



# City of Pomona

## Cultural Arts Commission

### Draft Action Minutes

*Chairperson Christian Ornelas*  
*Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soseith*  
*Commissioner Jovani Esparza*  
*Commissioner Angel Arellano*  
*Commissioner Dianna Batts*  
*Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier*  
*Commissioner Joshua Swodeck*

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December 22, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ornelas called the Cultural Arts Commission meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Ornelas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson Christian Ornelas  
Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth  
Commissioner Dianna Batts  
Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier  
Commissioner Jovani Esparza  
Commissioner Angel Arellano  
Commissioner Joshua Swodeck

Absent: None

Staff Present: Ata Khan, Office & Economic of Business Affairs Deputy Director  
Jocelyn Ayala, Art in Public Places Program Manager  
June Ku, Art in Public Places Program Coordinator

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Batts requested a status update on the unfinished fountains on Second. Deputy Director Khan stated that it would be brought as an agenda item in January.

Chairperson Ornelas shared that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has opened a grant available to municipal entities.

Commissioner Arellano asked who is in charge of the city website calendar. Deputy Director Khan responded IT and City Clerk. Commissioner Arellano shared that the city website calendar is not updated with the Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

Commissioner Esparza shared it is the last day to purchase See's Candy at the Alley Gallery.

Commissioner Swodeck shared that it has been an honor to serve on the Cultural Arts Commission and will be terming out after the meeting. The Commission thanked Commissioner Swodeck for his public service.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1. Approval of the Action Minutes from the October 27, 2025 Meeting of the Cultural Arts Commission.**
- 2. Approval of the Action Minutes from the November 24, 2025 Meeting of the Cultural Arts Commission.**

**A motion by Commissioner Swodeck, seconded by Chairperson Ornelas, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (7-0-0-0) to approve Action minutes from the October 27, 2025 Meeting of the Cultural Arts Commission.**

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – yes; Commissioner Angel Arellano – yes; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy A. Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

**IN OPPOSITION:** None

**IN SUPPORT:** None

**DISCUSSION TIME:** 1 minute (5:36 p.m. to 5:37 p.m.)

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. For All Seasons Mural Request**

Deputy Director Khan shared that due to repeated tagging, staff requests the relocation of the mural titled For All Seasons by Artist Alexandra Garcia onto metal panels to make preservation easier and less costly.

Commissioner Esparza asked what will happen to the original mural wall to which Artist Alexandra Garcia responded that the walls would be painted their original beige color. She shared that there's no way to prevent tagging which is why relocating the murals onto panels that are easier to clean is a great idea.

Commissioner Tessier asked if the mural could be relocated to another part of the park. Deputy Director Khan stated that it could be part of the motion.

Commissioner Swodeck showed support for the idea whereas Commissioner Tessier disapproved of its location on a bathroom and suggested having it free standing in the park instead. Commissioner Swodeck stated that moving the panels could be the second step to this process but requires the approval of the panels first.

Cathy Tessier spoke in public comment and stated that the Envision the Future mural was estimated to cost \$125,000 to restore.

Gilbert Ortega spoke in public comment and stated that he would like to be a part of the solution.

**A motion by Commissioner Swodeck, seconded by Chairperson Ornelas, carried 5-2-0-0 to approve the For All Seasons Mural Request.**

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – yes; Commissioner Angel Arellano – no; Commissioner Dianna Batts – no; Commissioner Nancy Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

**IN OPPOSITION:** None

**IN SUPPORT:** None

**DISCUSSION TIME:** 31 minutes (5:37 pm to 6:08 pm)

### **2. Approval for adoption of Art in Public Places Action Plan (2026-2030)**

Deputy Director Khan presented the community input on the Action Plan as well as the final draft.

Commissioner Arellano advocated for the formal inclusion of the community input into the

Action Plan.

Commissioner Esparza, Soiseth, and Swodeck complimented the Action Plan. Gilbert Ortega supported getting the public involved.

**A motion by Chairperson Ornelas, seconded by Commissioner Swodeck, carried 7-0-0 to approve the For All Seasons Mural Request.**

Chairperson Christian Ornelas – yes; Vice-Chairperson Lisa P. Soiseth – yes; Commissioner Jovani Esparza – yes; Commissioner Angel Arellano – yes; Commissioner Dianna Batts – yes; Commissioner Nancy Tessier – yes; Commissioner Joshua Swodeck – yes.

**IN OPPOSITION:** None

**IN SUPPORT:** None

**DISCUSSION TIME:** 41 minutes (6:08 p.m. to 6:49 p.m.)

**STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Deputy Director Khan thanked the Commission and the public for attending the meeting and staff for their work. He also thanked Commissioner Swodeck for his leadership and service on the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ornelas at 6:54 p.m. to the next regular meeting of January 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by,

Ata Khan  
Deputy Director

June Ku  
AIPP Program Coordinator