



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

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Danielle Brazell, **Executive Director**  
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## **MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833

The members of the California Arts Council convened in Sacramento and via web conference to discuss and vote on various items as listed in the minutes below. The full audio and video of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

### **Council Members Present In-Person:**

Roxanne Messina Captor, Chair  
Gerald Clarke  
Vicki Estrada  
Roy Hirabayashi  
Nicola Miner  
Olivia Raynor

### **Council Members Present Virtually:**

Caleb Duarte  
Ellen Gavin  
Alex Israel  
Olivia Raynor

### **Council Members Absent:**

Leah Goodwin, Vice-Chair  
Phil Mercado

### **Arts Council Staff Present:**

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director  
Kayla Ungar, Chief Deputy Director  
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director  
Carissa Gutierrez, Public Affairs Director  
Kristin Margolis, Director of Programs

Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist  
Mason Diab, Council Liaison  
Amy Garrett, Arts Programs Manager  
Charlie O'Malley, Literary Arts Specialist  
Yaquelin Ruiz, Arts Program Analyst

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair Messina Captor opened the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

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

Council Liaison Diab conducted a roll call.

**Present:** Chair Roxanne Messina Captor, Gerald Clarke, Caleb Duarte, Vicki Estrada, Ellen Gavin, Roy Hirabayashi, Alex Israel, Nicola Miner and Olivia Raynor.

With 9 of 11 present a quorum was achieved.

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

Council Member Gerald Clarke read the CAC Land and Peoples Acknowledgement into the record and added a personal statement.

## **4. Opening Remarks and Community Agreements**

Community Agreements were read into the record by Chair Messina Captor and Executive Director Brazell.

## **5. Welcome from the City of Sacramento**

Megan Van Voorhis welcomed the CAC on behalf of the city of Sacramento via a PowerPoint presentation.

## **6. [Chair's Report](#)**

Chair Messina Captor provided a verbal report.

## **7. [Executive Director's Report](#)**

Executive Director Brazell provided a verbal report.

## **8. Voting Item: Council Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The [November 17, 2023](#) and [March 1, 2024](#) Meeting Minutes were approved.

Council Member Raynor and Council Member Gavin voiced technical on-the-record corrections and/or additions to the November 17, 2023 Minutes.

## 9. Voting Item: Grant Panelists Pool

(A break was taken at 11:27 a.m.)

Arts Programs Manager Amy Garrett and Arts Programs Analyst Yacquelin Ruiz presented information pertinent to the CAC's Grant Panelists Pool.

### **In-Person Public Comment**

Jennifer Caballero, California Association of Museums:

- I am a previous CAC panelist, and I learned a lot.
- If only 20 percent of previous panelists return, we need to do a better job at retaining trained panelists.
- I encourage the expansion of the panelist pool and maximize current applicants.

### **Council Discussion**

Council Members discussed a number of points:

- Panelist group meetings are important and continued uniform outreach is needed.
- An effort must be made to increase the 20 percent return rate of previously trained panelists. Institutional memory is affected by this return rate.
- The application period was expanded from 4 to 8 weeks, probably contributing to expansion of applicants.
- Training of new panelists is extensive and constantly evolving.
- The panelist pool should be considered when putting together our ad hoc committees.
- The disability status of panelists should be captured.
- How do we gauge success regarding social equity?
- Panelists' pay and workload affect the number of panelists willing to apply.
- Data compilation is crucial for valid decision making.

Deputy Director Kiburi thanked the Council for their discussion and stated that a many of these issues would be discussed at the August 1, 2024, meeting.

Council Liaison Diab read the following into the record:

**MOTION:** Council Member Estrada moved to approve the Grant Panelist Pool as presented, seconded by Council Member Clarke.

**VOTE:**

YES: Council Members: Clarke, Duarte, Estrada, Gavin, Hirabayashi, Israel, Miner, Raynor, and Chair Messina Captor.

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

There were 9 Yes Votes and 0 No Votes. The motion passed.

**10. Lunch Break**

**11. [Presentation: Poetry Out Loud](#)**

Don Harris, Chair and previous President of the Council was recognized by Chair Messina Captor.

Literary Arts Specialist Charlie O'Malley introduced this item sharing history, ongoing developments and potential future of the Poetry Out Loud program. Guest speaker Ailidh Ruthven, county champion for the county of Sacramento read a poem for attendees.

