



**ARTS COMMISSION**

Monday, March 9, 2026

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 P.M.

**- A G E N D A -**

- 1) Call to Order (Ervin)
  - 2) Approval of Minutes
  - 3) Chair's Announcements (Ervin)
  - 4) Commissioner, Council and Staff Communications
  - 5) Cultural Arts Funding Grants

<b>LagunaTunes Chorus</b>	<b>Robin Casselman</b>
<b>Community Art Project</b>	<b>Faye Baglin</b>
<b>Laguna Dance Festival</b>	<b>Jodie Gates</b>
<b>Opera Laguna</b>	<b>Oriana Geis-Falla</b>
  - 6) Public Communications - *To assist the Arts Commission in the timely completion of its business, speakers are asked to limit their presentation to three minutes or less.*
  - 7) Items for Discussion and Action:
    - A. **2026 Banner Competition** – Discuss and approve up to four designs for temporary installation or reject all submissions. (Commissioner: Smith, Staff: Wood.)
    - B. **2026 Council Chamber Banner Competition** – Discuss and approve up to four designs for temporary installation or reject all submissions. (Commissioner: Smith, Staff: Wood.)
    - C. **2026 Laguna Beach Arts Alliance Art Star Awards** – Discuss and approve the purchase of eight tickets for Arts Commissioners to attend the event on April 23, 2026. (Commissioner: Ervin.)
  - 8) Adjournment

*Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the Arts Manager at 949-497-0722 or email [art@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:art@lagunabeachcity.net). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.*
- c: City Manager, City Clerk and Council Liaison.

Post through March 10, 2026.



## LAGUNA BEACH ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 p.m.

### Recap of Minutes

**PRESENT:** **Commissioners:** Donna Ballard, Michael Ervin, Joan Gladstone, Pat Kollenda, Sindi Schwartz, Adam Schwerner, Carl Smith and Nicole Strathman.

**STAFF:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager, Michael McGregor, Arts Program Coordinator, Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator.

- 1) Michael Ervin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) The minutes of the February 9, 2026, regular meeting were approved as presented. M/S Kollenda/Schwerner.
- 3) **Chair's Announcements:** None.
- 4) **Commissioner and Staff Communications:** Staff Wood noted the approaching deadlines for the Commission's calls for artists and advertising undertaken for them. Staff Wood noted the recent Planning Commission Temporary Use Permit approval of six sites for the exhibition of temporary artworks. Staff McGregor noted the artwork drop-off date for Art That's Small at City Hall was March 8, 2026. Staff noted the performance contract and Temporary Use Permit application to host Circus Bella on June 6, 2026. Staff noted the application deadline for the Musician Roster was February 28, 2026, and had received many applications from artists. Staff Poeschl noted the Art in Public Places projects for the Anita Street Beach Access and the Glenneyre Parking Structure were unanimously approved by City Council and expected to be installed before January 2027. Staff noted the approved temporary installation proposal from Laguna College of Art + Design had been withdrawn by the applicant.
- 5) **Cultural Arts Funding Grants:** Mike Tauber presented on behalf of LOCA Arts Education and Teri Schulist presented on behalf of Laguna Beach Chamber Singers regarding how grant funds were spent.
- 6) **Public Communications:** None.
- 7) Items for Discussion and Action:
  - A) **City of Laguna Beach Centennial** – Staff Poeschl noted the appointment of an ad-hoc committee to recommend program concepts in recognition of the City's 2027 Centennial. Adam Schwerner provided the ad-hoc committee's recommendation to host a series of light installations throughout the city. Commissioners Kollenda, Smith, and Strathman expressed an interest in a more permanent installation. Mrs. Strathman noted concern over the City's lighting regulations. Mrs. Kollenda suggested the Commission could solicit donations to fund the program. Commissioners agreed on "light" as a concept and its meaning as it relates to arts and the City of Laguna Beach. The Commission directed staff to conduct research and return with a proposed budget.

- B) **Honorarium Schedule** – Staff McGregor presented the recommended honorarium schedule and noted suggested changes to bring compensation levels in line with each other. A motion was made to approve the honorarium schedule as presented. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Smith. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.
  - C) **Strengthening Laguna’s Arts Community** – Staff Poeschl noted that Mayor Orgill asked the Commission to appoint a committee focused on branding and support between local arts organizations. Chair Michael Ervin appointed himself and Adam Schwerner to the “Strengthening Laguna’s Art Community” committee. Commissioners Gladstone and Smith volunteered to provide additional support.
  - D) **2026-2027 Arts Commission Special Programs Budget** – Staff Poeschl noted staff would maintain a significant workload despite reductions to Arts Commission and Cultural Arts funding. Staff noted most of the program funding is paid directly to artists. Staff presented the proposed budget with recommended changes. A motion was made to approve the budget for FY 2026-2027 Arts Commission Special Programs Budget as presented. Motion: Smith. Second: Ballard. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.
- 8) Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

cc: City Manager, City Clerk, Council Liaison



July 1, 2025

Robin Casselman  
LagunaTunes Community Chorus  
31822 Via de Linda  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Dear Robin:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I am pleased to present a grant of **\$4,700** to LagunaTunes to support your organization's work in 2025-2026. **This funding should be used to present two free concerts, promotion and marketing.** This grant program is made possible from revenues of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The use of these grant funds should be acknowledged in written materials by a statement that **"funds for this program are provided by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach."**

