



Strengthening arts, culture,
and creative expression as the
tools to cultivate a better
California for all.

Gavin Newsom, **Governor**
Danielle Brazell, **Executive Director**
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
(916) 322-6555 | www.arts.ca.gov

**Minutes of Public Meeting
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
Friday, November 22, 2024
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting
Music Center Annex
601 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

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

Council Members Present In-Person:

Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
Council Vice Chair Leah Goodwin
Council Member Gerald Clarke
Council Member Vicki Estrada
Council Member Roy Hirabayashi

Council Members Present Remotely:

Council Member Caleb Duarte
Council Member Olivia Raynor

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Phil Mercado
Council Member Nicola Miner
Council Member Alex Israel

Arts Council Staff Present:

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
Michelle Radmand, Chief Deputy Director
Carissa Gutierrez, Public Affairs Director
Kristin Margolis, Director of Program Services
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager
Zachary Hill, IT Associate

Steve Mok, Graphic Designer
Amy Garrett, Arts Program Manager

1. Call to Order

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Public Affairs Director called the roll and established a quorum, with 9 council members present.

3. Land and People's Acknowledgement

Council Chair Messina Captor read the California Arts Council's Land and People's Acknowledgement.

4. Opening Remarks

Chair Messina Captor Messina Captor welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the interpreters in the room including Paula DiMuro and Daniel Swartz (ASL), Darlene Rochella (captioner), Jeanette Hernandez and Aldo Renteria (Spanish/English simultaneous translation).

5. Welcome from Camille Schenkkan, Deputy Managing Director, Center Theatre Group

Deputy Managing Director Schenkkan of the Center Theatre Group (CTG) provided a brief welcome about the local community and the work of CTG with the Council. Her highlights included the success of recent productions like *Hamlet* and *Fake It Until You Make It* by Indigenous playwrights, as well as the organization's \$5.7 million contribution to the local economy through its shows and programs. She emphasized the need for California to invest more in arts and culture to remain competitive, citing economic and job losses to other states with stronger funding. She concluded with gratitude to council members and Director Brazell for their support and a call for continued collaboration to strengthen the arts community.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM: Community Agreements

Vice-Chair Goodwin facilitated a discussion around revising the current slate of community agreements for the council. These revised agreements will be put to a vote at the next council meeting. The council discussed the purpose of community guidelines, emphasizing the importance of creating a safe space for open dialogue, brainstorming, and respectful disagreement while maintaining professionalism and constructive interactions. Councilmember Clarke and others suggested that professional courtesy, such as raising hands and avoiding interruptions, might render formal guidelines unnecessary, reflecting mixed views on their necessity. The council acknowledged the value of the discussion and agreed to vote on the proposed

guidelines at the next meeting. Chair Messina Captor concluded the discussion with appreciation for the diverse perspectives shared.

7. Chair Messina Captor's Report

Chair Report
Nov. 22, 2024
Taper, LA

Puerto Rico, my heart's devotion, as the song so brilliantly explains. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, NASAA sponsored the arts assembly of National Arts Council's in Puerto Rico. Hosted by the Institute of culture Puerto Rico. And did they host. All the art, beauty, color, music, dance and architecture of the island was presented to us for a full week. This is an island paradise, where art, music and dance are part of the fabric of every nook and cranny of the culture. This is reflected in the food and kindness of the Puerto Rican people. Everywhere one goes the richness of the arts fills ones soul.

I attended the Folk and Traditional Arts Preconference. These days were filled with spectacular surprises. A trip to Loiza, a 45-minute ride outside of San Juan is a sleepy artist community. We were gifted to go to the workshop of Daniel Lind-Ramos. A world renowned and recognized artist, all his work is made with scrapes and discarded items. His neighbors bring him whatever they find on the road or elsewhere for him to turn into brilliant pieces. He has been at the Guggenheim Museum NYC and Berlin museums. He chooses to stay in his hometown to work.

Next was the workshop of El Batey de los Hermanos Ayala. Here colorful masks made from coconuts that are used for Mardi Gras. These artists are a family that have been making these symbols of Puerto Rico for four generations. We also learned and got to dance the Bamba. The instrument of resilience So fun.

