



October 20, 2026

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
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Board of Supervisors

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**ARTS COMMISSION ORDINANCE UPDATE
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approve an ordinance update for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Commission) to change its name to the "Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission" and to reflect its advisory role to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and its relationship to the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), among other updates.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the accompanying ordinance amending Chapter 3.38 Los Angeles County Arts Commission Ordinance to:

1. Change the name of the Commission to the "Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission";
2. Clarify that the Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Board and Arts and Culture;
3. Add a Purpose Statement and clarify the Commission's role;
4. Change meeting frequency requirement from 12 to 10 meetings annually;
5. Add language pertaining to Conflict of Interest;
6. Remove the \$20 per meeting language in the current ordinance to align with County salary rules and code.
7. Clarify the Commission does not act independently of the Board and serves in an advisory capacity.
8. Set a Sunset Review every 5 years from adoption.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Commission was first established by the Board of Supervisors in 1947 as the LA County Music Commission, which later evolved to the Arts Commission, and its governing ordinance was last substantively updated in 1997. Since that time, the County's arts and culture sector and nomenclature has evolved significantly, including the Board's 2018 action to establish the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, which officially transitioned programs and staff previously operating under the Arts Commission into the County Department.

The Commission remains an active advisory body to the Board, yet its role and responsibilities and the way they are described should be updated from the current ordinance which contains outdated language. As documented in the Arts Commission retreat process on November 18, 2024, Commissioners identified the need for clearer definitions of their advisory role and responsibilities following the establishment of the Department which resulted in a shift in operations and authority.

The Department and Commission worked collaboratively together over six months to develop the updated ordinance language. The Department extended significant support in staff time, outreach to County Counsel, documentation, drafting of proposed ordinance language, and Commissioner engagement to facilitate the process for reviewing and updating the ordinance. The Arts Commission formed an Ad Hoc Ordinance Review Committee which convened in early October 2025 to further develop and refine the proposed changes to the full Commission. The changes were reviewed and discussed with the Commissioners at their regular meetings on October 20, 2025 and November 17, 2025. Arts Commissioners advanced the updated draft ordinance to the Department for internal County Counsel review in December 2025. Updates were presented to your board's Arts Deputies during their monthly meeting on January 22, 2026. County Counsel conducted further review in July 2026 and suggested additional edits which were presented to your board's Arts Deputies during their monthly meeting on August 27, 2026, and accepted by the Arts Commission during their September 14, 2026 meeting.

The proposed ordinance update will amend Chapter 3.38 of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, revise the Commission's name to the "Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission", and make changes to accurately reflect the Commission's current role, responsibilities and relationship with the Department of Arts and Culture. The amended ordinance represents the next step in aligning the Commission's functions with its present-day advisory capacity and its alignment with Arts and Culture.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions support North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Community Connections of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no Net County Cost impact.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended ordinance update is not subject to CEQA because such activity is excluded from the definition of a project as an administrative activity by section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approving the update to the Ordinance will accurately reflect the Commission's current role, responsibilities and relationship with the Department of Arts and Culture.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Not Applicable

CONCLUSION

Approval of the amended ordinance will modernize the governing codes for the Commission and better position it to fulfill its advisory role to the Board of Supervisors in alignment with Arts and Culture.

Should you have any questions, please contact, please contact Kristin Sakoda, Director at ksakoda@arts.lacounty.gov, or Miriam Gonzalez, Sr. Manager, Arts Commission Services, at mgonzalez@arts.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTIN SAKODA
Director

KS/HR/MG

ATTACHMENT I

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel

ANALYSIS

This Ordinance amends Chapter 3.38 of Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code to change the name of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to "Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission" (Commission), reflect its advisory role to the Board of Supervisors and its relationship to the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, clarify provisions related to the composition of the Commission, and set forth a new sunset date five years from adoption.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By 
AMY J. COOPER
Deputy County Counsel
Property Division

AC:av

Requested: 3/5/26

Revised: 9/24/26

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Chapter 3.38 of Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3.38.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.38.010 Created—Functions.

A. There is created the Los Angeles County ~~arts commission~~Arts and Culture Commission, hereinafter referred to in this chapter as "Commission."

~~B. Subject to the supervision of the board of supervisors, hereafter referred to in this chapter as the "board," the function of the commission shall be to recommend to the board the persons, firms or corporations with whom or which the county should, pursuant to Government Code Section 25562, contract to provide artistic performances within the county, including, but not limited to, operas, symphonies, band concerts and other instrumental concerts, historical or commemorative pageants, choral concerts, plays or other related presentations (with or without music), ballet, dance, recitals, exhibitions, and readings.~~

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, which shall be referred to as the "Commission" in this Chapter, is continued as the Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission.

