



**Regional Arts Commission  
Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes  
May 21, 2026  
1:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call**

Cooksey welcomed everyone to the inaugural Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee and noted that this meeting replaces the weekly update on government and legal affairs. Cooksey also noted that Board Chair Ochoa would join the meeting shortly, as he was coming from another appointment. On behalf of Ochoa, Cooksey then called the May 21, 2026 meeting to order and asked Sutherlin for roll call.

**Commissioners Present**

Commission: Jerry **Gennaria**, yea; Gerad **Ewing**, yea; Mont **Levy**, yea; Constantino **Ochoa**, yea @ 1:15p

**Commissioners Absent**

Sam Fiorello  
Beverly Isom

**Staff Attendees**

Vanessa Cooksey, Savannah Babington, Ann Haubrich, Lea Sutherlin

**Others in Attendance**

Atty. Travis Kearbey, Quarles  
Atty. Emily Seidl, BCLP Law Firm  
Rick Gratza, KEB

**Recognition of Public Guests**

Meredith Parfet, Ravenyard Group  
Jenny Schmidt, Ravenyard Group

**Elect Chair and Co-Chair**

In the absence of Board Chair Ochoa, Cooksey highlighted past ad hoc committees, such as those for facilities and revenue development, and noted those committees met regularly to make decisions. Cooksey stated that she and Ochoa agreed that commissioner(s) Jerry Gennaria and Sam Fiorello should be recommended to serve as co-chairs of the Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee to ensure proper leadership.

Gennaria accepted the appointment and Cooksey noted that Ochoa had communicated with Fiorello earlier, and both had agreed, leading to the official recommendation of Gennaria and Fiorello as co-chairs.





**Motion made by Levy, seconded by Ewing and unanimously carried to elect Commissioner(s) Jerry Gennaria and Sam Fiorello as co-chairs of the Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Gennaria, Ewing, Levy**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

**Update on Government & Legal Affairs – Closed Session [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter RSMO 610.021(1)]**

On behalf of Board Chair Ochoa, Cooksey requested a motion for closed session for Update on Government & Legal Affairs [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1)].

Ochoa joined the meeting.

**Motion made by Gennaria, seconded by Levy and unanimously carried to close the May 21, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Update on Government & Legal Affairs [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1)]. RAC’s legal representation was present. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Gennaria, Ewing, Levy, Ochoa**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

Gennaria called for a motion to adjourn closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1), and to reconvene open session of the May 21, 2026 of the Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

**Motion made by Levy, seconded by Ochoa and unanimously approved to adjourn closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1), and to reconvene open session of the May 21, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee.**

**Yea – Gennaria, Ewing, Levy, Ochoa**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

**Roll Call & Adjournment**

Gennara called for a motion to adjourn the May 21, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

**Motion made by Ochoa, seconded by Ewing, and unanimously approved to adjourn the May 21, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 2:03 p.m. Votes were as follows:**





**REGIONAL ARTS  
COMMISSION**  
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**Yea – Gennaria, Ewing, Levy, Ochoa**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

