

## OCFECT Board Meeting February 27th, 2025

- Nick Kovacevich** Good morning, we'll call the meeting to order notice on the agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed any item not so notice may not be considered items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the chairperson. The mission of the OCFEC is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. Now, do we have any volunteers who lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Ruiz.
- Robert Ruiz** All rise, hand over your heart.
- Everyone** I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- Nick Kovacevich** Alright. Summer, if you please lead us in roll call.
- Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?
- Nick Kovacevich** Here.
- Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?
- Barbara Bagneris** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director La Belle?
- Doug La Belle** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Pham?
- Newton Pham** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava- Garcia? Director Ruiz?
- Robert Ruiz** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian? And Director Jackson?
- Dimetria Jackson** Here.
- Summer Angus** Thank you.
- Nick Kovacevich** Okay, we have a quorum here in the building. Good news. We'll move on

to an action item here the minutes we do have the board meeting, minutes from the January 30th meeting. Does anyone have anything to discuss?  
No?

**Robert Ruiz** Move

**Doug La Belle** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara  
Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** I'm sorry, Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Abstain.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** We're going to go ahead and jump to item number 9a under the governance process, we do have the presentation of Black History Month proclamation by the community affairs committee. So Director Jackson.

**Dimetria Jackson** In 1970 Connie Jones was just a teenager. She started working side by side with her grandmother, Annie Matric. That year, Connie and her grandmother began labeling suit out of the garage to a dozen homeless

men. Their community service continued to grow and expand into what became the Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana. Now operated by the Community Action Partnership in Orange County, at the center the needs of the working poor in Santa Ana continue to be served every day, mental utility assistance, free tax services, financial empowerment, youth engagement, employment support and yes, still hot meals. Connie retired a few years ago, but still serves on the Board of Directors with Community Action Partnership with Orange County, where she continues to advocate for the poor and make a positive impact in her community. I also might add that Connie is a huge fan of the annual OC fair, and has very fond memories of coming to the fair each year. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Fair and Event Center, We congratulate Mrs. Jones and thank you for your service.

**Dimetria Jackson** This Proclamation Resolution presented by Board of Directors, 32nd District Agriculture Association regarding Black History Month. Whereas the 32nd district agricultural associations mission is creating equitable community access, agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And whereas the district's vision, it's Orange County's Town Square, a safe place where the community gathers and finds value. And whereas the district recognizes the importance of honoring the month of February, this black history month. Whereas the district whereas the district recognizes the black community and its achievements in agriculture, the arts, literature, sciences, medicine, military service, businesses, entrepreneurship, and whereas the district celebrates the black community as contributions to the rich, diverse culture and heritage of Orange County. And further resolved, OC Fair and Event Center reinforces principles of diversity, equity, non discrimination, as core institutional values and safety is an underlying element to make any one person who visits feel welcomed and safe. Further resolved, it was a position that OC Fair and Event Center board of directors and staff enforce a policy prohibiting discrimination of any person from the race, ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation, and to respond to all concerns reporting. Now, therefore the Board of Directors claims the month of February Black History Month at the OC Fair and Event Center. In recognition of Black History Month 2025, the 32nd District Association honors Connie Jones who, since 1970 has been assisting the homeless and for the community with meals, clothing and other support services at The Southwest community center in Santa Ana. As a now retired executive Director of the Center, and current board member of the Community Action Project for Orange County. We celebrate her generous spirit and advocacy for the poor Making a difference every day.

**Connie Jones** I truly want to thank you for the honor, and I want to thank you for the fair and really good for the community. We have family members that come as far as Riverside, Reno Valley, OCTA, get on the bus or the train station

and come and not worry about parking. That's what we do a lot. Really want to thank you for the tickets that we received for the she Keisha Cole concert. I Have a 21 year old non verbal autistic granddaughter, and we don't take her to a lot of places because, you know, she's non verbal and things. I brought her through the tickets that was donated in the community. My granddaughter sat there and didn't want to leave. He wanted to leave. She didn't want to leave. She walked back to Florida, and when I sent pictures to her mom, tears just came down her eyes, because she had an excellent time. So I truly appreciate those tickets. I truly appreciate the therapy coming for years and years, and I have a little junk drawer that my Uber driver wants me to get rid of, Marcus there and the thing happened throughout the years. Thank you. God. Bless you, have a nice day.

