

MINUTES
ASIAN ART COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Koret Education Center and via Zoom

Commissioners Present:	Salle Yoo, Chair Mathew Bissinger Denise Bradley-Tyson Vaishali Chadha Claudine Cheng Yogen Dalal Tiffany Deng Thao Dodson Jacqueline Francis	Martha Hertelendy Timothy F. Kahn Jennifer Kao Fred Levin Nanci Nishimura Merrill Randol Anthony Sun France Viana
Commissioners Absent:	Michelle Alioto William Mathews Brooks Virginia Foo Michael Hormel	Kiki Kapany Chong-Moon Lee Kenneth P. Wilcox
Trustees in Attendance:	Paul Antebi Eliza Cash Tiffany Chang (Z) Sandra Cheung Lillian Chun Thao Dodson Marsha Vargas Handley Charles Huang Marie Oh Huber Travis Kiyota (Z)	Gorretti Lo Lui (Z) Mary Mead, ex Officio Hema Mohan Julia Molander, ex Officio Anjali Pichai Varsha Rao Ann Tanenbaum Akiko Yamazaki Richard Yen (Z)
Also Present:	Abby Chen Naz Cuguoglu Lauren Curry Tim Hallman Sara Lee Soyoung Lee Padma Dorje Maitland	Sally Matsuishi Kate McNulty Robert Mintz Daphne Tooke Emiko Usui Jae Yang Laura Hathhorn

Call to Order and Chair’s Comments. Chair Salle Yoo called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., a quorum being present. Minutes from June 24, 2025, were unanimously approved. Welcoming everyone in person and on Zoom, Salle wished happy holidays to observers of Rosh Hashanah and Navaratri. She thanked each board member whose term would be renewed later during the meeting and she welcomed new Commissioner Jackie Francis and new ex officio Trustee Julia Molander, who were attending their first meeting. Salle gave an update on the Director’s Fund (a \$1.5 million challenge grant that Akiko Yamazaki established in June for a discretionary fund over the next three years), thanking all contributors to date (including 100% board leadership participation) for having raised over \$4.1 million and growing. Salle noted she recently attended a meeting of a coalition of arts leaders in SF and reported that she sees and hears positive data such as conference and hotel bookings are up 40% in the City and that high impact areas in the City have increased cleaning from twice a month to every day. She also spoke about a new Downtown development corporation (a nonprofit public benefit corporation) working to improve downtown (confirmed to extend to Market Street and Van Ness, putting the museum in the zone of improvement). She noted Mayor Lurie understands the

importance of art to the health of the city and is establishing an arts activation fund (more info to come), and stated there are other private initiatives including a \$50 million Open AI fund established for arts organizations with budgets less than \$10 million. She noted our budget exceeds that, but highlighted it is a good sign that tech companies are making connections between creativity, arts and technology and that bodes well for the museum.

Director's Report. Dr. Soyoung Lee welcomed everyone, expressing gratitude for their participation. She spoke about beginning her outward facing brand ambassador role along with Salle and others from the museum during their trip to Seoul for Frieze Seoul 2025 where they worked to expand the museum's impact and brand by conversing with institutions and colleagues old and new to start future collaborations. Other updates included (i) a facilities update on the water leak that occurred July 19 (no people hurt or art damaged, covered 100% by City property insurance, reviewed repair schedule), (ii) an update on the CPO recruitment noting the candidate had been identified and the offer accepted (more to come), (iii) an exhibitions update including game artist Jenova Chen (pause on collaboration), Park Dae Sung, Chiharu Shiota, San Francisco Selects (working title), and Vishnu's Cosmic Ocean. Soyoung pointed out a ceramic sculpture in South Court by Korean born artist, Yeesoonyung, which is on loan and of interest to the museum for purchase. She acknowledged that exhibitions have been driving attendance and noted that remains a critical component of the museum's work, but she said she would like the museum to get to a place where it isn't only special exhibitions that drive people in. She plans to focus on our brand and our vision that will be amplified by special exhibitions so that throughout the year we will have people who are committed to our institution and are interested in culture and community and come to the museum regardless of the exhibition. In closing, she presented "Junk Nutrients", a work by Cambodian contemporary artist Sopheap Pich, and thanked Dipti and Rakesh Mathur for their intended gift in honor of Soyoung's appointment as director.