As the conference started, the team, me, Leah Goodwin, Danielle Brazell, Ayanna Kiburi and Megan Morgan split up to attend various panels. We met colleagues from other councils. Meeting and listening to Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson Chair of the NEA was a highlight for all of us. As we know things will be changing with the NEA. Hopefully not too much. Attending the Chair panel, NEA Grants, Community and Partnership Sessions, AI and the Arts, Strategies for Addressing Artists' needs, state creative economy strategies, gave all of us great insights for CAC.

For me the biggest takeaway was consistency of leadership. The functional councils have members for 4–5-year terms and most have served for 10 years plus. They also have consistency in the Executive Director and Chairperson Roles. Many Chairs terms being 4 years and serving multiple terms. Most of our colleagues wondered how we get any of our work done with so much turnover.

The highlight of our time at the conference was when our very own Ayanna Kiburi, received the Distinguished Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion which was presented to her by Megan Morgan at the lovely Leadership Awards luncheon. We were so proud of her and her dedicated work for the CAC over the years.

All in all it was a very productive, artistic and enlightening conference.

8. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Brazell [read her report](#) into the record.

9. VOTING ITEM: Minutes from Previous Meetings

Chair Messina Captor presented the [council meeting minutes for September 13th](#) to the council for approval.

Chair Messina Captor asked that the September 13th minutes have the allocation totals revised to reflect the correct amounts- a technical change that was highlighted in Director Brazell's report. There were no further objections noted by the Council thus the minutes were approved.

10. DISCUSSION ITEM: FY 2024-2025 Programs

Presentation

[The Programs Policy Committee](#) reviewed data and insights to guide grant program planning for the upcoming year. Staff member Ratzkin presented key findings, including metrics on grant distribution, regional disparities, and program impacts. Highlights included a map illustrating underserved areas, particularly in regions like the Central Valley, Imperial County, and Northern Los Angeles County, and insights into median household income variations within funded areas. The California Creative Core initiative showed progress in expanding outreach to less-served regions.

The Programs Policy Committee listed priorities including: general operating grants, addressing tribal, underserved, and marginalized communities, and improving grant accessibility, particularly for small organizations and first-time applicants. Proposed strategies included revising eligibility criteria, automating screening processes, and implementing a one-year-on, one-year-off grant cycle.

The council also discussed regional administration organization models to ensure equitable resource distribution and greater inclusion of unhoused persons, veterans, and other overlooked groups. Support for microgrants and capacity-building resources was noted as essential for expanding access.

Next steps include finalizing priorities and recommendations at the December meeting, focusing on equitable impact, outreach, and strategic alignment with community needs. A list of eligible programs for the next fiscal year will also be evaluated. Public input remains crucial to refining decisions and ensuring broad representation.

Discussion

The council engaged in a robust discussion about the allocation of funding for arts programs, focusing on the effectiveness of grants for individual artists and organizations. Councilmember Estrada praised the maps presented, requesting a more detailed visualization of grant applications and their locations. Budget uncertainties were highlighted, with funding decisions pending the release of the Governor's FY 2025-26 budget in January. Councilmember Goodwin emphasized the importance of funding for artists and the need for clear processes, including an appeal system for grant applications. Concerns were raised about training for panelists and the transparency of decision-making.

Councilmembers also discussed finding a balance between funding individual artists and larger organizations and considering how to measure impact effectively. There was a consideration for prioritizing smaller, underserved organizations, and a desire to focus on communities most in need. The concept of "impact projects" was debated, with a focus on supporting cultural initiatives that bring visibility to marginalized communities.

Staff provided input on the need for a regional approach to funding and the challenges of reaching underfunded areas outside major urban centers and to reinforce quality in scoring. The conversation concluded with a call to prioritize initiatives that support tribal communities, first-time grantees, and smaller organizations, while ensuring a fair and transparent grant process. The council plans to continue this discussion at the December 13, 2024, council meeting in Santa Ana

11. PRESENTATION: Nomination Committee

[The Nomination Committee](#) presented the process for nominating and electing a Chair and Vice Chair as noted in the council book memo. Nominations are collected by the Nominating Committee in November, with candidates presented for a vote. If no majority is reached, the process continues with fewer candidates. A coin toss will decide in case of a tie. Incumbents may run again. Nominations will be open until December 1st, and a test run of the process is planned.

12. Working Lunch

13. VOTING ITEM: Council Attendance Procedure

Councilmember Estrada, on behalf of the Governance Committee, [provided a recommendation for a change to the Council bylaws](#) that outlines a process to ensure that quorum is reached at each meeting.

