



Meeting #8

January 22, 2026

PANEL MEETING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On January 22, 2026, the SELA Cultural Center Advisory Panel (Panel) participated in a hybrid meeting held in-person at Lynwood Bateman Hall Auditorium (11331 Ernestine Ave Lynwood, CA 90262) 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 Goltsman, Inc. (MIG).

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

Members of the Panel present included:

Director Armando Quintero (Chair), State Parks
Daritza Perez on behalf of Supervisor Janice Hahn (Co-Chair), BOS
Cynthia Fuentes, LA Philharmonic
Danaly Leon, Latinas Art Foundation (Zoom)
Dilcia Barrera, Arts Organization Executive (Zoom)
Gabriel Enamorado, Stay Arts
Kristin Sakoda, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
Mark Flores, City of Lynwood Recreation and Community Services Department
Montserrat Hidalgo, SELA Youth Representative (Zoom)

Members of the Panel absent included:

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

Guest presenters included:

Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon, SELA Arts Foundation

Diana Morales, SELA Arts Foundation
Camille Delaney-McNeil, LA Philharmonic
Summer Bjork, LA Philharmonic

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.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Director Armando Quintero called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and made an announcement to share information about Spanish translation both in-person and over Zoom. Director Quintero also dedicated the meeting to Frank Gehry, in memoriam of his passing and to honor his dedication to arts in the SELA region. A link to Frank Gehry's obituary can be found [here](#).

Esmeralda García facilitated a roll call for Panel members present in-person and over Zoom. At the time of roll call, only five Panel members were present in-person and quorum was not met. At 6:15 p.m., six Panel members were present in-person and quorum was met.

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Armando Quintero led a land acknowledgement, and shared information about venue logistics.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

Esmeralda García reviewed the meeting agenda, which included an overview of the SELA Arts Foundation, operations model example presentation by the LA Philharmonic, overview of draft guiding principles and emerging vision, closing announcements, and public comment.

OVERVIEW OF THE SELA ARTS FOUNDATION

Emeritus Speaker Anthony Rendon provided context to the SELA Arts Foundation. He shared about the development of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, and how that process illuminated the need for an arts and culture center. The request for the Cultural Center initiated a community-led outreach process that focused on assets, existing arts infrastructure, and needs, and included activities like the SELA Arts Festival. The SELA Arts Foundation would build on this momentum to support the Cultural Center, as well as further arts and culture initiatives in the SELA region and grow local partnerships with organizations like the LA Philharmonic and LACMA.

Diana Morales introduced herself as the Executive Director of the SELA Arts Foundation, and further described the mission and role of the SELA Arts Foundation. The SELA Arts Foundation would act as a nonprofit arm for the Cultural Center, support a capital fundraising campaign, and convene local community members, artists, and organizations to discuss the region’s long-term cultural infrastructure. Diana invited members of the public to attend the SELA Artists and Allies Gathering on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 10am – 1pm at the Bell Community Center and shared ways to stay connected with the SELA Arts Foundation. More information can be found [here](#).

Panel member Dilcia Barrera requested clarification on the relationship between the Cultural Center and SELA Arts Foundation. Diana shared the SELA Arts Foundation is a separate nonprofit entity supporting funding, but would not manage the Cultural Center.

PRESENTATION BY THE LA PHILHARMONIC (LA PHIL)

Panel member Cynthia Fuentes presented on behalf of her role as the Vice President of Community and Governmental Engagement with the LA Phil to share more about operational considerations for the Cultural Center through a case study of the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center (Beckmen YOLA Center). The LA Phil provides musical performances and programming through four venues to increase access to the arts across Los Angeles. The Beckman YOLA Center as an operational case study addresses the question, “what would the family and young person’s experience be like at the Cultural Center?”

Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) is a LA Phil-run music education program for youth from historically marginalized communities providing musical training and performance opportunities to support youth personal and professional development. YOLA currently serves 1,700 students across Los Angeles and is free to participate. There are five YOLA sites located strategically across Los Angeles to accommodate geographic and financial barriers to participation. Enrolled youth go through a six-year program focused on music instruction, auditions, and performances. These elements help youth further their careers, including those interested in pursuing a career in the creative industry. The following questions were asked by members of the public:

- How is this program financially accessible?
 - YOLA is fully fundraised for, provides instruments to participating youth at no-cost, and is seeking ways to gift the instrument once the program is completed.
- Where are the music classes held?
 - YOLA has a central location at the Beckman YOLA Center, but there are also partner sites at schools, partnerships with different organizations,

such as Heart of Los Angeles, and magnet hub sites to support enrollment. YOLA staff are also strategizing how to expand into other Los Angeles regions.

- How can homeschooled students get involved?
 - YOLA conducts direct outreach through schools and shares information through the website. While there can be waitlists, YOLA staff do their best to enroll efficiently. More information can be found [here](#).

Camille Delaney-McNeil, Vice President of Learning with the LA Phil presented on the Beckmen YOLA Center facility. The Beckmen YOLA Center is located in the City of Inglewood and opened in 2021. It was previously a bank building acquired by the LA Phil through a public private partnership and funded through private fundraising and new market tax credits. Frank Gehry designed the facility with the intention of honoring the space's history and surrounding neighborhood. It's multi-space, modular design is meant to accommodate a variety of uses from teaching to rehearsal to performance. Its central performance hall has retractable seating and walls to create different configurations. The spaces support YOLA programming, but are also open to other community organizations.