**12. General Public Comment**

Chair Messina Captor explained the purpose and prohibitions for making Public Comment at CAC meetings. Public Affairs Director Gutierrez explained the process and provided specific instructions.

**In-Person Public Comment:**

Jennifer Caballero, California Association of Museums:

- The California Association of Museums is advocating for an increase in funding for the CAC.
- There are still many communities in California hoping for a local cultural district designation.
- Arts in the Park is a much appreciated and favored program.

Claire Curley, Executive Director, Broad Room Creative Collective:

- We are a non-profit organization in Northern California.
- We provide studio space to thousands of Sacramento Artists.
- We thank the CAC for our grantee status.

Kofi Odum, Progressive Innovative Concepts INC:

- We are an events management production company.
- We showcase the unique spaces of California.

Chase Coney, Manager, Nevada Theater:

- We are part of the Nevada County Grass Valley Cultural District.
- We are the oldest continuous use theater in the United States.
- We presented 213 performances last year, predominantly from local producers and performers.
- We were dismayed to find out that we would not receive our grant this year because we don't meet the \$250,000 annual income floor for consideration.
- Meeting the incentives we would have to follow to meet this income floor would be anathema to our stated goal.
- We are asking what the rationale for this stipulation was and how you would advise us now that we are no longer a grantee of CAC funds.

**Virtual Public Comment:**

Michael Tamony, Director of Development at the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley:

- We serve a rural community with a lot of need, and we bring diversity to the community.
- We also produced World Fest which brought music from all around the world to our rural community.
- Our need for exposure to diversity is even greater than in urban settings.
- Flexibility is needed in your financial thresholds.

Jennifer Laine, Executive Director of the San Bonito County Arts Council in Hollister:

- We serve as a CAC State and Local Partner.
- There are 54 of us that serve as SLPs, and we thank you for our convening earlier this week.
- On behalf of our coalition, we are here to collaborate and work with the CAC.

Alexandra Urbanowski, Director, Silicone Valley Creates:

- We are the State and Local Partner for Santa Clara County.
- This nearly 40-year partnership with the CAC has been critical to our ability to leverage the partnership and our annual SLP grant to serve a diverse portfolio of over 85 small arts organizations and hundreds of individual artists.
- We all work together to promote equity in the arts community, equitable access to the arts, and continue in our partnerships.

Maeva, an inter-disciplinary conceptual artist:

- I am the owner of Artistically Elevated Design, an art and social design studio.
- I welcome all the new Council Members and thank you CAC for extending the allotted time for public comments.
- It is important to have a Council that listens to the public in order to build trust.
- As a former grant panelist I definitely want to learn more about your process.

Hilary Amnah, Grants Program Lead, City of Berkeley Civic Arts:

- I congratulate CAC staff for opening all of the grant applications for this cycle.
- I did have a little bit of pause after seeing some of the eligibility requirements for the operating support grants.
- The \$250,000 threshold and the one-to-one match are barriers to a lot of the organizations in the city of Berkeley.
- General operating support is one of the most crucial types of funding in our sector. This type of funding greatly contributes to the success and sustainability of our arts organizations.
- Use data generated from the grant management system to see where there may be gaps in serving some of the smaller organizations.

**Written Public Comment:**

- Tandy Beal (She/Her/Hers), Friends of Olympia Station, Santa Cruz County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Artists in Schools, Arts Education Exposure

Why did you stop the AIS program? With it we were able to reach thousands of students in 3 counties most effectively. Prop 28 monies does not fund what we were able to do.

- James Rhodes (He/Him/His), Together with Veterans-Operation New Earth-Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mariposa County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Impact Projects

The Washington State Arts Council works closely with the Veterans Administration regarding Art as Therapy and Animals as Therapy programs. Our non-profit is the pilot program for the entire state of California regarding the V.A.'s Veterans Rural Health Initiative which include art related therapies. We want to establish a program in California similar to the one in current operation in Washington state- can someone ANYONE contact me about this? At least (this time?) acknowledge you got this? Veterans feel this is significant, what will it take for the state bureaucracy to do the same?

- Nina Avina-Rhodes (She/Her/Hers), Together with Veterans-Operation New Earth-Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mariposa County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Impact Projects

I want to agree with the comments previously submitted by James Rhodes regarding the Arts as Therapy programs approved by the Veterans Administration and the data base that California should have and be made available for immediate public use.

