

# Board of Supervisors

Meeting Time: 05-05-26 09:00

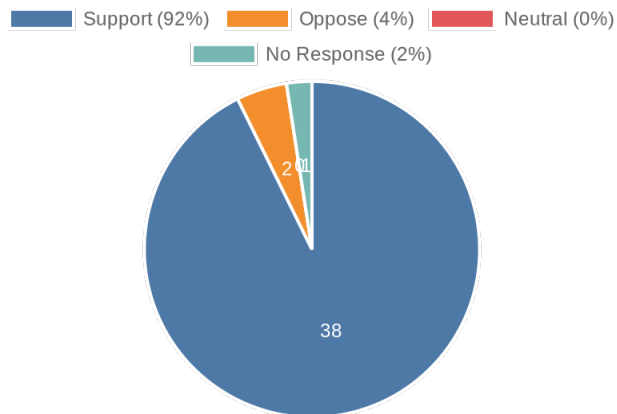
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Board of Supervisors	05-05-26 09:00	29	41	38	2	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



# Board of Supervisors

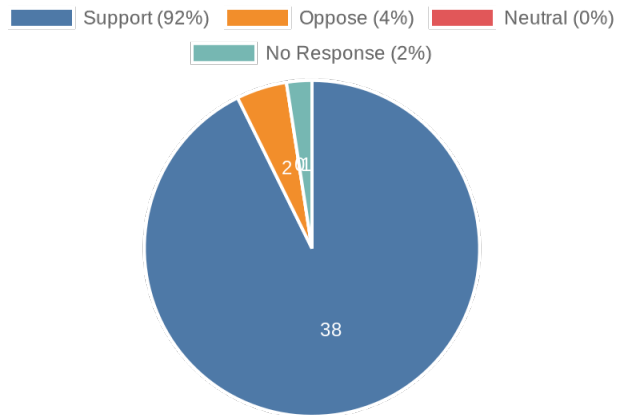
05-05-26 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
14. INVESTING IN ARTS, CULTURE, AND CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL	41	38	2	0

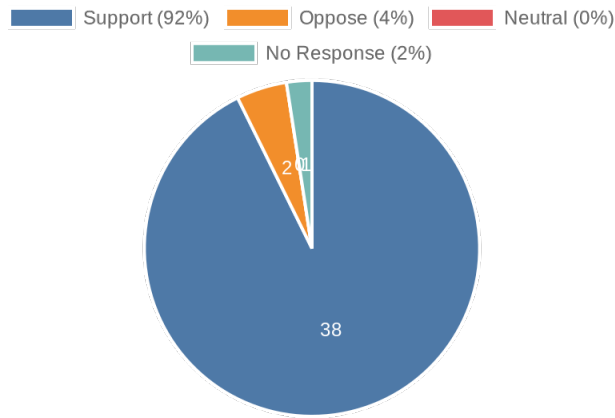
## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

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### Overall Sentiment



## Overall Sentiment



### **Olimpia VazquezOjeda**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:51pm 05-06-26

As a team member of A Reason to Survive also known as ARTS, an organization rooted in National City that centers the voices, creativity, and power of young people, every day, we see how access to arts and culture transforms lives.

For young people in National City and across the South Bay, the arts are not just enrichment—they are essential. They are a pathway to confidence, a space for self-expression, and a way to build connection and belonging. Through arts and culture, we build sanctuaries everyday.

Investing in arts and culture at the County level is an investment in equity and in the future of our communities. It ensures that young people—regardless of zip code—have the opportunity to imagine, create, and lead. When we invest in the arts, we are investing in more compassionate, resilient, and engaged community members.

Thank you for championing the role of arts and culture in shaping a stronger, more connected region!

### **Jessica Baron**

Location: 92104, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:25pm 05-06-26

Thank you , Civic Leaders, for recognizing and taking meaningful action to begin growing the immense value and potential of the Arts to become an engine for community engagement, resilience, wellness, learning. and growth, as well as a driver of tourism, small businesses success, and nonprofit impact. As the founder and executive director of a 25 year-old Arts nonprofit serving county-wide in early childhood education, and training educators in music leadership for academic and social-emotional learning in public schools, I support and applaud this county support for the Arts.

