



**REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION**
OF ST. LOUIS

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**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

CLOSED SESSION HELD/Privileged and Confidential

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. Votes were as follows:

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.



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**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:**

Yea – Gennaria, Ewing, Levy, Ochoa

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