SECTION 2. Section 3.38.015 is hereby added to read as follows:

3.38.015 Purpose and Responsibilities.

The purpose of the Commission shall be to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Director of the Department of Arts and Culture (Department) on advancing and encouraging a robust, equitable, inclusive, and diverse artistic and cultural sector in Los Angeles County (County). The Commission shall:

A. Advise. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and Department on matters pertaining to arts and cultural policy and grantmaking for programming within the County, including, but not limited to, visual, performing, literary, media, and other arts and cultural practices.

B. Champion. Champion the role of arts and culture in the County, through their relationships with the Board, by promoting programs, policies, and initiatives that strengthen and sustain the arts.

C. Liaison. Attend events and functions on behalf of the Commission, share information with the arts community on the Department's programs and resources, and share insights to inform the Board and Department.

SECTION 3. Section 3.38.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.38.020 Composition—~~Vacancies~~—~~Meetings~~—~~Current Members~~Officers.

A. The ~~e~~Commission shall have 15 positions. A member of the ~~e~~Commission shall be appointed to a vacant position by, and serve at the pleasure of, the ~~b~~Board for a term of three years.

B. ~~The commission shall meet at least 12 times during each year.~~Each member of the Board shall have the privilege of nominating three members for appointment by the Board.

C. ~~The commission shall annually elect, from the members thereof, a president of said Commission to serve for one year.~~No member of the Commission may serve more than two consecutive full periods of service as specified in Subsection A of this Section, above. The Board may, by order, extend this length of service or waive this limit for individuals or the Commission as a whole.

D. ~~Each person who is a member of the commission on the effective date of the amendment codified in this section shall serve at the pleasure of the board for the remainder of his or her term of three years.~~A member's position on the Commission becomes vacant upon the member's death, resignation, removal by the Board, or failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission meetings without being excused by the Commission. Upon such vacancy, the Board shall appoint a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term in accordance with Subsection B of this Section.

E. The Commission shall meet at least 10 times each year. The Commission may meet at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chair or by a majority vote of the Commission.

F. The Commission shall annually elect, from the members thereof, a president of said Commission to serve for one year.

G. Each person who is a member of the Commission on the effective date of the amendment codified in this Section shall serve at the pleasure of the Board for the remainder of the member's term.

H. The provisions of Chapter 5.12 of the County Code shall not apply to the Commission.

SECTION 4. Section 3.38.025 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.38.025 Length of service—~~Vacancy~~Conflict of Interest.

~~The provisions of this section shall become applicable to a position on the commission at the expiration of the term of the member occupying that position on the effective date of the amendment codified in this section.~~

~~A. Each member of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the board. Each position on the commission shall become vacant every four years from the date the amendment codified in this section becomes applicable to each position.~~

~~B. No member of the commission may serve more than two consecutive full periods of service as specified in subsection A of this section. The board may, by order, extend this length of service or waive this limit for individuals or the commission as a whole.~~

~~C. A member's position on the commission shall become vacant upon his or her death, failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the commission without being excused by the commission, resignation or removal by the board. In the case of such vacancy, the board shall appoint a successor to serve until the position next becomes vacant under subsection A of this section.~~

~~D. The provisions of Chapter 5.12 of the County Code shall not apply to the commission.~~

The Commission will be governed by and comply with applicable State conflict of interest laws (Gov't. Code, §§ 87000 et seq.; and 1090 et seq.), County conflict of interest ordinances and policies, its Rules of Order, and any other applicable conflict of interest policies of the Department. If at any time any matter comes before the Commission in which any member has any interest, direct or indirect, the member shall be required to abstain from participating in the consideration of said matter.

SECTION 5. Section 3.38.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.38.030 Compensation and ~~e~~Expense ~~r~~Reimbursement.

The compensation of the members of the ~~e~~Commission shall be as provided from time to time in the current salary ordinance of the ~~e~~County of Los Angeles. In the absence of any provision therefor in the current salary ordinance, the members of the ~~e~~Commission shall serve without compensation, except that when required to travel in the performance of their duties, they shall be reimbursed for their necessary traveling expenses, including transportation, meals, and lodging, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Ordinance 4099.

SECTION 6. Section 3.38.035 is hereby added to read as follows:

3.38.035 Limitations.

The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity. The authority of the Commission shall not supersede or supplant that of any County officer or department nor deprive any County officer or department of any duty or responsibility provided for

by the Constitution, statutes, or the Charter, ordinances, or policies of the County, as the same now exist or as they may be hereafter amended.

SECTION 7. Section 3.38.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.38.040 Sunset Review Date.

The sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Commission shall be ~~March 1, 2017~~ July 21, 2031.

[338010RLCC]