### **Carlos Cristiani**

Location: 92126, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:13pm 05-06-26

The arts and culture community welcomes and celebrates the leadership of Chair Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair Montgomery Steppe and their teams in putting forward historic proposed funding for arts, culture and creativity. These investments will have a profound impact in communities across the County, especially in unincorporated areas. The social and economic return on investment and prosperity will be well above several fold, improving everyone's quality of life, sense of agency, well being and community enagagemen across the region.

We thank supervisors for your support and for brining impactful investemnts with significant benefits to the public.

### **Erin Page**

Location: 92131, San Diego  
Submitted At: 9:25am 05-06-26

As an art consultant, curator, and Program Director for Campana Studios, I've spent fifteen years working directly with artists, galleries, and collectors across this region — and this initiative addresses real, structural gaps that have held our creative economy back.

Working artists here are extraordinarily talented. What they lack is not ambition — it is access. Access to affordable studio space, to low-barrier grant funding, and to institutional support that meets them where they are. The Artist Grant Program and Artist Space Grant Program speak directly to those needs.

At a moment when arts funding is being cut at both the city and federal levels, the County's leadership here is not just welcome — it is necessary. I urge the Board to approve this in full. Thank you for prioritizing our creative community.

### **Jay Bell**

Location: 92024, Solana beach  
Submitted At: 8:42am 05-06-26

I write in strong support of the “Investing in San Diego County Arts and Culture Initiative.” As a business person and artist committed to economic equity and social justice, I see this as both a moral imperative and a smart investment.

The County’s arts sector generates \$1.4B and supports nearly 20,000 jobs, yet most artists operate without stable income, capital, or space. This initiative provides practical solutions to stabilize and grow this vital sector.

Its equity focus is essential. Communities historically excluded from investment are where arts and culture serve as infrastructure for connection and belonging. From Camp Pendleton to San Ysidro, Julian to Coronado, this funding benefits the entire region.

Investments in the Black Arts and Culture District and our binational creative economy strengthen opportunity, identity, and growth.

I urge you to approve and fully fund this initiative. Stand on the right side of history and support all communities in San Diego County.

### **Richard Steiger**

Location: 92116, San Diego  
Submitted At: 6:29am 05-06-26

As a musician, artist, and writer: (SDSU BA '80 Fine Arts in printmaking and painting, and MA '88 ethnomusicology]), it is difficult to survive in a place where these things are considered (too often) as trival to Life. They are not. I am not alone in this struggle. Investment in the Arts is vital to the life of culture and community.

### **Natalie Vega**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:25pm 05-05-26

Art matters because it outlives circumstance. For people who may never accumulate wealth, property, or status, art becomes a different kind of inheritance one rooted in expression, perspective, and presence. It’s a way of leaving something behind that says, “I was here, I felt this, I saw the world this way.” That kind of legacy doesn’t

depend on material means, yet it often resonates far beyond them.

Those with resources seek out art—collecting it, funding it, preserving it because it carries meaning that money alone cannot create. It humanizes wealth, giving it depth and cultural memory. art bridges extremes: it is created out of necessity and preserved out of desire. Art is in the design of the spaces we move through, the music we hear in passing, the visuals we consume, the stories we tell and absorb. Art shapes mood, identity, and connection. It brings vibrancy to otherwise functional lives and offers a sense of fulfillment that logic and utility alone can't provide.

### **V Vazquez**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:37pm 05-05-26

I SUPPORT! The arts strengthen communities, expand opportunity for youth, and drive local economic growth.

### **Sarah Spinks**

Location: 92084, Vista

Submitted At: 2:41pm 05-05-26

I strongly support the County of San Diego's investment in arts, culture, and creative opportunity for all. Art is not a luxury—it is essential. It is a powerful economic driver that supports local businesses, creates jobs, and attracts tourism, strengthening our regional economy and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Beyond economics, art reflects our shared humanity. It tells our stories, preserves culture, and amplifies diverse voices across generations. Art also brings people together, fostering connection, belonging, and stronger, more resilient communities.

This investment demonstrates meaningful leadership and vision. I encourage the Board of Supervisors to support this initiative and to continue expanding it as its impact becomes clear. With continued political will, this commitment can grow into a model for what is possible when we prioritize creativity.

