



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

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## MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

October 25, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

### PRESENT:

#### Council Members

Consuelo (Chelo) Montoya, Chair  
Vicki Estrada, Vice-Chair  
Gerald Clarke  
Caleb Duarte  
Ellen Gavin  
Leah Goodwin  
Alex Israel  
Phil Mercado  
Roxanne Messina Captor  
Nicola Miner  
Olivia Raynor

#### Arts Council Staff

Jonathan Moscone, Executive Director  
Kayla Ungar, Chief Deputy Director  
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director  
Artemio Armenta, Public Affairs Director  
Kristin Margolis, Director of Programs  
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist  
Mason Diab, Council Liaison  
Qiana Moore, Outreach & Events Coordinator  
Zachary Hill, Information Technology Associate

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Montoya opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

### 2. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement

Council member Caleb Duarte delivered the CAC's [Land Acknowledgement](#) at the top of the meeting. He also read his [personal statement](#).

### **3. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum, and Community Agreements**

Director of Public Affairs Armenta conducted a roll call.

**Present:** Chair Consuelo Montoya, Vice Chair Vicki Estrada, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Ellen Gavin, Leah Goodwin, Alex Israel, Phil Mercado, Roxanne Messina Captor, Nicola Miner and Olivia Raynor.

With 11 of 11 present, a quorum was achieved.

Chair Montoya stated: Due to personal matters that needed immediate attention, our Executive Director Jonathan Moscone will not be at our meeting today but will watch the recording later.

Chair Montoya continued with the CAC Community Agreements. The list of Dos and Don'ts was read into the record by Chair Montoya and Vice Chair Estrada.

### **4. Chair's Report**

Chair Montoya delivered her [Chair's report](#) to the Council and attendees, acknowledging the end of her term and thanking her fellow Council members for their service.

She reminded Council of the value of hearing one another's viewpoints to make informed and intentional decisions for the year ahead, and to remember that every decision has an impact to the field.

She then introduced Chief Deputy Director Kayla Ungar to deliver the Executive Director's Report on behalf of Executive Director Jonathan Moscone.

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

Chief Deputy Director Ungar provided the [Executive Director's report](#):

### **6. [Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Council Meeting](#)**

Members of Council expressed their concerns over lack of clarity and corrections needed within the August Council meeting minutes. Parliamentarian Jim Stewart clarified that voting against the minutes is not the manner in which to proceed; instead, if the corrections are too significant to be addressed during this meeting, they should be returned to CAC staff for revision.

Chair Montoya then called for a motion to return the minutes to staff for revision.

**MOTION:** Council Member Clarke moved to have the August 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes returned to staff for revisions. Council Member Messina Captor.

**VOTE:** Yes: Chair Montoya, Vice Chair Estrada, Council Members Clarke, Duarte, Gavin, Goodwin, Israel, Mercado, Messina Captor, Miner, and Raynor.

Abstain: None.

The motion passes with yes=11 and no=0.

Chair Montoya clarified to ask Council to review the minutes once again and also the corresponding recording that is available. If they have specific corrections to make, they would provide that to the staff. Minutes would be re-presented at the next meeting.

Chair Montoya asked Chief Deputy Director Ungar to assign a staff member to receive this. Chief Deputy Director Ungar confirmed Council Liaison Mason Diab as the point person.

Chair Montoya acknowledged: Okay.

Parliamentarian Jim Stewart Madame made one more correction to the process, indicating that the roll call vote should have the Chair vote last, not first, and the Vice Chair should be second to the last.

## **7. Presentation: Californians for the Arts (CFTA)**

Chair Montoya introduced Californians for the Arts CEO Julie Baker to deliver a presentation.

CEO Julie Baker covered work and areas affected by CFTA. Examples included a number of artist organizations and cultural groups.

She mentioned the CFTA's lobbying efforts for an additional \$20 million to the California Arts Council for 2024 to aide the Council in their funding decisions.

Council Member Gavin asked for clarification on meeting with elected officials to advocate for funding.

Baker stated that Council members cannot advocate as Council Members for the state agency itself, but can as a taxpaying individual, meet with district-elected officials and let them know how important the California Arts Council and public funding for the arts is.

She encouraged all Council Members to let the Governor's Office know what they are seeing and what the needs are. That information exchange would be welcomed, and it is important for them to hear from the Council.

Chief Deputy Director Ungar highlighted that information regarding communication with state officials is contained in the Handbook, which was shared in June and will be updated before the end of this year.

## 8. [Voting Item: Allocations Addition to 2023 Grants](#)

Chair Montoya invited Council Members Olivia Raynor and Vicki Estrada our Vice Chair to provide their [report which will included the Committee's recommendations](#).

[Click here for the full meeting public comment](#).

Chair Montoya called for a motion on this item. Vice Chair Estrada moved to approve the Allocations Committee recommended scenario.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Estrada moved to approve the allocation of \$399,998 as follows:

- In GenOps Tier 2: 2 organizations ranked 5.25 funded at 67% of their requested amounts.
- In GenOps Tier 3: 7 organizations ranked 5.2 funded at 83% of their requested amounts; and 11 organizations ranked 5 funded at 56% of their requested amounts.

Coming from a Committee, a second to the motion is not needed.

**VOTE:** Yes: Council Member Raynor, Miner, Messina Captor, Mercado, Israel, Goodwin, Gavin, Duarte, Clarke, Vice Chair Estrada, and Chair Montoya.

No: None.

Abstain: None.

The motion passes with yes=11 and no=0.

## 9. General Public Comment

Chair Montoya explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Public Affairs Director Artemio Armenta explained the process and provided specific instructions.

[Click here for the full meeting public comment](#).

