



## **AGENDA**

### **CITY COUNCIL AND ARTS COMMISSION JOINT SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 4:00 PM**

**KENT HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL CAMPUS - 111 W SANTA ANA ST, OJAI, CA  
ADDITIONAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING LOCATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC TO  
ACCOMMODATE TELECONFERENCING COUNCIL MEMBER LESLIE RULE, PER CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(B)(3): 6 SALTOUN RD., LONDON, ENGLAND SW2 1EP**

### **VIEWING & ACCESS**

Public participation is encouraged! The Ojai City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. The meetings are conducted in a hybrid model, providing both in-person attendance and virtual public comment via the Zoom link below. Virtual attendance via Zoom is the only way to remotely provide public comment. Pre-registration is not required for public comment via Zoom. Instead, Zoom participants will utilize the “hand-raise” function to indicate their desire to speak on an item. The meeting is also livestreamed on the City's website at [ojai.ca.gov/525/2968/Public-Meetings](https://www.ojai.ca.gov/525/2968/Public-Meetings), on YouTube at [youtube.com/@ojaicity](https://www.youtube.com/@ojaicity), and on Spectrum Channel 10. See “Public Comment Options” below for further instruction.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372714739?pwd=C1Qv9izk2l1C1xIGmrq67aCJ6Y4HpC.1>

### **ROLL CALL**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Joint Meeting with City Council - Arts Commission**

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the City Council consider, provide feedback, and if appropriate, approve the Arts Commission's 5-Year Plan; and
2. That the City Council and Arts Commission discuss the following Arts Commission requests/recommendations:
  - How to integrate the Arts Commissions 5-year plan within the City's General Plan;
  - Staff support beyond the current staff liaison model;

- Economic study of Ojai's creative economy;
- Stewardship of Public Art and City collections (including presentation); and
- Mural in Kent Hall.

[Administrative Report - Arts Commission Joint Meeting](#)  
[Attachment A - 5 Year Plan](#)

## ADJOURNMENT

**Posted September 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk**

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call (805) 646-5581. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

If you feel that a language interpreter is necessary for you to participate in this meeting, notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements for an interpreter to assure your participation/understanding of this meeting.

Si considera que un intérprete de idiomas es necesario para participar en esta reunión, la notificación 48 horas antes de la reunión le permitirá a la Ciudad hacer arreglos razonables para que un intérprete asegure su participación/comprensión de esta reunión del Concejo Municipal.

Para Español por favor llame al (805) 646-5581 ext. 100 o por correo electronico a [cityclerk@ojai.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@ojai.ca.gov).

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Agenda reports and other disclosable public records related to agenda items are available on the City's website at [ojai.ca.gov/525/2968/Public-Meetings](http://ojai.ca.gov/525/2968/Public-Meetings) and at City Hall located at 401 S. Ventura St., Ojai, Ca., during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT OPTIONS

**The easiest way to submit written public comments is through the “eComment” function on the [City Council’s Public Meetings page](#) . Please click into the “eComment” link for the desired date and agenda item.**

**Written Comments:** In order for staff to provide the City Council with written public comments timely, written/emailed public comments must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting.**

You may always submit written comments to the City Clerk via mail, in person at City Hall, or

via email to [cityclerk@ojai.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@ojai.ca.gov). If your written comment is received by 3:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting date, the City Clerk will distribute copies of your comments to all Council Members and recorded on the City website. Written comments received after 3:00 p.m. may not be distributed to the Council Members and recorded on the City website until after the meeting.

**Verbal Comments:** Verbal Comments will be received on any item on the agenda at the time the agenda item is heard. Comments may be made in person at the meeting or through Zoom, via the link at the top of the Agenda. Pre-registration is not required for public comment via Zoom. Instead, Zoom participants will utilize the hand-raise function to indicate their desire to speak on an item.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

*All materials related to an item on this agenda, including written public comments, will be available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, and following the meeting, will be accessible on the City of Ojai's website at [ojai.ca.gov](http://ojai.ca.gov).*

*As a government agency, the City of Ojai is subject to the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250 et seq.). Please be advised that all communications submitted to City officials and staff are subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act. There are limited exceptions that allow the City to redact personal information under the California Public Records Act. If you have concerns regarding privacy, please do not include your personal identifying information, such as your name, e-mail, phone number, and home address in your correspondence to the City, including, but not limited to, public comment.*

*If you challenge the actions of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in the public notices, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing (California Government Code Section 65009).*

*Any legal action by an applicant seeking to obtain a judicial review of the City Council's decision on a Hearing listed on this Agenda may be subject to the 90-day filing period of and governed by Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.*