Committee Reports.

Budget & Finance Committee Report. Foundation President Anjali Pichai called on Chief Financial Officer Sara Lee for the Budget & Finance Committee report. Ms. Lee noted Committee Chair Ken Wilcox sent his regrets for being unable to attend while traveling and acknowledged the work of all committee members. Ms. Lee presented the museum's financial performance for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2025, with an operating loss of \$6.6 million to be covered by available board reserves. She reviewed overarching themes impacting finances and said the museum is focused on improving performance going forward.

Learning, Audience & Community Committee Report. Ms. Pichai called on Emiko Usui, Deputy Director and Chief Experience Officer, for the report. Ms. Usui noted Amanda Minami and Vijay Shriram, committee co-chairs, sent their regrets for being unable to attend and acknowledged the enthusiastic work of the committee members. Emiko expressed gratitude for the committee's support and introduced Director of Learning and Civic Engagement Sally Matsuishi. Emiko presented the committee's two targeted goals to achieve by January: (i) Database of community, culture and arts organizations for current and future programming collaborations, and (ii) quarterly shared calendar with linked digital, media kit when appropriate. She talked about refreshed Public Programs and Sundays at the Museum, sharing information about recent programs and events.

Gala Committee Report. Ms. Pichai called on Lillian Chun, Chair of the Gala Committee who reported on the upcoming gala, A New Dawn, thanking her fellow committee members, host committee members and Krystal Fernandes from the staff. Lillian reported \$1.2 million raised to date and explained the format and timing for the evening, sharing images of the décor to achieve the vibe. Lillian encouraged everyone to stay for the after party, Dream Party, following dinner. She thanked again her committee and two largest supporters, Ram and Vijay Shriram and Jack and Susie Wadsworth. In closing, Lillian encouraged everyone, on the evening of the gala, to be fashionably on time, to go an artist activation, and to bring friends and family.

Consideration and Possible Action Items

- a. Reelection of Commissioners for an Additional Three-Year Term Ending in 2028 – Denise Bradley-Tyson, Timothy F. Kahn, Martha Sam Hertelendy, Anthony Sun**

WHEREAS, The Nominating Committee recommends the reelection of Denise Bradley-Tyson, Timothy F. Kahn, Martha Sam Hertelendy, and Anthony Sun for an additional three year term; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Asian Art Commission reelects the above-named Commissioners for an additional three year term ending July 31, 2028, for action at the 2028 Annual Business Meeting.

- b. Approval of 2026 Combined Asian Art Commission and Asian Art Museum Foundation Meeting Schedule**

RESOLVED, The Asian Art Museum Foundation approves the 2026 meeting schedule noted below.

Unless otherwise notified, all Full and Executive Committee meetings will be held at the Asian Art Museum in the Koret Education Center and virtually via Zoom.

FULL BOARD	January 20, 2026 (Tuesday)	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Commission</u> Executive Committee	February 10, 2026 (Tuesday)	12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (lunch)
<u>Foundation</u> Executive Committee	February 10, 2026 (Tuesday)	12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (lunch)
FULL BOARD	April 21, 2026 (Tuesday)	12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (lunch)
<u>Foundation</u> Executive Committee	May 19, 2026 (Tuesday)	12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (lunch)
FULL BOARD	June 16, 2026 (Tuesday)	12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (lunch)
<u>Commission</u> Executive Committee (tentative)	September 9, 2026 (Wednesday)	12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
FULL BOARD [Annual Meeting]	September 23, 2026 (Wednesday)	*4-5:00 p.m. **5:30-6:30 p.m.
<u>Foundation</u> Executive Committee	November 17, 2026 (Tuesday)	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Koret Education Center; ** Samsung Hall