



City of Pomona

Cultural Arts Commission

Draft Action Minutes

Chairperson Lisa Soiseth
Vice-Chairperson Nancy Tessier
Commissioner Jovani Esparza
Commissioner Angel Arellano
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Christian Ornelas
Commissioner Aida Lugo

March 23, 2026

5:30 PM

City Hall, Administrative Board Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lisa Soiseth called the Cultural Arts Commission meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Administrative Board Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Lisa Soiseth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Lisa Soiseth
Commissioner Angel Arellano
Commissioner Dianna Batts
Commissioner Aida Lugo (arrived late 5:37 p.m.)
Commissioner Christina Ornelas

Absent: Vice-Chairperson Nancy Tessier
Commissioner Jovani Esparza

Staff Present: Ata Khan, Deputy Director of OEBA
Jocelyn Ayala, AIPP Program Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Madrid introduced himself as a representative from the Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Action Minutes from the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting of January 26, 2026 and February 24, 2026.

A motion by Commissioner Ornelas, seconded by Chair Tessier, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (4-0-0-3) to approve the December 22, 2025 Action Minutes.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – absent; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 1 minute (5:33 p.m. to 5:34 p.m.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Poet Laureate Policy Ad-Hoc Committee

The Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees sought the support of a Cultural Arts Commissioner to join its ad-hoc committee to create a policy for the Poet Laureate program.

Tom Madrid fielded questions regarding the committee and Commissioner Batts volunteered.

A motion by Chairperson Soiseth, seconded by Commissioner Lugo, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to approve Commissioner Batts as the Cultural Arts Commission representative for the Poet Laureate ad-hoc committee.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – yes; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 6 minutes (5:34 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.)

2. Arts, Culture and Creativity Month 2026

Staff sought approval for a public proclamation for Arts, Culture & Creativity Month April 2026

to be recognized by the City of Pomona. Commissioner Ornelas indicated interest in attending California for the Arts events for Arts Month in the future.

A motion by Chairperson Soiseth, seconded by Commissioner Ornelas, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to approve April 2026 as Arts, Culture and Creativity Month.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – yes; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 4 minutes (5:40 p.m. to 5:44 p.m.)

3. Update on Millard Sheets Fountains Project

Staff presented updates on Mr. Worley’s passing and subcontractor Spectra Company’s finished work on concrete and travertine restoration, which the then ad-hoc committee of the CAC and staff concluded to be distinctly different in finish and coloration than the historic work.

A motion by Chairperson Soiseth, seconded by Commissioner Batts, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to prepare two bids, one for the mechanical components of preservation (lighting, pump house) and one for the travertine, and to close out the existing agreement with Mr. Worley.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – yes; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 25 minutes (5:45 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.)

4. Discussion on Call for Art on Foothill Boulevard to commemorate the 100-Year Anniversary of Route 66

Staff recommended a Call for Art in the budgeted amount of \$6,600 to commemorate the 100 Year Anniversary of Route 66 for original artwork printed graphic to be installed onto the bus shelter at Football Blvd and Towne Ave West.

Staff will be reaching out to California-based Commissioner Caroline Beteta to seek support and potential matching funds. Commissioner Ornelas mentioned potential funding through the National Endowment of the Arts with a deadline in July.

Chairperson Soiseth suggested expanding the scope and installing art at more than one bus shelter.

A motion by Chairperson Soiseth, seconded by Commissioner Arellano, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to launch the Call for Art on Foothill Boulevard.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – yes; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 10 minutes (6:10 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.)

5. Watercolor Contest 2026 – Commissioner’s Choice Award

A 15 minute recess was taken to score the watercolor pieces for the Commissioner’s Choice Award.

Chairperson Soiseth asked what outreach was done differently this year that the number of submissions doubled.

A motion by Chairperson Soiseth, seconded by Commissioner Ornelas, carried by a unanimous vote of the members present (5-0-0-2) to instate the highest rated watercolor piece to be the Commissioner’s Choice Award and for the vote to be brought back to commission in event of a tie.

Chairperson Soiseth – yes; Vice-Chairperson Tessier – absent; Commissioner Ornelas – yes; Commissioner Batts – yes; Commissioner Lugo – yes; Commissioner Esparza – absent; Commissioner Arellano – yes.

IN OPPOSITION: None

IN SUPPORT: None

DISCUSSION TIME: 3 minutes (6:45 p.m. to 6:48 p.m.)

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Program Manager Ayala presented that Artist Dave Kim and Carly Lake have both completed

their murals, and the 3 SIEMENS proposals have been received and set up in the City Hall lobby. The community engagement meeting for the proposals is set for April 13, 2026.

May 18, 2026 was settled as the May CAC meeting date in the Administration Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Lisa Soiseth at 6:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting of April 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by,

Ata Khan
Deputy Director

June Ku
Program Coordinator