**Nick Kovacevich** Alright. Thank you. Director Jackson for today. Well deserved award for Connie Jones and always extra special to give an award to someone who's a huge fair fan. Thank you I will move on now back to Agenda Item number six, which is matters of public comment. Me introduced by saying public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no action or debate by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments. And at the time, sorry, and no action will be taken on such public comments at the time as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item, speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, there are limited to three minutes. Comments will be accepted on all other agenda items at the time each item is listed on the agenda. Speakers wishing to address the board items on the agenda are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. Again, speakers will be limited to three minutes, so we do have a public comment from Glenn Johnson.

**Glenn Johnson** Good, morning, everybody. Thank you, Chairman Nick. I do appreciate this opportunity to come to you again at this time of the year. I was here last year to announce this. I am the president of the centennial farm Foundation, and we are hosting our annual Centennial Farm Foundation. Last year, we called it the farm shoot, we have changed the name to The Charity Shoot for 2025. I have brochures here. The public is invited to attend this fundraiser for the farm. As you know, all the money that we raise as a foundation, Jones, choose the farm that's attending. The farm that's our purpose of existence. This year, we are moving the event up. The public is invited to it. You don't have to be a shooter from shotgun. So shoot clay targets. Anybody can come. If you don't have a gun, we'll have guns there that you can borrow. It's a lot of to do this event. We had about 75 people attend last year. We're trying to get to 100 attendees. We

are moving the event up a little bit this year, to start a bit earlier, at 9am Raahauge's the shooting enterprises out in Corona is the place that we go each year to do this event. Robert is very familiar with that site. He has events out there as well. So we're going to start at 9am instead of 10, we're going to move it up just one hour. And instead of doing a box lunch, we're going to do burrito breakfast, things like that. We'll have fruit and other and we'll have water. We'll have drinks in the morning, we'll do our safety presentation, and then, following the safety presentation, we'll drive to the shooting range, and we shoot our sporting clays. If you don't want to attend that part of the event, we do have the silent auction, live auction, and the raffle tickets will take place. That will start at about 2:30. And if you come there for the barbecue, it's the same barbecue we've had in the past. So it's all you can eat barbecue. There's chicken, there's beef, there's there's corn on the cob, and all sorts of good food there. Again, this is all you can eat, and refreshments will be provided as well. It's \$250 to attend the entire event. And it's \$50 if you just want to attend the barbecue lunch and the silent auction and live auction activities. So everybody is looking to it. Brochures on back. If you have any friends, neighbors, relatives, who like to attend, please hand in the brochure the QR code on here. They can just get that QR code and register for the event, and we're hoping to raise even more money for the Centennial farm. So thank you again for this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing everybody at the event. and I do want to thank Michele and Michele for attending our board meetings that we had last Thursday. It's always great to see both of you come on and participate in our activities. So thank you all very much.

**Michele Richards** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** That concludes our public comments. We'll jump to Agenda Item number seven, which is the Consent Calendar on that is listed under the consent calendar, operational matters by which the board has governing policies, implementation of which is, however, delegated to the CEO. It would be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the motion, unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items to be discussed separately and or removed from the section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation of the chair to address the board. Does not appear we have any public comments on this. Do we have any items that want to be discussed or removed?