Public comment

Transcriptions of live public comment and written submissions are attached at the end.

Council discussion

The council discussed quorum requirements for meetings, particularly with a mix of in-person and remote attendance. Gerald raised concerns about meeting dates and locations, while Vicki questioned whether a majority of the attendees, including remote participants, should count toward quorum. However, confusion ensued about the information as presented in the Council book. The council agreed to table the issue for further clarification.

Councilmembers Estrada and Hirabayashi rescinded their motion. The Council agreed to revisit this topic at the next council meeting.

14. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

Transcriptions and written submissions are attached at the end.

15. DISCUSSION ITEM: 50th Anniversary

Public Affairs Director Gutierrez provided a presentation to Council of past anniversary celebrations and identified priorities for the upcoming 50th celebration.

The location(s) for the 50th anniversary is a crucial factor, aiming to attract attention and engage participants statewide. The 40th anniversary event in Sacramento was highly attended by people from across California. It was emphasized that the Council must be mindful of its financial decisions, particularly when asking organizations to tighten their budgets. It was suggested that funding for the 50th could come from a separate source rather than grantee funds. There was discussion about forming a subcommittee for planning, with interest in fundraising. The Council's convening power could be leveraged to raise funds without affecting resources for the field. The success of the 40th anniversary, especially the involvement of the Governor and legislators in Sacramento, was noted, and the idea was raised that the 50th could also become part of the Governor's legacy.

16. COMMITTEE/ Ad Hoc Reports

Each committee presented their memos to the Council.

- Strategic Framework Committee – [see memo](#).
- Equity Committee – [see memo](#).
- Partnerships (Ad Hoc) Committee – [see memo](#).

17. Council Open Discussion

In regard to the 50th anniversary celebration, Councilmember Estrada suggested that more effort should be put into increasing engagement on digital platforms.

Councilmember Estrada also shared her experience as a panelist for local grants on the SD Arts Commission. She emphasized the value of bringing people together for discussions and meetings. She expressed concern that smaller organizations often cannot compete with larger ones and recommended simplifying grant application forms, as she had heard similar feedback from several others.

Councilmember Estrada suggested that it would be beneficial for one council member to share updates on their work, teaching, or projects at each meeting. She also inquired about the process in engaging the field when they make public comment.

Executive Director Brazell responded that, due to Bagley-Keene rules, council members are not allowed to engage with the public after comments. However, she proposed creating a protocol for roundtable discussions with grantees and organizations, where they could attend meetings to listen, and staff would participate in creating a dynamic feedback loop.

Councilmember Goodwin mentioned that San Diego has been named the World Design Capital this year and suggested incorporating some of the dynamic work happening in the city into the council's discussions.

18. In Memoriam

Vice-Chair Goodwin read into the record of those honored in memoriam.

In Memoriam

November 21, 2024

Presented by Vice-Chair Goodwin

“Their art was their legacy, and it will continue to move and inspire others.”

—Anonymous

October 15, 2024, Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, one-fifth of the British boy band, died outside a hotel in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires. He was 31.

October 17 Mitzi Gaynor [Francesca von Gerber], American actor, singer, and dancer best known for *Anything Goes*; *South Pacific*, She was 93

October 24 Jack Jones, American Grammy Award-winning pop singer "The Love Boat" theme; "Lollipops And Roses"; "Wives and Lovers"), dies of leukemia, he was 86

October 24 Tom Jarriel, American broadcast journalist (ABC News, 1965-2002 - Weekend News; 20/20), he was 89

October 25 David Harris, American character actor (The Warriors; Hill Street Blues), dies of cancer at 75

October 25th, 2024, Peter Jonathan Harris, he was a prolific poet, writer, and cultural advocate. He was the Creator, Founder, and Artistic Director of Inspiration House, which served as a platform to produce cultural, artistic, educational, and media works that featured virtuoso performers.

October 25, Phil Lesh [Chapman], American rock bassist of the Grateful Dead - "Box of Rain", he was at 84

October 29 Teri Garr the American actress who starred in Young Frankenstein; Tootsie; and Mr. Mom dies of complications of multiple sclerosis. She was 79

November 02, 2024, Quincy Jones best known as the architect of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and the man who made stars collide for 1985's "We Are the World," had an extensive career as a composer and trumpeter who broke down racial boundaries in music and film. Jones won an astonishing 28 Grammy Awards throughout his career as an arranger and producer. He was 91,

November 2, 2024, Alan Rachins an Emmy-nominated actor who was best known for his time on L.A. Law and Dharma & Greg. He appeared in television shows including Barnaby Jones, Dallas, Brothers, The Outer Limits, Rizzoli & Isles and General Hospital.