The City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission will be reviewing a final report on your use of these funds in early 2026. The Commission will be inviting your organization to its meeting to give an overview of your programming and use of the funds. The report form will be mailed to you early next year.

Once again, congratulations! I hope this funding will assist your organization in realizing the full potential of your project.

Sincerely,

Alex Rounaghi  
Mayor



July 1, 2025

Faye Baglin  
Community Art Project  
PO Box 4066  
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

Dear Faye:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I am pleased to present a grant of **\$6,600** to Community Art Project to support your organization's work in 2025-2026. **This funding should be used to market and promote its exhibitions at the City Hall, the Cultural Arts Center, Laguna Beach Susi Q Community Center, LCAD Gallery, and at the Hotel Laguna.** This grant program is made possible from revenues of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The use of these grant funds should be acknowledged in written materials by a statement that **"funds for this program are provided by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach."**

The City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission will be reviewing a final report on your use of these funds in early 2026. The Commission will be inviting your organization to its meeting to give an overview of your programming and use of the funds. The report form will be mailed to you early next year.

Once again, congratulations! I hope this funding will assist your organization in realizing the full potential of your projects.

Sincerely,

Alex Rounaghi  
Mayor



July 1, 2025

Joy Dittberner  
Laguna Dance Festival  
771 Bosana Drive  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Joy:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I am pleased to present a grant of **\$32,900** to the Laguna Dance Festival to support your organization's work in 2025-2026. **This funding should be used to present its annual Laguna Beach Dance Festival providing funds for artistic fees, venue rental, production costs, marketing, and promotion.** This grant program is made possible from revenues of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The use of these grant funds should be acknowledged in written materials by a statement that **"funds for this program are provided by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach."**

The City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission will be reviewing a final report on your use of these funds in early 2026. The Commission will be inviting your organization to its meeting to give an overview of your programming and use of the funds. The report form will be mailed to you early next year.

Once again, congratulations! I hope this funding will assist your organization in realizing the full potential of your project.

Sincerely,

Alex Rounaghi  
Mayor



July 1, 2025

Oriana Falla  
Opera Laguna  
2180 Catalina Street, Apt. 17  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Oriana:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I am pleased to present a grant of **\$9,400** to Opera Laguna to support your organization's work in 2025-2026. This funding should be used to inspire the transcendent beauty of the human voice. **The grant funds will be to market three major productions in 2025 – 2026.** This grant program is made possible from revenues of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The use of these grant funds should be acknowledged in written materials by a statement that **"funds for this program are provided by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach."**

The City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission will be reviewing a final report on your use of these funds in early 2026. The Commission will be inviting your organization to its meeting to give an overview of your programming and use of the funds. The report form will be mailed to you early next year.

Once again, congratulations! I hope this funding will assist your organization in realizing the full potential of your project.

Sincerely,

Alex Rounaghi  
Mayor

## Staff Report

**Date:** March 3, 2026  
**To:** Arts Commission  
**From:** Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator  
**Subject:** 2026 Banner Competition (Item 7A)

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### Recommendation

It is recommended by the Banner and Palette Sub-Committee that the Arts Commission:

- 1) Hear and discuss its recommendation; and
- 2) Review and select up to four designs or reject all submissions.

### Overview

The City of Laguna Beach's 2026 Banner Competition is an opportunity for Orange County residents eighteen years or older to design and create exterior double-sided banners which are displayed on lampposts throughout the City during the summer season. The banners are four feet in width and sixteen feet long. Submissions were accepted via Slideroom. The deadline to submit an entry was March 2, 2026.

### Fiscal Impact

The Arts Commission has an approved budget for up to four designs with each selected artist receiving an honorarium of \$4,000, for a total of up to \$16,000. The Arts Commission may decide to select fewer designs or reject all submissions.

### Summary of the Matter

The Arts Commission received submissions from twenty-eight artists, with some submitting a different design for each side, which is allowed per the guidelines. Selected works should be of high quality and original designs, with designs easily readable from a distance. The Banner and Palette sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Carl Smith, Joan Gladstone, and Nicole Strathman will give their recommendations verbally at the meeting.

### Attachment

The eligible twenty-eight designs submitted are attached.

