

Joint Committee on the Arts Informational Hearing
“California’s Future is Creative”
A Presentation of the State’s Creative Economy Strategic Plan

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(or upon adjournment of the Senate and Assembly)
1021 Street, Room 2100, Sacramento, CA 95814

Agenda

I. Opening Remarks

Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Joint Committee on the Arts
Assemblymember Christopher Ward, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on the Arts
Other members of the committee invited to make brief remarks

II. Panel 1: A Strategic Plan for California’s Creative Economy: Depth, Breadth, and Cross-Sector Envisioning

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director, California Arts Council
Rachel Hatch, Chief Impact Officer, Institute for the Future (ITFF)
Allison Frenzel, Education Program Specialist, California Department of Education
Michael Wiafe, Assistant Deputy Director, Policy and External Affairs, California Workforce Development Board

III. Panel 2: Building Towards a Resilient Creative Future

Ri-Karlo Handy, Entertainment Executive; Founder and CEO,
The Handy Foundation
Joanna Reynolds, Creative Jobs Collective Strategist, Arts for LA
Alejandro Gutierrez Chavez, Executive Director, Arts Connection –
The Arts Council of San Bernardino
Roxanne Messina Captor, Filmmaker/Educator/Arts Advocate;
Chair, California Arts Council

IV. Panel 3: Looking Ahead: What’s Next?

Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures and Evaluation Manager, California Arts Council
Julie Baker, CEO, California for the Arts and California Arts Advocates

V. Public Comment