Sacramento County

Just thank you. Thank you for tonight and thank you for what you all do each day for both artists and the people of our beautiful state. I feel inspired and will carry that energy with me beyond the evening.

- **Eric Hansen (He/Him/His)**
Sacramento County

Thank you for a wonderful celebration of 50 amazing years! Laura, my wife, and I have known Josie Talamantez for over 30 years. We are honored to celebrate with her and all facets of the California Arts Council!