Summer Bjork, Chief of Staff with the LA Phil shared about the Beckmen YOLA Center's budget and operations considerations. Annually, it takes \$1-million to run the program with 90% of funding going to teacher's wages and the remaining 10% spread across supplies, travel, and other expenses. Approximately \$900,000 of the budget covers utilities, maintenance, and security. Funding comes from contributed revenue, fundraising, and some government funds. As much as possible, YOLA avoids corporate funding. The facility runs similar to a school environment, with many of the staff operating in a cross-functional role (e.g. instructors also have maintenance tasks).

Cynthia Fuentes returned to present on behalf of her role as a Panel Member to share relevant considerations for the Advisory Panel and Cultural Center. Cynthia shared that there is no single model for a cultural center, but the right approach is dependent on a clearly defined vision and clearly defined roles for any civic and/or nonprofit partners. Fundraising will also be important for the long-term sustainability of the Cultural Center. She advised the Panel to look to examples like La Plaza and The Music Center as helpful models in governance, structure, and funding, and encouraged the Panel to think about cohesion within the Cultural Center, especially as it is envisioned to be a multi-program, multi-building project. She described the importance of letting shared values guide the operational sustainability for the Cultural Center in the near- and long-term. She closed by calling the Cultural Center a root of the community and future

educational space for families and youth. The following questions were asked by members of the public:

- Did the City of Inglewood maintain a sense of influence over the Beckmen YOLA Center after it opened?
 - The LA Phil entered a Disposition and Development Agreement with the City which did have some specific parameters, such as requirements related to hiring and staffing.
- Clarify the funding for YOLA?
 - YOLA programming overall costs approximately \$2-million to operate per year, but each YOLA site is different.

OVERVIEW OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND EMERGING VISION

Esmeralda García provided a list of guiding principles, values, and emerging vision language to be reviewed by the Panel ahead of the upcoming meeting. The guiding principles were drafted in response to what has been previously discussed and heard during community outreach. These would be further refined at the upcoming meeting to guide subsequent conversations leading to the Recommended Operations Plan.

PANEL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Panel member Kristin Sakoda shared two opportunities through the LA County Department of Arts and Culture for local artists – [Public Artists in Development](#) (PAiD) and [Creative Strategist Artist in Residence](#).

Panel member Gabriel Enamorado described today's meeting as uniquely focused on presentations, but encouraged members of the public to come back and participate in the more interactive-style workshop meetings.

Panel member Danaly Leon appreciated the project support team's efforts to outreach to community members across the SELA region and encouraged the team to continue hearing from the community throughout this process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Armando Quintero opened the meeting to public comment from members of the public attending in-person and via Zoom.

- Patty Rodriguez shared her experience growing up in Lynwood, co-founding Little Libros, and excitement for the Cultural Center. Patty recommended learning from La Plaza de la Raza and arts educators.

- Mario Dominguez requested information about the LA County Public Works Department Environmental Impact Report, LA County Flood Control District site location, potential for incorporation by the City of South Gate, management of the SELA Cultural Center, and allocated funds for construction. Panel members and project support team members shared that more information would come from LA County Public Works, the LA County Department of Arts and Culture is the current operator, an estimated \$3-million is allocated for the project thus far, and more information will come at future meetings.
- Iris Delgado shared the importance of acknowledging current impacts from ICE in the region and that planning for the Cultural Center should consider its ability to pivot and respond to community needs in the near- and long-term.
- A virtual attendee requested information about whether other arts organizations would share their business models at future meetings. The project support team shared that this type of information would continue to be presented to the Panel.
- Dilcia Barrera requested information about the scope for social media, and whether local artists were being engaged to do this work. The project support team shared that the current video series was co-developed with a local artist.
- Cynthia Fuentes described the LA Phil's efforts to evolve their programming to incorporate mutual aid initiatives.
- Kristin Sakoda further described Stay Arts role as a partner in developing outreach and engagement videos for social media.
- Director Armando Quintero recommended that the start of each meeting includes a recap of what has been done thus far.
- Gabriel Enamorado clarified that the Panel is not overseeing construction, but learning how to operate in developing the Recommended Operations Plan.
- Christian Vasquez shared his excitement to have something at the south end of the LA River and recommended engaging with active communities, such as the Hollydale Cycling Club, to consider how communities will access the Cultural Center.
- Celina Lopez shared her experience of growing up in SELA and founding Cruzita's Deli and recommended partnering with existing local and informal spaces as a way to give community members a meaningful seat at the table.
- Emmanuel Carrera Ruedas shared their experience of growing up and living in Cudahy and South Gate, and recommended engaging with school communities to consider how students will participate in the Cultural Center.

Following public comment, Esmeralda García stated the next meeting would be on April 2, 2026. It would focus on refining the vision statement, hearing from community members about operational components, and be a more interactive-style workshop.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

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

- Include an Advisory Panel process recap at the start of each meeting
- Include a Frequently Asked Questions page on the project website
- To continue outreach with community members, schools, and local partners

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

- Review and provide feedback on the draft Guiding Principles and Emerging Vision

ADJOURNMENT

Director Armando Quintero adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.