## 10. Break

A break was taken from 12:10 p.m. to 12:25 p.m.

## 11. 2024 Grant Cycle Discussion

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin proposed two options, either merging the Program Policy and Allocations Committee to avoid the conflicts of one Committee's work with another's in providing a consistent voice or to conduct ad hoc, publicly noticed meetings of the two committees at crucial times.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin proceeded to read through the Memo and advised that the Guiding Principles of the committee be incorporated into the work. The following principles were outlined:

- To position artists and art producing organizations front and center.
- To design programs and encourage interstate culture exchange, north to south, rural to urban.
- To safeguard the creation of original artwork in all of its forms.
- To ensure that practicing artists and arts organizations have a primary seat at the table in all collaborations with prisons, with schools, cultural districts, social service agencies, and all other state agencies.
- To support and encourage a living wage with benefits for artists at various career stages.
- To nurture growth and the stability of diverse organizations that have different levels of development.
- And to ensure Council staff will always have the resources and capacity and funding to implement programs, particularly when they are called on by other state agencies to do work. To design a panel process to select diverse panelists with professional expertise and provide them with reasonable compensation in trying to engage with each other to achieve fair outcomes.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin expressed the intent to prioritize the CAC's programs using that align with the following values:

- Accessibility and inclusion.
- Economy with accountability.
- Equity prioritizing racial injustice, representation and disabilities of all groups.
- And sustainability, wise impactful and responsive growth.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin suggested that the CAC programs limit the size of eligible groups to organizations with budgets under three million which would allow the CAC to refocus the agency's limited resources on the diverse majority – those arts organizations operating in the small, midsize, and slightly larger categories.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin suggested that small, entry level grants would not require a match yet CAC grants above 25,000 should require at least a one-to-one match. And the grants should be commensurate with budget size.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin also suggested setting aside two million dollars to create education programs that match well with new Prop 28 money. She suggested redesigning this program into an “Anchor Institution Project”.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin proposed implementing three pilot programs:

- The Native American Initiative
- Emerging Cultural Districts (10)
- The Multi-Cultural Anchor Institutions Project.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin expressed her support of a touring program. She asked that a \$25,000 commitment be made to come up with a more modernized plan and requested the development of a focus group.

Councilmembers Gavin and Goodwin expressed her concerns about the amount of money that is awarded to SLPs for general operating. She shared her preference of wanting to see this money going to programs that are advancing the arts in communities that do not have the opportunities that the bigger cities do.

Chair Montoya moved on to Item 3 and invited comments.

Vice Chair Estrada was recognized and stated that organizations should not be looked at as just the organization itself and urged the Council to look at the impact they have in the community.

Chair Montoya announced: Item 4 regarding State and Local Partners.

Chair Montoya asked for clarification whether it was the Council’s endorsement to defund organizations over a certain amount of money.

Council Member Duarte was recognized and asked for clarification whether limiting the State and Local Partners funding that exceeded a certain amount would be reallocated to a State and Local Partner that needed more support, or if it were being placed in a different bucket.

Chair Montoya then moved on to Item 5, GenOps.

Council Member Gavin clarified that the Policy Committee’s proposal is that when grants are 25,000, they should require at least a one-to-one match.

Chair Montoya moved on to Item 6, Education Programming and welcomed further discussion.

Vice Chair Estrada expressed her support of the proposal.

Chair Montoya then moved on to Item 7, the State and Regional Networks.

Chair Montoya then moved on to Item 8. and asked for feedback regarding the Native American Initiative and Emerging Cultural Districts and new programs the Council proposed.

She expressed her support the Multi-Cultural Anchor Institutions Project, all three ideas.

Chair Montoya noted that an agreement had been reached and thanked the Council for a rich and robust discussion and noted that there is a lot more work to be done.

#### **12. [Presentation: Alameda County Arts Commission \(ACAC\).](#)**

Rachel Osajima presented information and activities pertinent to the Alameda County Arts Commission via a slide presentation. Historical data as well as ongoing developments were discussed.

#### **13. [Presentation: Oakland City Cultural Affairs Division of Economic and Workforce Development.](#)**

Roberto Bedoya addressed the Council and presented historical data relating to work done by the Cultural Affairs Division. Roberto covered a number of government activities and current undertakings of the Division.

#### **14. [Committee Reports.](#)**

Council Member Mercado asked on behalf of the Strategic Framework Committee that the other committees – the Executive, the Governance, the Race, Equity, Programs Policy, Legislative, Allocations, and Nominating – to identify their top three priorities from those listed on the worksheet provided. He asked that Council Members configure them as smart goals – being specific, measurable, relevant, and timely.

Council Member Mercado requested the Strategic Framework Committee receive this data and information from you by November 7 so that it can be discussed it at the November 17 meeting if at all possible.

Council Member Raynor chimed in: It seems like all the committees are pretty active right now. In light of the discussions around the principles and the decision-making tool, it would be really useful for us to at least have some preliminary information to present at that time.

Chair Montoya encouraged Council Members to aim for the deadline that has been requested.

Chair Montoya asked staff to clarify the significant of the Cultural Pathways opportunity when vetted against Prop 209.

Director of Programs Kristin Margolis replied that staff is happy to present more information on that at the next Council meeting, where they can then go into detail and answer questions specifically.

#### **15. In Memoriam.**

- Ernesto Palomino was the grand daddy of Chicano art in the Central Valley.
- William Howard contributed to a lot of nonprofit organizations.
- Abel Silvas was a local indigenous activist in San Diego.
- Juanishi Orosco was an amazing artist known in the Chicano Movement.

#### **16. Adjournment**

Chair Montoya adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

DRAFT