



## SELA Cultural Center Advisory Panel Meeting #3

February 27, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Lynwood Bateman Hall Auditorium and Zoom

11331 Ernestine Ave, Lynwood CA

### MEETING SUMMARY

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#### INTRODUCTION

On February 27, 2025, the SELA Cultural Center Advisory Panel (Panel) participated in a hybrid meeting held in-person at Lynwood Bateman Hall Auditorium and virtually over Zoom. The project support team included representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), LA County Board of Supervisors Fourth District (BOS), and Moore Iacofano and Goltsman, Inc. (MIG).

Members from the project support team present included: Liz McGuirk (State Parks), Jennifer Cabrera (State Parks), Tara Lynch (State Parks), Olivia Chiu (State Parks), Elisa Partin (State Parks), Daritza Gonzalez (BOS), Daniel Iacofano (MIG), Esmeralda García (MIG), Brittney Lu-Jones (MIG), Sara Perez Rojas (MIG), Emilio Garcia-Corona (MIG), and Joey Nielsen (MIG).

Members of the Panel present included:

Director Armando Quintero (Chair), California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Daritza Gonzalez on behalf of Supervisor Janice Hahn (Co-Chair), 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District

Kristin Sakoda, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

Gabriel Enamorado, Stay Arts

Danaly Leon, Latinas Art Foundation

Montserrat Hidalgo, SELA Youth Representative (Zoom)

Dilcia Barrera, Arts Organization Executive (Zoom)

Cynthia Fuentes, The Ford

Kimberly Morales Johnson, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Representative (Zoom)

Members of the Panel absent included:

Mark Flores, City of Lynwood Recreation and Community Services Department

Guest presenters included:

Vincent Yu, Deputy Director with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Felicia Yang, Architect with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy with Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

Please note that the record of the meeting is provided via video recording. The video recording, and all other information and documentation, is posted at [selaculturalcenter.org](http://selaculturalcenter.org).

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Director Armando Quintero called the meeting to order and made an announcement to share information about Spanish translation both in-person and over Zoom. Esmeralda García facilitated a roll call for Panel members present in-person and over Zoom.

### **WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Director Armando Quintero opened the meeting with a welcome, announcement about agenda items, venue logistics, and then provided a land acknowledgement. A note was made that approving meeting minutes from the previous meeting was not necessary given the video meeting recording.

### **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Daniel Iacofano reviewed the meeting agenda, which included a design process overview provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, programming overview provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, and preliminary workplan review including action. Daniel Iacofano commented that the project support team looks forward to sharing more about the Panel process with the larger community via targeted outreach, including an upcoming social media campaign. He also shared that while the key goal of the evening was to approve the work plan with a confirmed vote, there would be flexibility for Panel members to make adjustments as new ideas and opportunities arise.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE SELA CULTURAL CENTER DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**

Daritza Gonzalez provided a brief introduction explaining how the Fourth Supervisorial District inherited the SELA Cultural Center site through a redistricting process. In 2023,

a County motion finalized the County's role as site owner and operator. Vincent Yu and Felicia Yang then gave a presentation about the SELA Cultural Center's design, development, and construction timelines on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW).

DPW overviewed the SELA Cultural Center's development background starting in 2022 when the Board of Supervisors adopted the Los Angeles River Master Plan, with the SELA Cultural Center recommended as a site in the Rio Hondo Confluence. DPW then detailed the process to secure the SELA Cultural Center site, which includes the relocation of the existing Public Works Imperial Yard to a new location.

Construction for the SELA Cultural Center is targeted for 2027 Quarter 1, with the awarding of construction contracts. DPW is intending to open the first phase of the complex for the SELA community by 2030. Next steps include required due diligence work for the Imperial Yard Relocation, ongoing work on the Environmental Impact Report, as well as coordinating recommendations from the Panel, programming consultants, Gehry Partners, and engineering consultants.

Panel members had an opportunity to ask questions related to the site, existing work, and phased approach. DPW explained that the Imperial Yard is the existing facility located on the site that is planned for the SELA Cultural Center. The Imperial Yard needs to be relocated, and the site for this relocation has been confirmed and is less than 2 miles east of the SELA Cultural Center site. The relocation of the Imperial Yard to a nearby site is vital to ensure the flood control maintenance operations are sited near the Los Angeles River.

DPW also explained that the SELA Cultural Center facilities built in Phase 1 will be informed by what the Panel and Arts and Culture decides together. The phased approach is preferred because it allows the most essential and community-benefitting functions to be made available sooner, without needing to wait for the BOS to approve all funding elements for full project construction.

The Panel closed this portion of the presentation and discussion with a proposal for an on-site visit to the SELA Cultural Center site and thanked the DPW for their partnership and work.

## **PRESENTATION ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES**

Kristin Sakoda presented on behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) to share more about what programs and services are

provided through the department. Arts and Culture's vision is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout the County, and acts on these goals by providing services related to grantmaking, professional development, education, youth development, commissions, conservations, cross-sector collaborations, artist-in-residence placements, research, and career development all while centering local artists and arts organizations. These services aim to equitably invest in and increase access to cultural infrastructure across the County.

Arts and Culture also holds multiple roles related to the SELA Cultural Center. The department serves on the Panel, represents the programmatic and operational needs of the SELA Cultural Center throughout upcoming construction processes, administers a \$5M state grant to support programs and planning that benefit the SELA community, and is developing cultural programming which will be co-created with the Panel.

