



MINUTES

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

July 17, 2025
Irvine Fine Arts Center
14321 Yale Avenue
Irvine, CA 92604

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order at 4:01 p.m. on July 17, 2025, at the Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale Avenue, Irvine, California; Chair Maeda presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5	Committee Member	Paul Abbaszadeh*
	Committee Member	Mimi Falcone
	Committee Member	Beverly Jacobs
	Vice Chair	Katie Adams Farrell
	Chair	Kirsten Maeda
	*Left at 4:12 p.m. and returned at 4:43 p.m.	

Absent: 2	Committee Member	Jetta Gamboa
	Committee Member	Matthew Hustad

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Maeda led the pledge of allegiance.

PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETING

Recording Secretary, Karla Fandel, provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Ellen Breitman, Irvine resident and Arts OC board member, spoke about the desire to have Irvine residents brainstorm new public art ideas citing the example of Cloud Gate (the Bean) in Chicago.

Ellen Breitman, Irvine resident and Arts OC board member, suggested the Arts in Irvine statistics shared in the meeting should also be shared publicly. Supervisor Staniec confirmed

C&E Department is working on graphics to be posted. Ellen brought up concerns that the Shahyad Tower proposal is piecemeal and had concerns on how to handle memorial art. Ellen would like more community member input before the Shahyad Tower is approved. Cory Hilderbrand, Community & Library Services Manager, informed the group that discussion of the Shahyad Tower will take place during the October meeting. Vice Chair Adams Farrell noted that community input is the first action. Superintendent Murphy made note that she will filter through the CS email to identify public interests and bring the information to the committee.

Vasa, co-owner of V+V Art Legacy, asked how to apply to create public art that includes collaboration with Irvine Unified School District (IUSD). Superintendent Murphy notified Vasa of the online application. Chair Maeda suggested contacting IUSD for collaborative art projects. Vasa referenced a public art piece V+V Art Legacy made in Laguna Beach. Chair Maeda suggested Vasa connect with the Irvine Public School Foundation to collaborate with IUSD. Vice Chair Adams Farrell mentioned sub-committee on community art and offered to connect with Vasa after the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

Manager Hilderbrand introduced Karla Fandel, Program Coordinator, as the new Recording Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee Member Abbaszadeh asked if the Committee and Manager Hilderbrand had seen the film festival proposal.

Manager Hilderbrand made the following announcements:

- Superintendent Dean Mattson retired.
- Laura Murphy was promoted to Arts Superintendent and is the new point of contact for the Public Arts Committee.
- Great Park Gallery exhibition: Journey through the Maze on view through September 28, 2025. The exhibition included turning the Great Park balloon into Pacman. Enhancement activity: SlushCult fingerboards distributed 100 mini fingerboards to participants.
- Art at City Hall: MCAS El Toro on view through August 1, 2025.
- Irvine Fine Arts Center exhibition: 41st Irvine Annual on view through August 30, 2025.
- Manager Hildebrand presented Shahyad Tower proposal to the Community & Library Services Commission on July 16, 2025. The Commission made a motion to move the item forward after it is discussed with the Public Arts Committee. Shahyad Tower proposal members are working on the education component before it goes to City Council. Will bring it back to the Public Arts Committee at a special meeting or at the planned meeting in October. Plan to present to Council no later than December 1, 2025. Discussion ensued among the committee members including:
 - Chair Maeda asked who the Public Arts Committee can ask questions regarding Shahyad Tower proposal.
 - Manager Hilderbrand suggested looking at the Community & Library Commission agenda.

- Committee Member Jacobs asked that committee members receive additional educational information on the Shahyad Tower proposal.
- Manager Hilderbrand confirmed committee members will receive additional information before the next meeting.
- Committee Member Adams Farrell stated the Shahyad Tower material was confusing and received a call from a council member who was confused.
- Manager Hilderbrand stated if there is council approval the Shahyad Tower proposers will need to demonstrate they have the funds to pay for the Shahyad Tower before it moves forward.

Superintendent Murphy and Supervisor Staniec gave the following highlights on the fiscal year 2024-2025 arts programming:

- 23 total art exhibitions.
- 36 individual activity arts programs.
- 66 partners (other museums, non-profits).
- Art at City Hall: 146 participating artists, 9 exhibitions.
- Fine Arts Center: 93 participating artists, 6 exhibitions, 12,785 in attendance.
- Irvine Annual Report: 1,366 submissions, over 700 attendees at two-hour opening reception, exceeded revenue expectations by 43%, 72 regional and national participating artists.
- Great Park Gallery: 122 participating artists, 8 exhibitions, 40,439 in attendance.
- Updates on Journey Through the Maze exhibit: since opening May 18 has had 6,790 attendees, opening reception saw 2,161 attendees, 1,114 participants in special activity, total exhibition attendance projected to exceed 13,000 by closing.
- Arts Programs update:
 - Adult Studio Programs: 6,442 Open Studio participants, 2,020 adult class participants.
 - Youth Programs: 1,908 recreation class participants in 156 programs, 603 participants in 38 weeks of arts and culinary camp programs.
 - Arts Events: receptions, festivals, tours, program enhancements: 36 programs, 295 participating artists, 9,489 people in attendance and 19,325 at festivals.
 - Arts team facilitated over 84 collaborations with major institutions including Cal State Fullerton, University Archive and Special Collections, Glendale Arts Library, Heritage Museum of Orange County, Long Beach Museum of Art, Orange County Department of Education, Otis College of Art & Design, UCI, and more.
- Official launch of Arts in Irvine website and social media platforms

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

ACTION: Moved by Committee Member Falcone, seconded by Committee Member Jacobs, and unanimously carried (Committee Members Gamboa and Hustad absent) to approve the minutes of the Public Arts Committee special meeting held April 17, 2025.

2. PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

ACTION: Staff provided updates to the Public Arts Committee Work Plan.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Manager Hilderbrand discussed Committee Member Abbaszadeh's interest in a film festival proposal though it is not committee's responsibility to direct staff in a program. Suggested Committee members research more about past film festivals and discuss with their respected council member.

Committee Member Jacobs inquired about status of grant applications. Manager Hilderbrand provided an update that grants applied for have been denied. It was suggested the committee members share grant opportunities in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice Chair Adams Farrell, seconded by Committee Member Falcone, and unanimously carried to adjourn the special Public Arts Committee meeting at 5:05 p.m.



KARLA FANDEL
RECORDING SECRETARY



KIRSTEN MAEDA, CHAIR
DATE APPROVED: 10/16/25