**Michele Richards** Staff has nothing.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great.

<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Director Kovacevich I move for the Consent Calendar.
<b>Doug La Belle</b>	Second.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Motion and a second. Summer.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Chair Kovacevic?
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Vice Chair Bagneris?
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Director La Belle?
<b>Doug La Belle</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Pham?
<b>Newton Pham</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Ruiz?
<b>Robert Ruiz</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Okay, Skipping to agenda item number 10, which is the closed session. We're going to break for closed session and we'll be back as soon as possible. Thank you.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank you.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	We did meet with council in closed session, and we have nothing to report, so we'll move on generative number eight, circling back to General item number Eight, the CEO's operational announcements and updates, and who better then CEO Richards.
<b>Michele Richards</b>	Alright, we have just a few updates. Perhaps you've heard a little bit about the Bird flu lately, H5n1, or wondered why our eggs are so darn expensive, that's bird flu. Our Centennial farm staff participated in a meeting with Dr Annette Jones. She's the state veterinarian California State Veterinarian. Optimism was actually encouraging, despite the current situation, which is predominantly affecting the California Central Valley. So here are some key points, because we've got the fair coming

up where we have both dairy cattle and and poultry shows, right? So very low risk for both of you in Southern California. In fact, it remains low, and there have been no human to human spread of the bird flu H5N1. Data from other states that experienced the bird flu earlier than now shows trends of recovery with herd immunity beginning to develop, which is a very good thing. So Dr. Jones is very optimistic that by late spring, fairs statewide will be able to return to normal exhibitions. So we are planning for that right now to have our poultry show and dairy show during the fair. But of course, our competition guide will communicate to exhibitors that, should that change, we may have to cancel those shows.

**Dimetria Jackson** Michele, you said there's no human to human?

**Michele Richards** Bird to human, but no human to human, okay, yeah, so...

**Nick Kovacevich** There has been bird to human. but not human, right? Okay, and that's that's in that specifically in Southern California, or thats...

**Michele Richards** That's national, Yeah, yeah. Okay, so we will include poultry and dairy competitions. Dr. Jones expressed appreciation for fairgrounds, the Centers for Agriculture Education. She supports continued poultry activities, including the chip petting that we do with our junior farmer tours, right? And, of course, we're, we're very strict about about the kids washing their hands, and we have signage all over the place, and she praised us for that. And we have a closed block, which means you need, you know there's no interaction with other other poultry, so very safe conditions for us. So in summary, while the Central Valley continues to face challenges, Southern California remains a significantly lower risk. Um This aligns with trends observed in other states, reinforcing our confidence that poultry and dairy shows that the OC fair will be viable for 2025 but barring any unexpected developments. So of course, we'll remain vigilant. We'll make sure that all of our protocols are in place, ensure the safety of the exhibits and the programs and our visitors as well. Okay, and hopefully the price of eggs will go down.

**Barbara Bagneris** Is that a part of it? Did it tell us when that's gonna come down?

**Michele Richards** I went to breakfast last Saturday with a friend, and we each had an egg dish, and our breakfast was \$53 and this is not at a.. it. No, this was at a...

**Nick Kovacevich** Maybe there is a revenue opportunity here.

**Michele Richards** 11 members of our maintenance department represented OCFEC at the annual Maintenance Mania event that was held earlier this month at the Del Mar fairgrounds in San Diego. Maintenance Mania is a highly interactive and participative event that elevates the skills of our maintenance crew. It's not only a chance to learn new skills and improve existing abilities, and it's a time for our team to collaborate with their colleagues at other fairs and expand their network and contacts. It's sort of like WFA for our trades, right? The event is sponsored by CDFA, CFSA, our insurance carrier, and WFA, and it brings together individuals from the fair maintenance network to learn, teach, and collaborate with each other. So there are various certification classes during maintenance mania, and two of our boats became certified on boom, scissor lift, forklift. There were all kinds of competitions, workshops that our people participated in and also taught. So it was a great experience for our maintenance crew. We got a call from OC animal care on Thursday morning, February 13, there was a heads up warning call the day before, but on Thursday the 13th, The Ranch was being activated as a large animal evacuation center due to heavy rains and potential mudslides in the OC burn scar areas. Our team sprang into action with the emergency plan that was revised and streamlined after the last emergency situation. The Ranch team working in conjunction with our safety and security department develop new procedures to increase the efficiency of taking in large animals and decrease the amount of time to get animals checked in and settled. We were prepared and ready to go. Fortunately, horses and large animals did not need to be evacuated to the ranch, but the emergency activation served as a good drill for the team, and the activation orders were suspended on Friday morning, so you'll see the team set up an evacuation base with all the equipment that was needed. Shavings were stacked and ready to go by the the empty stalls. So again, no no horses were evacuated to the ranch, but it was a really good drill for for our team.

