

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

JUNE 9, 2026

**Proclaiming Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week 2026 and Recognizing LA Opera for Five Years of Advancing Health Through the Arts**

The arts have long served as a source of healing, connection, and human expression. Across cultures and generations, creative experiences help people process adversity, strengthen relationships, foster belonging, and support overall well-being. A growing body of research continues to demonstrate that participation in the arts can reduce social isolation, support mental health, improve quality of life, and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.

The importance of this work became especially clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, when communities across Los Angeles County experienced unprecedented isolation, grief, and uncertainty. During this period, artists and cultural organizations provided comfort, connection, and healing, underscoring that creativity is not merely enrichment, but a vital component of community well-being.

Five years after the pandemic revealed the deep links between health, social connection, and community well-being, Los Angeles County continues to confront challenges related to mental health, healthy aging, chronic disease, loneliness, and persistent health inequities. These realities reaffirm a fundamental truth: health is shaped

MOTION

Mitchell \_\_\_\_\_

Horvath \_\_\_\_\_

Hahn \_\_\_\_\_

Barger \_\_\_\_\_

Solis \_\_\_\_\_

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not only by access to medical care, but also by opportunities for connection, belonging, creative expression, and community engagement.

Today, these challenges are made even more urgent by federal actions that threaten healthcare access for millions of Americans. As the Trump administration advances policies that reduce federal support for Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, impose new work requirements, and create additional barriers to coverage, California's healthcare safety net faces growing strain. At a time when access to care is increasingly at risk, investments in approaches that strengthen mental well-being, social connection, resilience, and quality of life are more critical than ever. While the arts are not a substitute for healthcare, they are a proven tool for reducing isolation, supporting wellness, fostering community connection, and improving health outcomes.

At the forefront of this work is LA Opera, whose vision and leadership helped launch Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week during a period when communities were seeking new ways to heal, reconnect, and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now in its fifth year, this Countywide initiative is hosted by LA Opera in collaboration with Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, and the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, reflecting a sustained commitment to advancing the intersection of arts and health as a field of practice, research, and cross-sector collaboration.

Over the past five years, LA Opera has played a central role in growing and

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strengthening this effort, helping to position Los Angeles County as a national leader in demonstrating how the arts can support health and well-being. This leadership is reflected in the Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week Summit, the signature convening of the week, which brings together artists, healthcare practitioners, policymakers, researchers, educators, philanthropists, and community leaders to share research, strengthen partnerships, and advance innovative approaches to improving health and well-being through the arts.

The 2026 Summit marks its fifth anniversary, offering an opportunity to reflect on five years of partnership, innovation, and progress. Guided by the themes of translating research into practice, learning from experience, and strengthening cross-sector collaboration, the Summit will highlight promising models that improve health outcomes while shaping the future of arts and health initiatives in Los Angeles County and beyond.

As part of Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week, arts and wellness activations will take place across all five supervisorial districts from June 5 through June 13, 2026, highlighting the work of organizations and community partners using creativity to support healing, connection, and well-being. Together, these efforts reaffirm Los Angeles County's commitment to building healthier, more resilient communities where all residents have opportunities to heal, connect, and thrive through the arts.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim June 5 through June 13, 2026, as "Los Angeles County Arts and Health

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Week” throughout Los Angeles County.

2. Recognize the 5th Annual Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week Summit as the signature convening of the week, bringing together leaders across arts, healthcare, research, education, philanthropy, and public service to advance the field of arts and health, and acknowledge Arts and Health Week activations occurring across all five supervisorial districts.
3. Commend the LA Opera for its visionary leadership in launching and sustaining Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week and the Arts and Health Week Summit, and for transforming the initiative into a nationally recognized platform advancing arts and health research, practice, and collaboration.
4. Waive parking fees, excluding the cost of liability insurance, in the estimated amount of \$7,000 for approximately 350 vehicles attending the 5th Annual Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week Summit on June 12, 2026, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

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