November 3, 2024, Huckleberry Fox was an actor who appeared in television series and movies. He can be seen in episodes of *The Magical World of Disney*, *Tales from the Darkside* and *Screen Two*.

November 05, 2024, Tony Todd ,Award-winning actor best known for his roles in "Candyman" and "Final Destination," has died, his manager confirmed. He was 69.

November 6, 2024 Dorothy Earlene Allison she was an American writer whose writing focused on [class struggle](#), [sexual abuse](#), [child abuse](#), [feminism](#), and [lesbianism](#). She was a self-identified lesbian [femme](#).

November 9 Judith Jamison, American dancer and choreographer (artistic director of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater), she was 81

November 9 Lou Donaldson, American bebop jazz saxophonist ("Blues Walk"), and bandleader, he was 98

19. Closing Remarks

Chair Messina Captor thanked everyone for attending.

20. Adjournment

Chair Messina Captor adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM

CAC PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 22, 2024

- **Alejandro Gutierrez**
Arts Connection, San Bernardino County
Current or Former Grantee: State-Local Partner
RE: Agenda Item(s) 13. Governance Committee

I want to speak on attendance procedure and how it is taking place in LA once again. Meeting in different locations needs to reflect the diversity of communities across the state. Sometimes small cities and areas feel left out because can't come here. Encourage meetings in other locations including San Bernardino county. This approach would allow to strengthen the relationships and support initiatives.

- **Josiah Bruny**
California Arts Advocates
RE: Agenda Item(s) 13. Governance Committee

I'm here to advocate for equitable meeting spaces for artists. The relocation to LA from Redding undermines race equity statement in bylaws; also the last minute change makes it difficult for small organizations and people with children and disabilities to adjust.

- **Maeva**
- **Artistically Elevate Design**
RE: Agenda Item(s) 14. General Public Comment

Creative Economy ecosystem – who was this designed for? If it were designed for everyone there wouldn't be anyone left out. Encourage council to look at the definition of system. Look at the roots not the systems.

- **Leticia**
ACTA, Fresno County
Current or Former Grantee: FTA
RE: Agenda Item(s) 14. General Public Comment

Leticia (Dept Director for ACTA) - current AO role began in 2022. Strongly encourage CAC to prioritize FTA program for 2025 cycle. This field essential for supporting diversity and equitable practices. \$3.4 million in funding requests; 79% first time CAC applicants highlighting programs reach but only able to fund 18% of the pool. Sends a challenging message. Recommend baseline of \$2million per year.

- **Susan Parker (She/Her/Hers)**
Riverside County

I'm in a nonprofit music education still in its startup phase and greatly in need of a couple of volunteer board members who know how to run both meetings and the organization of the various departments. We've been stuck in this startup phase for several years now. I'd like to appeal to the appropriate people in offering funding specifically addressing this critical hardship rarely included in newly established incorporated businesses. The resources needed to make effective callings and/or acquire the appropriate leader(s) to set the organization's departments up functionally correct. Or at least one-on-one training resources to ensure proper steps of startup are reached. Thank you.

- **Julia Murphy (She/Her/Hers, They/Them/Theirs)**
Pedal Press, Butte County
Current or Former Grantee: JUMP StArts, Impact Projects
RE: Agenda Item(s) 14. General Public Comment; 17. Council Open Discussion

We originally wrote this letter for the Redding meeting, and we were excited that CAC was coming to the North State. The fact that the meeting was cancelled and subsequently relocated is not lost on us. We submit the letter for your consideration, nonetheless.

Rural Northern California's artists, educators, and organizations operate in conditions that hinder the growth of creative expression, education, and cultural equity. Without targeted support, the potential of these communities remains untapped.

Two actionable solutions could include: 1) Increasing CAC representation in this region with more meetings; 2) Appointing additional CAC regional leads to address barriers, and to participate in K-12 district meetings to ensure that LCFF VAPA allocations align with Strategic Arts Education Plans.