When we invest in the arts, we invest in people, in connection, and in a more vibrant, inclusive future for San Diego County.

### **Leonard Simon**

Location: 92037, La Jolla

Submitted At: 10:31am 05-05-26

The Arts are in need of support. Their needs are modest as compared to other demands on County and City money, but equally important. It is very hard for arts organizations to be self-supporting, and government should help provide these opportunities for personal enrichment through the arts.

### **SANDRA BRILLHART**

Location: 91932, Imperial Beach

Submitted At: 9:33pm 05-04-26

The arts strengthen communities in many ways. They drive economic growth, spark creativity, broaden perspectives, and deepen our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Access to the arts should never be a luxury that only the wealthy can enjoy. Government support is not only desirable, it is essential.

### **Kristi Lin**

Location: 91902, Bonita

Submitted At: 6:24pm 05-04-26

I support , arts are essential and make us more creative and compassionate human beings.

### **William Anderson**

Location: 92103, San Diego

Submitted At: 5:07pm 05-04-26

While I'm not able to attend and speak in person since I'm away visiting Detroit for the American Planning Association conference, Chicago, and Nashville for the Urban Land Institute conference, I want to express my support for the County's investment in arts, culture, and a creative San Diego region. The cities I'm visiting are

examples of places that are using art & culture, at the community level, to build and re-build their economies as they enhance their quality-of-life for all.

San Diego is among the nation's creative places. Our region celebrated this connection with the year-long World Design Capital. I participated in the economic analysis of the design sector to our region and realized that for many, especially our youth, it starts in their community and the types of programs the County's investment will help foster.

To this point, the Black Arts + Cultural District project is a tangible example.

William Anderson  
President  
San Diego Coalition for Public Places

**Mary Lydon**

Location: 92107  
Submitted At: 3:03pm 05-04-26

Please support the Arts and Culture item before you on May 5, 2026. Arts and culture are key to community and economic development. They also contribute to the physical and mental health of the citizens. Art is a necessary component of living thriving San Diego region.

**michael stepner**

Location: 92103, san diego  
Submitted At: 1:46pm 05-04-26

Michael Stepner. I am writing to support the Investing in Arts Culture and Creative Opportunity for All agenda item, The Arts are critical to the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It is especially timely that the County is taking this action as funding for the Arts is being cut by others. On behalf of the San Diego Coalition for Public Spaces a formal letter has been sent to the Office of Supervisor Montgomery-Steppe in support of the Black Arts+Culture District. Please give to the proposed program your favorable consideration.

**Rosie R**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:55am 05-04-26

Binational is laughable. Per this item, the county wants to "support binational creative economy initiatives and cross-border arts and culture collaboration." While at the same time complaining Mexico vomits their sewage into our county harming Americans and other residents. Make it make sense. Is this why Paloma was not at the press conference with Terra and Monica? [For appearance sake?]  
For this reason alone, I am opposed.

But there is another big reason to oppose - \$2.5m. To listen to artists beg the county for money to pursue their passion [profession or hobby] is abhorrent. Money from the government always comes with caveats. It is never free. Be cautious of what you give away of yourself to this government body. Why does an artist want the government controlling their life?  
[The county always needs voters.]

**Dalouge Smith**

Location: 92118, Coronado  
Submitted At: 10:10am 05-04-26

Please make this investment in arts and culture. Our county's wellbeing is improved in many ways by broad access to arts and culture. Young people mature soundly and socially as they participate in artistic activities, families are stronger when they know their culture is visible and valued in the community, and numerous businesses+jobs depend on creative sector activities. Arts and culture are economic drivers, social infrastructure, and healthy. Public support of arts and culture is essential to ensure everyone experiences their benefits.

**Andrew Utt**

Location: 92111, Encinitas  
Submitted At: 9:24am 05-04-26

Arts & Culture is foundational to our human experience. It represents our current moment and envisions our future while giving a testament to our past. Support for the arts from the County of San Diego is an incredible point of recognition of the value that our government has for our community to thrive.

Thank you for making a commitment towards empowering creative professionals, unique voices, and organizations in being successfully integrated into the economy of our region and to uplifting our community through joy, remembrance, and celebration. This commitment should be recognized as a step towards building a strong county arts department that can meet or rise above the level of commitment of other counties across our state. Thank you for giving a voice to our arts and culture producers from San Diego County!