**Michele Richards** In January of 2022 the Board of Directors passed a resolution recognizing February as Black History Month at the OC fair and Event Center, and you can see the Pan African Flag flying there has been all month. As part of that resolution, the board directed that the Pan African flag be flown every February, alongside all official flags. The Pan African flag is currently displayed at the Pacific amphitheater and at Main Gate and will remain up through the end of the month tomorrow, the impact of Centennial Farm in the community just keeps growing. The report from January indicates a total of 196 Junior farmer tours. That's 196 classes of kids, which included 3,810 students. The farm also hosted an urban discovery Day, which attracted an additional 769 students. There were three Farm and Garden classes held during the month with a total of 64 participants. So not counting the random daily visitors that we got in January. Centennial farm welcomed 4,665 people who were



positively impacted by our public agriculture education programs in January, and we welcomed 10 new piglets to the farm on January 31 it's just the start of the new baby set at Centennial farm for sure. So they were born on January 31 the growth of piglets is roughly five times the rate of growth for a human. So these little guys are already 10-11, years old, and they're only a couple months old. Yeah. And they are so fun to watch. You can watch them on the pig camp on ocfair.com. If you need some inspiration, we haven't talked much about the upcoming fair. We'll have our big kick off in a few months here, but I thought I'd give you a little preview on some of the concerts that are coming to Pacific amphitheater. Our team has been working really hard, so we've got the psychedelic tickets that are on sale now with the church in the mission. It's in the tantrums is on sale. Poncho Baralza on sale. Ludacris just went on sale. Melissa Ethridge and Indigo Girls are coming, and Blues Traveler with the gym blossoms and spin doctors. These are just a few of the shows that are already on sale. And I'll give you a little sneak peek of some shows that are not yet on sale but are confirmed. X with Josephus and those are monthly are coming. Los Angeles Azuls are coming. Young giant coming, and ZZ Top is coming.

**Michele Richards** I save that one. **Barbara**

**Bagneris** How about Beyonce? **Michele**

**Richards** That concludes my report.

**Nick Kovacevich** Fantastic. Thank you. ZZ Top, yeah. Thank you, Michele. Next, we'll move back to Agenda Item number nine, moving to 7B, which is an update on outreach to stakeholders for feedback on five year strategic plan. That is as an information item. Yes, and we felt great about the strategic plan. Let's hear what the stakeholders had to say.

**Michele Richards** Okay, well, we're still collecting the input. We'll have a full report at next month's board meeting that you all can review, but I wanted to share with you how we're collecting that data. So there are really three, three points to the plan that I wanted to cover. So first of all, following last month's board meeting, when the board acknowledged the draft of the strategic plan, we posted the plan and a feedback portal on OCfair.com website, so that would make it easier for people to get feedback. An e-blast was sent out on February 13, inviting over 7800 stakeholders to click on a link which takes them to the strategic plan so that they can make their comments. That stakeholder group consists of lots of different groups, and this is really just a brief summary some of the contacts that are on that list. OC elected officials and city managers throughout Orange County, chambers of commerce, our merchants, our