### **LEVINE ACT WARNING**

*Applicants and their agents before the City Council are subject to the campaign disclosure provisions detailed in Government Code Section 84308. No City Council Member may accept, solicit, or direct a contribution of more than \$500 from any party or agent for 12 months subsequent to the date a final decision is rendered by the City. This prohibition commences when your application has been filed, or the proceeding is otherwise initiated.*

*A party to a City proceeding - which includes both applicants and agents - shall disclose on the record of the proceeding any contribution of more than \$500 made to any Council Member by the applicant or agent, during the preceding 12 months. No party to a City proceeding, or agent, shall make a contribution to a Council Member during the proceeding and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered by the City.*

*Prior to rendering a decision on a City proceeding, any Council Member who received a contribution of more than \$500 within the preceding 12 months from any party, or agent, to a proceeding shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding and shall be disqualified*

*from participating in the proceeding. However, if any Council Member receives a contribution that otherwise would require disqualification and returns the contribution within 30 days of knowing about the contribution and the relevant proceeding, the Council Member shall be permitted to participate in the proceeding.*

*If you believe that these provisions apply to you or a Council Member, please inform the City Clerk at the earliest possible opportunity. Failure to do so may affect the City's ability to process your application.*

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## Administrative Report

**TO:** Honorable City Council

**FROM:** Smitty West, Arts Commission Chair

**MEETING DATE:** September 9, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Joint Meeting with City Council - Arts Commission

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### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the City Council consider, provide feedback, and if appropriate, approve the Arts Commission's 5-Year Plan; and
2. That the City Council and Arts Commission discuss the following Arts Commission requests/recommendations:
  - How to integrate the Arts Commissions 5-year plan within the City's General Plan;
  - Staff support beyond the current staff liaison model;
  - Economic study of Ojai's creative economy;
  - Stewardship of Public Art and City collections (including presentation); and
  - Mural in Kent Hall.

### DISCUSSION

The Arts Commission recommends a focused discussion with the City Council on their statutory role as outlined in Ojai Municipal Code Section 4-16-106 (Powers and Duties), which defines their authority to advise on matters related to public art, cultural programming, and the stewardship of City collections. To effectively implement the creative economic plan, the Arts Commission would like to clarify and strengthen the Commission's collaborative role in the following areas:

#### 1. Integration with the City's General Plan

To ensure long-term viability, the Commission recommends a creative economic plan is integrated into the City's General Plan. This includes:

- Embedding arts and culture into land use, zoning, and infrastructure planning; and
- Ensuring that creative economic objectives are reflected in future updates to the General Plan and related policy documents.

The Arts Commission can play a key advisory role in identifying cultural priorities and ensuring that creative assets are considered in Citywide planning efforts.

## **2. Staff Support Beyond the Staff Liaison Model**

The Arts Commission feels that the current staff liaison model has provided a foundational link between City staff and the arts community, but it lacks the capacity for strategic execution. An expanded staffing model would allow for more consistent execution and deeper collaboration with the Arts Commission.

## **3. Economic Study of Ojai's Creative Economy**

The Commission requests that a formal economic study regarding Ojai's creative economy be authorized by the City Council. A formal economic study is essential to quantify the scope and impact of Ojai's creative sector. The study should:

- Establish baseline data on employment, revenue, and business activity in creative industries;
- Analyze indirect benefits such as tourism, hospitality, and retail linked to cultural programming; and
- Identify gaps in infrastructure, equity, and access that could inform future investments.

The Arts Commission can assist in defining the scope of the study, identifying key stakeholders, and interpreting findings to guide policy recommendations.

## **4. Stewardship of Public Art and City Collections**

Building on Vice Chairs Steiner's presentation, the City must strengthen its stewardship of public art and cultural assets. Recommended actions include:

- Conducting a full inventory and condition assessment of city-owned artworks;
- Developing a Public Art Management Plan with clear guidelines for conservation, display, and acquisition;
- Establishing a Public Art Advisory Committee\*, potentially chaired or co-chaired by members of the Arts Commission, to oversee implementation; and
- Assess the approach used in determining the City's current percentage allocations for the arts to support continued transparency and effectiveness

\*Note: It is yet to be determined whether the Public Art Advisory Committee is a standing committee, if it were, it would require Brown Act compliance.

The Commission's statutory duties already include advising on public art; formalizing their role in stewardship would enhance transparency, accountability, and public engagement.

## **5. Mural in Kent Hall**

The Arts Commission proposes initiating a discussion regarding the installation of a mural behind the City Council Dias in Kent Hall. This visual enhancement is intended to introduce

a meaningful artistic element into the City Council Chamber, fostering a more inspiring and culturally enriched environment for public discourse and civic engagement

## **Next Steps**

To operationalize this vision, the Arts Commission recommends future joint working sessions with City Council and staff to:

- Review of the Commission's powers and duties under Section 4-16-106\*;
- Define roles and responsibilities in implementing the creative economy plan; and
- Establish a timeline and framework for collaboration across departments and community stakeholders.