### **Wehtahnah Tucker**

Location: 92007, Cardiff  
Submitted At: 8:44am 05-04-26

Supporting the arts is critical to developing and maintaining a healthy community. SD County deserves to show the world our cultural lens through art.

### **Bart Ziegler**

Location: 92014, Del Mar  
Submitted At: 9:52pm 05-03-26

Arts and culture are not ornamental, but rather they are foundational. They are how a civilization understands itself, challenges itself, and endures.

The most important value we hold as a society lives in our poetry, music, performance, and increasingly, our science. These are the expressions that give meaning to progress. They ask the deeper questions for our human experience, and remind us why life is worth living.

We owe gratitude to the inspired and creative artists, writers, musicians, performers, and scientists

Cities are not defined by their skylines alone. In places like San Diego, what makes a true destination is not the proliferation of high-rise buildings, but the richness of its cultural life, all in its stages, galleries, public spaces, and scientific institutions. These are the forces that build identity, foster community, and draw people not just to visit, but to belong.

Without arts, culture, and science, development is hollow. With them, a city becomes alive.

### **Anne Mudge**

Location: 92028, Fallbrook  
Submitted At: 6:02pm 05-03-26

Please support the arts in our community. The arts of all kinds are an enlivening force to our community's culture and make a significant contribution to its economy.

### **Becky Goodman**

Location:  
Submitted At: 6:14pm 05-02-26

I 100% support investing in arts, culture, and creative opportunity for all. I make my living in the nonprofit arts, I find community connection at arts events, and I constantly see my friends and neighbors who benefit greatly from arts experiences. The arts are essential, they are the solution, they are a lifeline to so many. I want my kids to grow up in a vibrant world surrounded by art, music, theatre, dance, joy, sorrow, all the emotions that we all go through, and we can experience collectively and support each other wholly. The arts teach empathy and tolerance and genuinely make the world a better place and all people deserve to have access. Public funding for public good!

### **Mary McKenzie**

Location: 92103, San Diego

Submitted At: 11:53pm 05-01-26

With funding for arts and music cut in schools and public colleges, it is increasingly important that artistic and cultural experiences are offered in our communities. They provide opportunities for personal expression, cross-cultural dialogue, and basic community dialogue. The arts are central to a community's identity, and artists need our support to continue their work to enrich our community and to continue to provide opportunities to new artists.

### **Ann Worth**

Location: 92106, San Diego

Submitted At: 3:28pm 05-01-26

I support increasing funding to the arts which drives economic prosperity across the region and preserves cultural heritage. Too many artists are displaced due to the cost of housing and program space.

### **Robert Little**

Location: 92029, Escondido

Submitted At: 12:39pm 05-01-26

I support the Arts in San Diego County. Please invest in the arts!

### **Spencer Lake**

Location: 92109-2015, San Diego

Submitted At: 12:30pm 05-01-26

Investments in art, culture, and creative opportunity for all is best considered in what it does for each of us. Art inspires, sustains, and magnifies no matter in what era it originates. It has advanced our history, specifically the memory of our realm going back to the origins of the Kumeyaay on to enriching our understanding of the story of Southern Califia, Old Town, San Diego County and City. It is literally a proper response to the significant impacts of ADU thinking. We'll call it "Let the Arts Develop You" (or Unity as the case may be)." Vote yes on Agenda Item 14.

### **Rand Steiger**

Location: 92014, San Diego

Submitted At: 8:45am 05-01-26

Of the major cities in California, SD was the slowest to develop cultural institutions. We still lag behind in the quality and diversity of our theater, visual arts, and music offerings compared to LA and SF. But we have been making excellent progress, due mainly to the investment of philanthropists like Jacobs and Prebys. SD has always been lacking in financial support and advocacy for the arts, and the cutbacks proposed by the mayor will make this much worse. You now have a choice. Reverse the progress made and send us on a trajectory towards being a cultural backwater, or make the modest investments proposed here to maintain what we have, and encourage the development of new resources. This is not only a matter of civic pride and cultural commitment, it is an economic matter as well. It is well documented that every dollar invested in the arts generates multiple dollars of economic activity. Please support this initiative and do not cut our already embarrassingly low arts funding.