- Anonymous  
Previous or Current Grantee: California Cultural Districts

Grants take a long time to receive. More support is needed for inquiries

- Anonymous, Contra Costa County

Our nonprofit was disappointed to see that the CAC budget parameters for this year's grants had changed to leave out all small organizations. We are a nonprofit of \$100,000 budget and had received an operating relief grant during Covid times which helped us survive. Now we are struggling to make it with AB5 costs and low audience attendance. Being able to apply for the CAC grants could make all the difference for us. We hope you will consider lowering the threshold again. Thank you.

- Justina Martino (She/Her/Hers), Art Tonic, Capitol Creative Alliance (has received the below grants), Sacramento Arts Culture and Creative Economy Commission, Sacramento County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief, Statewide and Regional Networks  
RE: Agenda Item 9. VOTING ITEM: Grant Panelists Pool

Hello, everyone. Thank you for the hard work and dedication you all put into supporting California's amazing arts and cultural communities. I hope you can internalize the huge impact you're making!

I recently applied to join the grant panelist pool because panel service offers a valuable opportunity to gain insights into successful grant submissions while also allowing me to contribute, in a small way, to uplifting artists and culture bearers. However, reflecting on my own experience, I've come to realize that there may be barriers preventing many other talented folks from participating.

One such barrier is the modest \$300 stipend provided to panelists. I believe it falls short of adequately compensating for the time and effort required to conscientiously review a large number of applications. For many, including myself, committing 10-30 hours to serving on a panel means sacrificing income from paid work, leading to financial strain. And it's important to acknowledge that I speak from a position of privilege compared to others who face even greater barriers.

I suggest adjusting the panelist stipend to better align with the expectations placed on panelists. A more substantial stipend would not only acknowledge the value of panelists but also ensure that panel service is accessible to a more diverse range of individuals, reflecting the richness of California's creative landscape.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

- Dante Alencastre, Los Angeles County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief  
RE: Agenda Item 9. VOTING ITEM: Grant Panelists Pool

My name is Dante Alencastre, he/him pronouns. I'm the executive director of the California LGBT Arts Alliance, our organization is based in LA. Our mission is to nurture and produce emerging LGBTQ+ artists in SoCal. The art we present deal with social justice, racial equity, living with HIV/AIDS, gender identity, surviving child abuse, addiction, and many more issues that our community grapples with on a daily basis. The Alliance is celebrating its 10th year anniversary unfunded by the CAC after a glorious relationship that lasted 9 years.

As my community is dealing with an onslaught of bans, attacks, and threats to our existence, the artist finds solace and healing in practicing their art. It pains the Alliance that we are not able to provide the safe space and platform for our young artists to thrive. After our latest rejection letter I found myself thinking about the folks in the panels who get to read our pleas for funding. Our last panel review was so lopsided that I wonder how that can happen. In the past two other rejections have been overturned on appeal, I believe that the rejection came about because the Alliance's support of exclusively of LGBTQ+ has been historically minimized and underestimated.

The Alliance's annual budget is barely under 50k and without CAC's support is even less but we won't be able to apply for OGP this cycle which might well mean be the end of organization.

I urge the Council's staff to vet and instruct panelists not to underestimate us.

- Juliet Rodriguez (She/Her/Hers), Oceanside CA Cultural District, San Diego County  
Previous or Current Grantee: California Cultural Districts, Impact Projects  
RE: Agenda Item 13. PRESENTATION: Local Cultural Districts

I am writing to express my support for increased funding, advocacy and visibility for California Cultural Districts. Cultural Districts play an essential role in uplifting the arts and culture assets of our local communities.

Our districts provide opportunities for local residents to celebrate and share their cultural heritage, artistic expressions, and lived experiences. The cultural district program empowers and supports essential community spaces, events, and artists, enabling them to sustain their practice for the betterment of our society.

By further investing in these districts, we support community wellness, stimulate economic growth, and employ creatives with livable wages.



The Oceanside CA Cultural District is a valuable community resource for Oceanside's creative and cultural practitioners. With increased support, we can further develop the positive impact of our district. Through recent cultural district grant funding from CAC, our district was enabled to expand programming, employ a staff member, and create new opportunities for community involvement and collaboration.

I urge decision-makers to prioritize and allocate resources towards strengthening California Cultural Districts. The greater support we receive, the better equipped we are to nurture and create visibility for our cultural heritage, arts, and communities.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to supporting the arts.

