OCTOBER 1, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Ochoa at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Ford.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Fisher Derderian	☒ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
☒ Brendan Ford	☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
☐ Erica Lucia	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
☒ Debora Wondercheck	☒ Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist
☒ Charlene Ashendorf, Vice Chair	
☒ Alisa Ochoa, Chair	
☐ Vacant	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Warzer-Brady: Backhausdance Education & Community Engagement Director, provided an update on the grant-funded Dance for Joy and Well-Being program at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, highlighting strong participation and interest in continuing the program. Invited the Commission to the October 14 closing performance and encouraged recognition of November as Arts and Health Month.

Hope Budman: Shared that Rove opened an EV charging center on Harbor Boulevard in April and installed a "Welcome to Costa Mesa" mural. Requested an update on the status and next steps for a second mural permit.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ford: Commended Commissioner Wondercheck for organizing Voices in Unity during the City's July 3rd event. Recognized staff for their efforts in coordinating a successful community celebration and shared positive feedback received from attendees.

Commission Wondercheck: Requested additional details regarding Backhausdance's upcoming performance. Shared that she represented the Arts Commission at an Arts Orange County celebration at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, which recognized the Center's 40th anniversary and the Concert Hall's 20th anniversary.

Vice Chair Ashendorf: Commended staff for organizing a successful ARTventure event, which attracted over 650 attendees and featured more than 200 artists, food vendors, and live entertainment. Acknowledged the attendance of the Mayor and Councilmember Gameros.

Chair Ochoa: Praised the success of ARTventure, highlighting its improved layout, local vendors, artist engagement, and staff coordination. Announced artist Ramon Guzman's Hispanic Heritage Month installation near the Norma Hertzog Community Center on October 3rd. Highlighted the challenges artists faced in securing affordable creative spaces and

encouraged consideration of community or subsidized artist studios during the Arts and Culture Master Plan Update. Also noted that Orange Coast College and Triangle Square would participate in the Newport Beach Film Festival, including family-friendly programming.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **MINUTES – 09/03/2026 Draft Minutes**
   Chair Ochoa had the following corrections:

   - Page 2 – Chair Ochoa well

   MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Wondercheck made a motion to approve the September 3, 2026, amended meeting minutes/Seconded by Chair Ochoa.

   The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
   Ayes: Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Wondercheck, Vice Chair Ashendorf, Chair Ochoa
   Nays: None
   Abstained: None
   Absent: Commissioner Lucia
   Motion Carried: 5-0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. **ARTS & CULTURE UPDATE**
   Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director, presented.

   Vice Chair Ashendorf requested that the Shalimar Park poetry unveiling be scheduled in the afternoon to allow student poets to attend.

   Chair Ochoa inquired when the poets will be recognized.

   Public Comment: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **ONE METRO WEST – ART CONCEPT DISCUSSION**
   Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director, presented.

   Brent Stoll, One Metro West Development Partner and Manager: Presented alongside Rose Equities Partner Leonard Glickman and Development Partner Jake Posnick.

   Chair Ochoa expressed appreciation for the developer's commitment to public art and hoped it would set a precedent for future developments. Requested a future presentation on the selected public art sculptures.

   Public Comment: No comments.

2. **ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN UPDATE - CONSULTANT INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT OVERVIEW**
   Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager, presented consultant MIG, Ann Berchold.

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Vice Chair Ashendorf emphasized the importance of transparency and district-specific engagement, recognizing that each district had unique needs and interests related to the arts.

Wondercheck asked about the survey timeline and anticipated participation. Inquired whether the process would include an inventory of existing arts spaces, associated costs, and gaps in available rehearsal and studio spaces.

Commissioner Derderian expressed enthusiasm for the planning process and requested that staff provide the Commission with the finalized MIG agreement and deliverables to clarify the scope and expected outcomes of the Arts and Culture Master Plan Update.

Public Comment:
Nancy Warzer-Brady: Expressed support for the planning process and suggested conducting in-person surveys at community events to encourage participation and gather immediate feedback.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS
Chair Ochoa requested that information regarding Backhausdance's October 14 performance be shared with the Commission and that staff follow up on Hope Budman's mural permit. Announced the free All Abilities Conference at the Segerstrom Center on October 23–24 and wished candidates well in the upcoming election.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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