### **Narendr Doshi**

Location: 92037, La Jolla

Submitted At: 7:11am 05-01-26

This is very essential for our community

### **Audrey Ledesma**

Location: 92115, San Diego

Submitted At: 5:11am 05-01-26

Please stand up for the arts and its community because they enrich people's lives. We all need art and culture in our lives.

### **jess Harris**

Location: 92111, San Diego

Submitted At: 3:07am 05-01-26

Please support the arts in San Diego, it's such an integral part of our culture!

**jess Harris**

Location: 92111, San Diego  
Submitted At: 3:07am 05-01-26

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**Patricia Frischer**

Location: 92007-2105, Cardiff By The Sea  
Submitted At: 10:47pm 04-30-26

YES, YES, YES, we have been advocating for the County-wide Commission for the Arts for 15 year and the funding to support this vital part of our community. As Founder of the San Diego Visual Arts Network and Chair of North County Arts Network representing a total of over 3600 arts organizations (both non and for profit) and the talents that those need to create jobs and bring the arts county wide to our cities and rural areas, we 100% support this need for funding.

**Daria Flores**

Location: 92014, Del Mar  
Submitted At: 8:11pm 04-30-26

The arts are such an important part of our lives and cultures, and the San Diego mayor wants to make significant cuts. I hope you vote to support funding the arts.

**ellen speert**

Location: 92024, encinitas  
Submitted At: 5:40pm 04-30-26

I support arts funding for our city and general community.  
It is an investment in the quality of life here and returns a significant amount of money.

**CAROL HILTON**

Location: 92056, OCEANSIDE  
Submitted At: 5:33pm 04-30-26

Thriving Arts programs, especially in difficult times like this, bring out the best in everyone .

**Rhya Cawley**

Location: 92056, Oceanside  
Submitted At: 4:50pm 04-30-26

Arts are the best of humanity!

**COLIN RIPLEY**

Location: 92008, Carlsbad  
Submitted At: 4:32pm 04-30-26

Supporting arts and culture is an excellent way to enhance the community. A relatively small amount in the county budget has a tremendous impact on the individual arts entities, both small and large.

**Jennifer Ball**

Location:  
Submitted At: 4:27pm 04-30-26

We absolutely need to spend more money on Art. All the money we spend on Art comes back in local engagement. We want people to hang out locally and spend money locally. The way to do that is to have all sorts of art in neighborhoods. Art is transformative in tough times and it binds communities together. Happy to participate with time and resources in this project. My assistant and I make paving stones. They are amazing because she makes them. I used to. I buy the supplies. Paving stones can be a very creative community project. We need more community projects! Yes on Art!

**Roni Breite**

Location: 92119, San Diego  
Submitted At: 4:20pm 04-30-26

Please invest in arts and culture, as much as is affordable. They are not frills; they are part of a rounded education, and a part of our souls. It's especially necessary in light of federal cuts and the city of San Diego considers drastic cuts. Thank you.

**Paul Engel**

Location: 92103, San Diego  
Submitted At: 4:18pm 04-30-26

Having the county is a birthday Art's is an excellent idea. The city is probably cutting back. We need the extra layer of county support anyway. County and city can both support the Art's,if not for a massive total, certainly a help.

**Paul Henkin**

Location: 91902, Bonita  
Submitted At: 9:59am 04-29-26

You just want to get your hands on everything.

This item means that \$250 thou would be spent on staff and admin costs, then up to \$2-1/4 mil in July, including \$250 thou for Binational Creative Economy Investment, and \$500 thou for the Black Arts and Culture District. So this proposal again does not sound entirely equitable.

The Board Letter mentions rising living and business costs. There are community efforts, like the Arts Center in Chula Vista, or the one you approved in Mira Mesa, which are already there. It mentions shifting audience behaviors. How will you control this? Psychotropics? It mentions Arts deserts? That never stopped us. Most artists have an impulse to create with or without fancy infrastructure. We have the resources to do this already.

The County also has a deficit, not as large. However, you may end up cutting necessary or emergency services. The money for these may not be there when needed.

Save your money for real priorities, not imagined ones.