On a national level, our federal representation lacks strong support for the arts: Out of all California representatives, only two did not receive a "pro-arts" rating from Americans for the Arts ---D1 Rep Doug LaMalfa and D5, Tom McClintock.

This ideological resistance impacts education too. There are many anecdotes from art teachers about the prevailing negative conditions that art teachers experience in this region.

Equity is controversial for some in Northern California. Yet, it's vital. Our communities need strategic, substantial support to remove barriers to equity work in the arts.

Thank you for considering the unique needs of our region.

Signed,
Pedal Press, Chico

- **Kelly Curtis (She/Her/Hers)**
Small Business Owner - Photographer, Amador County

My name is Kelly Curtis, and I am a rural artist, mother, and arts advocate in Amador County. Through the Council's support for programs like the State-Local Partner Program, I have been contracted by the Amador County Arts Council to document their initiatives and programs. This work has provided me with a meaningful livelihood while allowing me to set an example for my children of what it means to work creatively and sustainably in the arts.

Our family participates in local arts events, experiencing how art connects people and strengthens our sense of belonging. From murals and free concerts to art classes and member meetups, rural arts initiatives foster collaboration, joy, and celebration in a way that is deeply needed in smaller, more isolated communities. Rural arts initiatives bring together neighbors and turn strangers into friends.

I also want to highlight the importance of having State-Local Partners and Executive Directors who are themselves artists, particularly in rural areas. Artists bring an intimate understanding of community needs and creative problem-solving, which ensures these programs are impactful and relevant.

In today's fast-paced and often isolating world, the arts provide an essential opportunity to feel grounded in our humanity and connected to one another. I urge the Council to continue and expand its support for rural arts initiatives, which not only enrich lives but also sustain livelihoods for working artists like myself.

- **Joselyn Wilkinson (She/Her/Hers)**
Grand Vision Foundation, Los Angeles County
Current or Former Grantee: Artists in Schools, Arts Education Exposure, Arts

Integration Training, California Creative Corps, Professional Development
RE: Agenda Item 10. DISCUSSION ITEM: FY 2025-2026 Programs

As a community arts organization based in the heavily industrialized LA Harbor area, we are proud to have grown our vital in-school music education programs over the past ten years with meaningful CAC support.

I'm concerned about the CAC's budget reduction, and the reduced rate at which you are funding long standing programs, as well as the longevity of other important grant programs including Artists in Schools. In past years, we provided standards-based, weekly in school music classes with the support of 3 grants, and this year have one, reduced, grant. This underfunding is a disservice to the hundreds of under-resourced students who will no longer receive Meet the Music programs that keep them engaged in school and ignite their creative spirits. Our support from LAUSD has shrunk as well, as they divert Prop 28 funds to their existing programs.

Please advocate for sufficient funding for the CAC to continue its operations and public services. Our communities and youth deserve consistent access to the life-affirming and skill building programs that will help them to succeed in school and in life.

Recently, Governor Newsom announced new tax subsidies for the entertainment industry citing "better than projected" revenue. The CAC and its grantees should also benefit from this projection, in order to build our state's creative future. Direct support of arts organizations "doing the work" in our communities needs to be deepened and assured for years to come. Thank you.

- **Cilladean Hopkins (They/Them/Theirs)**
Amador County Arts Council, Amador County
Current or Former Grantee: State-Local Partnership

I want to share the importance of our state local partner for myself and the community at large. I have been impacted by them since Elementary school where I received free arts classes. In Jr High and Highschool I participated in a variety of theater programs funded in part by this state local partner. For 3 years during high school, I served as a student director for them, increasing my knowledge and experience of arts administration, community engagement, and advocacy. In 2019, I graduated from Amador High and moved to Humboldt to attend Dell'Arte. I pursued this with the help of a scholarship I received from the slp. Growing up in Amador as an out nonbinary lesbian was traumatic and it forced me to leave as soon as possible. I know this is not an isolated incident and is only a fraction of what my BIPOC community members experience. The only reason I was able to survive was the safer space created by the slp, Amador Arts. This is the only entity in Amador doing ongoing antiracism work and policymaking, creating safer spaces for Black

and Indigenous communities. They are doing LGBTQ+ advocacy work and policy creation and are led by local Queer people. If the slp program did not exist, our Youth, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and Disabled community members would continue to be erased. The slp serving Amador is run by 11 local artists employed to serve all local kids and professional creatives in the county. Thank you for sustaining this important program.