2026 Summer Banner Competition Submissions



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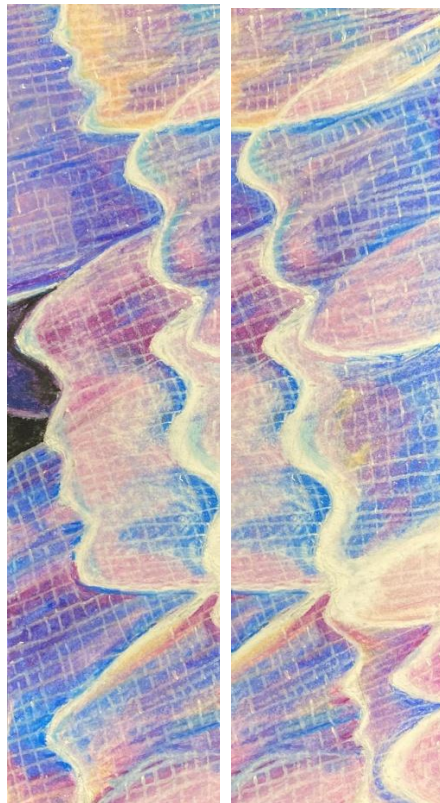
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## Staff Report

**Date:** March 3, 2026  
**To:** Arts Commission  
**From:** Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator  
**Subject:** 2026 Council Chamber Banner Competition (Item 7B)

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### Recommendation

It is recommended by the Banner and Palette Sub-Committee that the Arts Commission:

- 3) Hear and discuss its recommendation; and
- 4) Review and select up to four designs or reject all submissions.

### Overview

The City of Laguna Beach's 2026 Council Chamber Banner Competition is an opportunity for Laguna Beach artists 18 years or older to design and create interior single-sided banners which are displayed temporarily in the City Council Chambers at Laguna Beach City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue. The banners are three feet in width and ten feet in length. The winning banners are displayed in the Council Chambers for up to two years. Submissions were accepted via Slideroom, with March 2, 2026, as the deadline to submit an entry.

### Fiscal Impact

The Arts Commission has an approved budget for up to four designs with each selected artist receiving an honorarium of \$900, for a total of up to \$3,600. The Arts Commission may decide to select fewer designs or reject all submissions.

### Summary of the Matter

The Arts Commission received submissions from 10 artists, with some submitting two designs which is allowed per the guidelines. The selected works should be high quality and original designs, appropriate for a Council meeting setting and read well in close proximity to each other. The Banner and Palette sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Carl Smith, Joan Gladstone, and Nicole Strathman will give their recommendations verbally at the meeting.

### Attachment

2026 submitted designs.

2026 Council Chamber Banner Design Submissions



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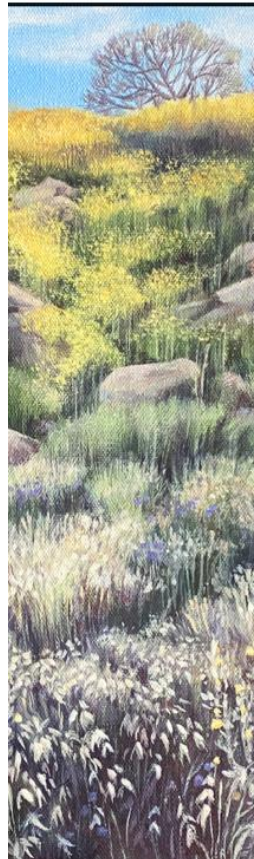
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## Staff Report

**DATE:** March 2, 2026  
**TO:** Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager  
**SUBJECT:** 2026 Laguna Beach Arts Alliance Art Star Awards (Item 7C)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Art Commission approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,200 for Arts Commissioners to attend the Laguna Beach Art Star Awards on Thursday, April 23, 2026, through savings in the Arts Commission Special Programs budget of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The City of Laguna Beach is not nominated in any category.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2025, City of Laguna Beach was nominated by the Laguna Beach Arts Alliance for an “Art Star Award” for “Best Arts Program – City Hall Temporary Art Installations.” The Award Ceremony was held on April 23, 2025. The City was awarded one free ticket; however, all other tickets were \$150 per person. The Arts Commission approved purchasing tickets for the Commission from savings in its Special Programs Budget to attend the event as a nominee.

This year the City/Arts Commission is not nominated in any category. Because of this, the Commission should discuss expending funds to attend the event with limited savings in its account. The cost per person to attend the event is \$150, which will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Festival of Arts grounds.

No funding is requested for Cultural Arts Department Staff to attend this event.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** If approved, an amount not to exceed \$1,200 would be allocated from savings in the Arts Commission Special Programs Budget of the Laguna Beach Marketing and Tourism District allocated for publications for the purchase of eight tickets for Arts Commissioners. No funding is requested for Cultural Arts Department Staff to attend this event.