concessionaires, contacts that we have in education throughout the county, and law enforcement. And our two foundations that we work with. Our contacts in agriculture, event promoters and sponsors, media contacts. You know, I won't read the whole list, but you can see it there. So quite an exhaustive list of people that have an affinity to the OC fair and Event Center. The third piece is that when you log on to OC fair.com this little box pops up and it says, please review our draft plan and provide your comments on the online form. You click on the link and it takes you right to the plan to review and then the comment portal. So to date, as of actually, as of 5pm yesterday, we've received 67 responses. Some of some of them are interesting. Want to suggest different food at the air. Some of them are less strategic. Some of them were strategic. A lot of interesting comments, a lot from the equestrian community, so we will print all of those. The deadline to submit is March 13. We'll still print out all of the comments, bring them back, and there will be an item on the agenda next month to review those comments, and if the board wanted to make any changes or additions to the strategic plan at that time, you can do that, and then we'll get your your final vote on whether or not to approve the plan. Okay? And that's my report. Is, if there are any questions, happy to take them.

**Doug La Belle** Just to comment on Michele, we were standing city managers group on a monthly basis. Uh, Mark in Yorba Linda, I know I think the current president of the group was the manager, etc. So I'll reach out to Mark and see if we can get five minutes on their their agenda for you to tell them all about what's going on that helps you.

**Michele Richards** If not, if they can get the word out to those city managers. They received the E-blast each of the city managers, but even a reminder would be great. Okay, thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Anything else? All right? Thank you. Yeah, good job. All right, so now we're going to move on to 9c which is the status report on The Ranch community center facilities and programs.

**Michele Richards** Sorry, Josh was just asking if there was any public comment but we didn't receive any cards. And okay...

**Nick Kovacevich** I don't think we have any additional public comment cards for any items at this time. So if we do, let me know Summer, thank you. Okay, so yeah, moving on again. 9c is the staff report on The Ranch community center facilities and programs, which we like to hear about every month.

**Michele Richards** All right, Little tidbits, but wanted to give a little more background. So we've shown the beautiful entrance mural before to The Ranch, but I wanted to clarify the cost of the mural, including labor and materials, was \$2,360 not \$50,000 that maybe had been suggested before. The

balance of the 50,000 you all might remember, you approved 50,000 ahead of the 2025, budget, so we could get started on components of The Ranch. The mural was one thing, but those were also spent on educational materials for the ranch after school program, along with supplies, equipment, and materials to get started on the exhibit The Walk Through exhibit.

**Nick Kovacevich** How much of the 50,000 roughly what's been spent?

**Michele Richards** I don't have that, but I know that the full 50,000 was not spent. And then now, of course, the new budget has gone into effect. So we're we're using those dollars. The second session of The Ranch after school program is well underway. We have 22 new students from Davis Elementary and College Park Elementary Schools, we're continuing to work with the Newport Mesa school district to expand the program to other elementary schools. So far this session, the kids have completed the unit on chickens, planted and cared for their gardens, and finished units on goats and rabbits, and it's a thriving program at the ranch that will continue to expand to serve more kids in the community. The walk through equine exhibit is being installed as we speak. While these photos are beautiful, they don't do the exhibit justice, and I can't wait for you all to see it in person the photos you see here. Here are our first complete install where visitors will learn about the different types of horse feed nutrition and the essential role diet plays in keeping horses happy and healthy. But that's just the beginning. There is no better exhibits design team in the fair industry than the team that works right here at the OC fair and Event Center, our exhibits and education department. Work is going on right now to create other sections of the interactive exhibits, which will focus on caring for horses, equipment and tact, use with horses, careers with horses, history and heritage of horses and types and breeds of horses. And when our designers team up with the folks at Knott's Berry Farm, amazing things happen. Space is being prepared for delivery of a Butterfield stage coach from Knott's Berry Farm, which will be on loan to The Ranch. There's the waiting to be delivered. Knots will also be donating two other coaches for the exhibit, a doctor's coach at the top and a wedding coach. And we are finalizing signatures on the MOU and as soon as that is done, then those coaches will be delivered to the ranch and incorporated into the exhibit.