- Felicia Shaw (She/Her/Hers), San Diego ART Matters, San Diego County  
Previous or Current Grantee: Statewide and Regional Networks

Good morning! Allow me to introduce San Diego ART Matters. If you are unfamiliar with our name, it is because we were known as the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition for 35 years. On April 5, we kicked off Arts Culture and Creativity Month and celebrated the launch of our renamed and rebranded organization. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of individual artists and nonprofit arts and culture organizations throughout San Diego County. Their work is important, but their needs are great. This is why CAC funding is critical to our organization and is so appreciated. We look forward to applying to the SRN grant program this year and are glad this program is here for service organizations like ours. To learn more about San Diego ART Matters, visit our new website at [sdartmatters.org](http://sdartmatters.org). Thank you!

### **13. [Presentation: Local Cultural Districts](#)**

Eliza Tudor, Executive Director of the Nevada County Arts Council presented via a PowerPoint presentation.

### **14. [Presentation: Arts in California Parks](#)**

Isby Fleischman, Senior Executive, PlaceWorks presented via a PowerPoint presentation.

### **15. [Discussion: Committee Priorities](#)**

Chair Messina Captor called on the different Committees to report on any developments that have occurred. The Committees present were: Allocations, Executive, Equity, Governance, Programs, Nominating, Programs Policy, Strategic Framework, and Ad Hoc Disability Access and Inclusion. Not present was the Ad Hoc Financial Partners Committee.

Council Member Gavin remembered laying out the Ad Hoc Committees via a Programs Committee memo in a previous meeting.

Executive Director Brazell noted:

- Committees are a part of the function of the CAC.
- Staff is tasked with operationalizing the policy goals and recommendations of the Council.
- Committees are codified in the Council's bylaws and exist to advance the mission of the Agency in alignment with the adopted strategic framework.
- This will be done in accordance with the adopted Strategic Plan and the Decision Support Tools.
- As stated in the By-laws, each Committee shall have a charge which shall include its objectives, its proposed work schedule, reporting deadlines and termination dates.
- Each Committee shall report out to the Council at least twice a year to share updates and decisions.
- All Committees are subject to the Bagley-Keene legislation of the Meeting Act.
- Recommendations are brought to the full Council for discussion and voting.
- Staff reports to the Executive Director who is responsible for the operations of the agency.
- Due to historical and existing conditions the CAC is undergoing significant development and prioritization of activities to optimize functionality.
- Over the next few months, Staff will work closely with Council members in advancing the goals outlined in the Committee Charter.

## 16. [In Memoriam](#)

- Poet Sojourner Kincaid Rolle was the Poet Laureate for the city of Santa Barbara.
- Dickey Betts was a founding member and guitarist for the Allman Brothers Band.
- Robert MacNeil of the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour on PBS, passed at the age of 93.
- Mister Cee, a New York radio personality helped launch careers for many hip-hop artists.
- Adrian Schiller was known for his role in Netflix's historical drama, *The Last Kingdom*.
- Christopher Durang was a playwright of absurdist comedies.
- Joe Flaherty played the Weir family patriarch on *Freaks and Geeks*.
- Tim McGovern won an Oscar for his work on *Total Recall*.
- Louis Gossett Jr. was best known for his performance in *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Roots*.
- Paula Weinstein was the chief content officer at Tribeca Enterprises.

- M. Emmet Walsh was best known for his role as Detective Loren Visser in *Blood Simple*.
- David Seidler was an Oscar-winning screenwriter.
- Joe Camp was the creative force behind the *Benji* franchise.
- Jess Curtis was an award-winning choreographer.
- Bo\$\$ was a rapper best known for the album, *Born Gangstaz*.
- Eric Carmen was the frontman of the Raspberries.
- Steve Lawrence was a Grammy and Emmy-winning entertainer.
- Faith Ringgold was best known for her narrative quilts.
- Jim Beard was a jazz pianist best known for his work with Steely Dan.
- Akira Toriyama was a Japanese manga artist.
- Robert Cavalli was an Italian fashion designer.
- Eleanor Coppola was the wife of Francis Ford Coppola and produced the documentary, *Hearts of Darkness*.
- Park Boram was a young Korean artist.

## **17. Closing Remarks**

Chair Messina Captor thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

## **18. Adjournment**

Chair Messina Captor adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.