# AGENDA

## ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, 6:00 PM

### CITY HALL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL CAMPUS - 401 S VENTURA ST, OJAI, CA

## VIEWING & ACCESS

Public participation is encouraged! 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, on YouTube at youtube.com/@ojaicity, and on Spectrum Channel 10. See "Public Comment Options" below for further instruction.

**ZOOM LINK - April 16, 2026 - Regular Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**PRESENTATION**

1 **Studio Tutto to provide a presentation to the Arts Commission highlighting their Meiners Oaks Parks' Mural project**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Arts Commission will receive comments from the public on items within the Commission's jurisdiction which are not on the agenda. The Commission cannot discuss or take action on items raised during public comments but, if appropriate, can schedule the item on a future agenda for discussion and action. Please begin by stating your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion without prior discussion unless, prior to the motion to approve, specific items are removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

**2 Minutes - Arts Commission Regular Meeting - March 19, 2026**
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File
Minutes - Arts Commission Regular Meeting - Mar 19 2026

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**3 Selection of Facilitator for the Arts Commission Five Year Strategic Plan**
RECOMMENDATION: That the Arts Commission review the submitted facilitator applications, discuss candidate qualifications, and provide direction to staff on selecting a facilitator to support development of the Arts Commission's upcoming Five Year Strategic Plan.
Administrative Report - Selection of Facilitator
Attachment A - Facilitator Wanted
Attachment B - Facilitator Log_2026

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chair West - Technology, Strategic Planning
- Vice Chair Steiner - Public Art
- Commissioner Grau - Arts Education, Mentor Program
- Commissioner Wright - Grants
- Commissioner Tabach-Banks
- Commissioner Wagner

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recommendation: Discuss and recommend future agenda items.

## STAFF LIAISON REPORT

## CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT - Council Member Whitman

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

## ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Arts Commission is Thursday, May 21, 2026.

Posted April 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Bridget Mara, Admin Analyst I/Staff Liaison
bridget.mara@ojai.ca.gov

## WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written public comments will be published here for public access. Please see PUBLIC COMMENT OPTIONS below for detailed instructions on how to submit.

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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.

## 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 and at City Hall located at 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, California, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT OPTIONS

**Written Comments: In order for staff to provide written public comments timely to the legislative body, 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 via mail, in person at City Hall, or via email to **the email address listed above (under Adjournment).** If your written comment is received by 3:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting date, your comments will be distributed to the legislative body and recorded on the City website. Written comments received after 3:00 p.m. may not be distributed or 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.*

*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 this Commission/Committee 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 Commission/Committee 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 Commission/Committee'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 this Commission/Committee are subject to the campaign disclosure provisions detailed in Government Code Section 84308. No City Commissioner/Committee 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 Commissioner/Committee 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 Commissioner/Committee 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 Commissioner/Committee 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 Commissioner/Committee 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 Commissioner/Committee member shall be permitted to participate in the proceeding.*

*If you believe that these provisions apply to you or a Commissioner/Committee 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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# MINUTES

## ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026, 6:00 PM

## CITY HALL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL CAMPUS - 401 S VENTURA ST, OJAI, CA

**CALL TO ORDER**
Chair West called the meeting to order at 6pm.

**ROLL CALL**
Present: Chair West, Vice-Chair Steiner, Commissioners Grau, Wright, Tabach-Bank, Wagner, Council Member Lang and Staff Liaison Mara

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Chair West led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
**MOTION:** Chair West Moved to Approve the Agenda

The motion carried unanimously

**PRESENTATION**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
The new CEO of Chamber of Commerce, Carla Furrante, spoke on behalf of Chamber of Commerce about its creative economy workshop and new emphasis on the creative economy.

1) In consultation with Chair West, Chamber of Commerce has asked the City Council for an agenda item on March 31 meeting to make a proclamation that April be recognized as the arts, culture and creativity month.

2) Moving ahead with recommendation that also came forward in the creative economy workshop to create a “Made In Ojai” Distinction.

3) City Council is going to visibly cement that at Ojai Day. Chamber is going to take control of part of the corridor and create an outside art gallery.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1 **Minutes - Arts Commission Regular Meeting - Feb 19 2026**
**MOTION:** It was moved by Vice Chair Steiner with a second by Chair West to approve the minutes of Feb 19, 2026 Arts Commission Meeting with corrections discussed.

The motion carried unanimously

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 **Ojai Day Art Poster Contest**

RECOMMENDATION:
The Arts Commission wishes to recommend that the City Council authorize the Arts Commission to participate in and support the Ojai Day 2026 Poster Contest, including assisting with outreach, jury review, and promotion of the selected artwork.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Chair West with a second by Commissioner Grau to discuss the Ojai Day Art Poster Contest further with the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council and Staff before making a decision to move forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

3 **Pixies General Store – Mural Application**

RECOMMENDATION: The Arts Commission is asked to review the Mural Jury's recommendation for the proposed mural located between Pixies General Store and Forage Ojai at 203 N. Signal Street and determine whether to approve or deny the mural application with the conditions recommended by the Mural Jury.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Vice Chair Steiner with a second by Chair West to approve the Mural Jury's recommendation with conditions listed below and to approve the mural application made by Pixies General Store.