\*Note: It is yet to be determined whether alternative powers or duties are proposed.

## **CITY COUNCIL GOALS ALIGNMENT**

Goal No. 3 - Arts, Culture and Recreation Funding

### **OPTIONS**

1. Take no action.
2. Provide alternative direction.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Costs associated with:

- The recommendation for enhanced staffing beyond the existing City staff liaison model;
- The recommendation for an economic study;
- The recommendation for enhanced stewardship of public art and City collections; and
- The recommendation for a City Council Dais mural have not been estimated and are not included within this agenda report.

With City Council direction, estimates for these recommendations could be provided. Any funding for these requests would need to come through a budget allocation from the unprogrammed General Fund balance. None of these recommendations are currently allocated for within the approved Fiscal Year 25-26 budget.

**Prepared by: Bridget Mara, Admin Analyst I/Staff Liaison and Ben Harvey, City Manager**

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- A. 5-Year Plan

# Ojai Arts Commission

## Strategic Plan

5 Cal. Years Starting 202: City of Ojai

April 1, 2023

CTI NUMBER	DIVISION	TASK OWNER	START DATE	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				Budget 2022	Budget 2023-24	2023 Breakdown
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			expand on left to reveal
1	Grants	Wright		Expand Divisions on left (+ sign) to reveal details																				\$25,000	\$29,850	
1.2	Marketing																									\$250
	Write Press Release for workshops																									
	OVN Events/ongoing calendar for workshops																									
	Write Press Release for Grant applications available with core values/Mentorship, Innovation, Environment																									
	Extend Calendar for application availability																									
	Extend dates for submission																									
	Write Press Release for workshops																									
	OVN Events/ongoing calendar for workshops																									
	Write Press Release for Grant applications																									
	Grant recipients host AC table at local events																									
	Past Grant recipients meetings presentations																									
1.3	Online Application																									\$1,500
	PDF download application																									
	Form AGC : Arts Grants Committee																									
	AGC research for National & State grants for City Arts Project with Stakeholders																									
	Create list for Matching Grant Sponsors																									
	Create Grants Committee																									
	Create link on AC website to list of links for other Arts grants																									
	Advertise in media for Youth Arts Grant Commissioner																									
1.4	Funding																									
	Increase City Grants Fund request 10%																									\$27,500
	Update list for Matching Grant Sponsors																									
	Promote Micro Grants for under \$2500																									
	Cap max funding per grant at \$5,000																									
1.5	Fund 100% Deserving Grants need blind																									
1.6																										
1.7	Communication																									\$250
	Website																									
	Reports																									
	Presentations																									
	Followup																									
1.8																										



2	Education	Grau																					\$5,000	\$6,000	
2.1	Professional Enrichment Seminars	Grau	3/24/18	x	x																	\$4,500			
2.2	City Art Tours Curation		3/29/18																						
2.3	Arts Vocaltional Programs			x																		\$1,500			
2.4	Arts Center																								
2.5	Public and Private School Partnership																								
2.6	Artist and Institution Inventory			x	x																				
3	Technology	West																					\$500	\$1,000	
3.1	Online Presence	West																				\$1,000			
3.2	Public Communication			x																					
3.3	Funding for Maintenance			x																					
3.4	Online Database for all Art																								
3.5																									
3.6																									
4	Public Art	Steiner																					\$800	\$6,550	
4.1	Master Plan	Steiner																							
4.2	CAPA			x																		\$250			
4.3	Inventory and Appraisal			x																		\$5,800			
4.4	Maintenance Inventory			x																					
4.5	Ojai Hospital Contract			x																					
4.6	Collections Inventory			x																		\$500			
4.7	City Collection Assessment																								
4.8	Major Installation																								
5	Communications	Leeds																					\$1,000	\$1,650	
5.1	Inventory of Stakeholders	Chisholm																							
5.2	City Council			x	x																				
5.3	Community Events			x																		\$1,000			
5.4	Website																					\$250			
5.5	Revamp																								
5.6	Maintenance																								
5.7	Media			x																					
5.8	Newspaper Column																								
5.9	Reports																								
6.0	Strategic Alliances			x																					
6.1	Schools																								
6.2	Service Clubs																								
6.3	Other Commissions			x																					
6.4	Parks and Recreation			x																					
6.5	Planning																								
6.6	Chamber of Commerce			x	x																				
6.7	Other Cities																								
6.8	Ojai Valley Museum			x	x																				
6.9	Presentations																								
7.0	Awards																					\$150			
7.1	Proclamations																					\$250			