Panel members followed up with comments about expanding Arts and Culture's vision more broadly throughout SELA, not just within the SELA Cultural Center. Panel members also asked questions related the initial community input conversations related to the SELA Cultural Center's programming. Arts and Culture shared that these conversations were held in 2015-2016 with many SELA individual artists and creative business representatives. A key takeaway was that there were many artists and creatives in the area but not as much supportive formal infrastructure. A Panel member expressed that while Stay Arts was not part of those conversations and does provide space and support to local artists, they were grateful for the County's attention to and funding for this issue.

The Panel closed this portion of the presentation and discussion with a proposal to have an artist or panel talk that featured SELA artists, and to hear presentations from Panel members who have direct experience working in and with the SELA arts community.

### **PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN**

Daniel Iacofano reviewed the formatting of the work plan, tables, and accompanying process graphic diagram, and explained that the first critical milestone would be establish an operating framework. Daniel Iacofano then facilitated a Panel discussion about the work plan, focusing on Panel meeting topics, community engagement, cultural assets mapping, partnerships, upcoming events, and timing of deliverables.

The summary of conversation included:

Work Plan Topics	Comments
<p><i>Panel Meeting</i> <i>Guest Presentations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an invitation for public members to get involved with Panel meetings as a presenter, speaker, etc.</li> <li>• Each panel member invites a guest (community members, artists, potential funders, etc.)</li> <li>• Aims to increase public transparency and allow the Panel process to be public- and community-led</li> </ul>
<p><i>Community Engagement</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a shared set of external talking points to guide communications about the SELA Cultural Center</li> <li>• Create a community survey to allow for multiple forms of interaction, feedback gathering, and engagement</li> <li>• Hire SELA artists to be part of this campaign, potentially utilizing a Panel artist-in-residence model</li> <li>• Being sensitive to the fact that some engagement has already been done to not fatigue the community with asking repetitive questions about feedback</li> </ul>
<p><i>Cultural Assets Mapping</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify case studies and examples of best practices (e.g. Chain Letter in the Antelope Valley)</li> <li>• Make cultural assets mapping process actionable throughout the Panel meeting process</li> <li>• Partner with local artists to identify other artists, individuals, and organizations to be engaged</li> <li>• Compensate artists who participate in the cultural assets mapping process</li> <li>• Aims to be a guide for upcoming community engagement activities</li> </ul>
<p><i>Partnerships</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize partnering with local residents (including youth and older adults) and local artist communities</li> <li>• Engage with Los Angeles Unified School District and specifically Local District 8 to highlight student artists</li> <li>• Consider engaging with an active artist who has a record of supporting similar projects to establish a media draw and put the SELA Cultural Center on the map (being intentional with who is chosen)</li> <li>• Collaborating with local events (e.g. Latinas Arts Foundation Dia de Los Muertos celebration)</li> </ul>

*Work Plan  
Deliverables and  
Timing*

- Provide a visual roadmap through the process graphic
- Add specific language to coordinate flow of actions with Panel meeting agendas and discussion to allow for implementation
- Decide on meeting frequency
- Timing can be made flexible and responsive to Panel needs, new research, current events, etc.
- Legislation does not require approval of individual items to deliverables (excluding the final Recommended Operations Plan) can be fluid

After the discussion, the Panel members established shared conceptual understanding of the work plan and its structure, components, and flexibility. Director Armando Quintero called for a motion at 7:35pm for the approval of the work plan, based on the evening's discussion and suggestions. Kristin Sakoda moved to approve the plan with the revisions discussed by the panel during the meeting, and Cynthia Fuentes seconded the motion. There were no further discussion or comments.

Esmeralda García led a roll call for the vote:

- Director Armando Quintero – yes
- Daritza Gonzalez, on behalf of Supervisor Janice Hahn – yes
- Kristin Sakoda – yes
- Gabriel Enamorado – yes
- Danaly Leon – yes
- Cynthia Fuentes – yes
- Kimberly Johnson Morales – yes (via Zoom)
- Dilcia Barrera – yes (via Zoom)
- Montserrat Hidalgo – yes (via Zoom)
- Mark Flores – absent

The motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Esmeralda García provided administrative announcements including communications from State Parks related to documentation (i.e. I-9 forms) and stipends. She reminded Panel members to sign up for the provided Focus platform, with more information to come on required training.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments in-person or via Zoom.

## **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

In response to the meeting, the project support team will lead the following efforts:

- Incorporate recommendations into the work plan deliverable
- Arrange a field trip to the proposed SELA Cultural Center Site
- Work with Panel members to invite local artists and other guests to present at upcoming meetings
- Draft community engagement plan, including communications, talking points, and survey questions, for Panel members to review
- Work with Panel members to collaborate on upcoming engagement events
- Research cultural assets mapping case studies
- Draft a cultural assets mapping process, including artist compensation process, for Panel members to review

In response to the meeting, the Panel members will provide support with the following:

- Work with the project support team to invite local artists and other guests to present at upcoming meetings
- Work with the project support team to collaborate on upcoming engagement events
- Provide examples of cultural assets mapping best practices
- Highlight local artists, individuals, and organizations to engage with for cultural assets mapping

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Armando Quintero adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.