Conditions of Approval:

1. Do not add business names to the mural pursuant to OMC § 4-16.303
2. Background will remain the same color as it is currently and will not be painted white as is shown in the application images
3. Use of the approved paint pursuant to OMC §4-16.305(d) and be coated with a City approved anti-graffiti application.
4. The downspout will be considered the right-side boundary of the mural to separate the mural from the rest of the building as well as the existing business name on the window.
5. The Mural Artists may sign and date the mural at their discretion with the suggested placement being the bottom right corner of the mural.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Steiner - Public Art
- Commissioner Grau - Arts Education, Mentor Program
- Commissioner Wright - Grants
- Chair West - Technology, Strategic Planning

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Discuss and recommend future agenda items:

Public works crew member learn how to maintain public art.
Budget planning
Public art budget discussion
Eligibility of grant applicants, two or three consecutive years or none at all.

**STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Bridget Mara is working on getting clarification from Finance and Community Development on the amount of funds placed into the Public Art Fund.

City received two emails of interest from facilitators for the AC 5-year strategic planning meetings.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Council Member Lang- recommended to Arts Commission to watch City Council meeting with Green Coalition's plans to develop the 8-acres of City Hall property in regard to the involvement of the arts with their plans.

Collaborating with California for the Arts, meetings have been moved around, hoping to have a report at next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair West adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm until the next regular meeting of the Arts Commission on Thursday, April 16, 2026.**

**PREPARED BY: Corrina Wright, Secretary; Ojai Arts Commission on April 13, 2026.**

# Administrative Report

**TO:** **Honorable Arts Commission**

**FROM:** **Smitty West, Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** **April 16, 2026**

**SUBJECT:** **Selection of Facilitator for the Arts Commission Five-Year Strategic Plan**

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Arts Commission review the submitted facilitator applications, discuss candidate qualifications, and provide direction to staff on selecting a facilitator to support development of the Arts Commission's upcoming Five-Year Strategic Plan.

## DISCUSSION

The Arts Commission initiated the process to update its Five-Year Strategic Plan and issued a public request for facilitator proposals. The announcement made through all social media platforms, titled Facilitator Wanted, outlines the project's goals, required skills, and application process.

The facilitator will support a collaborative planning process engaging Commissioners, City staff, and community stakeholders through interviews, public meetings, and development of a final strategic planning report.

The submission period closed on **March 25, 2026**, as indicated in the facilitatory announcement.

## SCOPE OF WORK

Per the facilitator request document, key responsibilities include:

- Conducting individual interviews with Arts Commissioners
- Designing and facilitating approximately two public strategic-planning meetings
- Leading a structured visioning process focused on the Ojai arts and creative economy
- Identifying key priorities, goals, and implementation strategies
- Preparing a final summary report and recommendations for consideration by the Arts Commission and City Council

## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The facilitator announcement specifies desired qualifications including:

- Experience facilitating public meetings and stakeholder processes

- Background in strategic planning for public agencies, nonprofit arts groups, or cultural initiatives
- Strong consensus-building and collaborative-dialogue skills
- Familiarity with municipal arts commissions or cultural planning (preferred)

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**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**
The City received proposals from the following applicants:

- **Greg Ptack** –
- **Olivia Flores** –
- **Nusa Maal** –
- **Tracy Hudak** –

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**ANALYSIS**
The facilitator selection is a critical step in the successful development of the Arts Commission's Five-Year Strategic Plan. Each applicant brings a distinct background in facilitation, arts engagement, or strategic planning. The Commission may wish to consider:

- Alignment between applicant experience and the project's public-engagement requirements
- Familiarity with cultural planning or municipal arts processes
- Proposed approach to interviews, public workshops, and visioning
- Ability to deliver the final strategic planning report within the expected timeline
- Capacity for consensus-building among diverse stakeholders

The Commission may select a facilitator today or direct staff to schedule interviews with shortlisted candidates.

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS ALIGNMENT**
Goal No. 3 - Arts, Culture and Recreation Funding

**OPTIONS**
1. Take no action;
2. Request additional information or interviews with specific candidates.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
Facilitator fees will depend on the selected consultant's proposal. Budget appropriations for FY 2025–26 include funding for strategic-planning support.

**Prepared by: Bridget Mara, Staff Liaison**

**ATTACHMENT(S)**
A. Facilitator Wanted (Request for Proposals)
B. Facilitator Log_2026 (List of Applications Received)