**Michele Richards** We've talked a lot about the work we'll be doing with the North Orange County Veterans Center to offer licensed equine assisted therapy to veterans in our community. But I'm very excited and very proud to announce that just this week, the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation offered to donate \$14,500 to the program, which will cover the cost of renting horses and handlers for use in the therapy program. So very much thanks for their generous support. Yes, and we continue to move along, working

with the Cal guard mounted military unit that is planning free demonstrations for the public as part of the program. And lastly, we're very excited to announce plans to host our very first discovery day at The Ranch in mid May. And just like discovery days at Centennial farm, the ranch will be filled with hundreds of students, teachers and other visitors, who will come in by the bus load, experiencing dozens of hands on activities for learning and fun. Our partners, like Knott's Berry Farm, Cal guard, Walk Into It and others will be joining forces to offer exhibits, activities and demonstrations, all designed to teach kids and adults about equine and other farm animals, agriculture and more. We're planning a special ribbon cutting by the board of directors and other community supporters, including elected officials, who have helped make the vision of the ranch come alive. A specific date will be announced very soon. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting Republic event, and I know it will be on a school day, but we hope you can all make it to help us open the program at The Ranch. And that concludes my presentation. If there are any questions, happy to answer them.

- Doug La Belle** Just a comment Michele, as you and I chatted briefly, I mentioned, with your public meeting, we have a lot of vocational programs for boys and girls, obviously on site when the gamut over the last 100 years. And I did talk to our Executive Director, Chris Burns about potentially the boys and girls assistant with staff at VR on one of those coaches, either the doctor's coach or the wedding coach. So I'm going to ask Chris to give you a call and you, Michele, can kind of coordinate whether there's any any benefit there, but I think this would be a good opportunity for our students to kind of increase their skills and others.
- Michele Richards** We did share that with the ranch staff, the opportunity that might exist to get the kids involved, and they're already coming up with projects that they can help with. So please have Chris give me a call.
- Barbara Bagneris** Mr. Chair? So thank you for the reports every month. Again, I'm a visual person, and I know we wanted to do this, but I couldn't really see it through. I'm very, very pleased that what we're seeing and this vision is bigger and expanding faster than I thought, to be honest. So I am excited about discovery day, see if I can get off that day and come but thank you and your staff for all that you're doing and that this program is taken off.
- Nick Kovacevich** We expect discovery day to be in the next four weeks?
- Michele Richards** Mid May.
- Nick Kovacevich** Okay, and we expect to be able to walk through maybe after next board meeting?

**Michele Richards** The exhibit is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. So given that the next meeting is March 27 Yes, we should be good.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, so maybe we could bring a group with one of the...

**Barbara Bagneris** Questions, are there any plans for doing anything during the fair times?

**Michele Richards** Not yet.

**Nick Kovacevich** One random thing I just thought of seeing that wedding coach, is there anything that would restrict us from offering the venue from weddings?

**Michele Richards** Not at all.

**Nick Kovacevich** Nick Kovacevich  
 Yeah, I'm sure people would be excited to have their wedding here. Okay, great. Thank you. So that moves us to now the committee reports, which is 9D. We do have a committee report from four committees. First, we do have the report from the Leadership Committee. Let me access my screen here, and I will go ahead and mark this. The wrong link on that. Did you get the right link? CEO Richard says, yeah. Is So leadership committee report, yes, is usually really short. No difference this time. So we do meet on February 12 to plan the agenda for the board of directors meeting is this, yeah, and we are here at the meeting. And one of the things we did discuss is the CEO recruitment process. So that is real, unfortunately, as much as most of us hope that it would not be, but we're moving forward, and luckily, we have great collaboration with CEO Richard, so it's going to be instrumental having her input, ultimately board decision, and we're going to continue to progress that, and we know the timeline, and we're going to make sure that we continue to have steady leadership here at the fair, no matter what So and then our next final meeting is on March 12, just as the March meeting. And that's it for the leadership committee. Any questions? Next, we do we've got the financial monitoring and Audit Committee. Director Pham is on Zoom. You could...

**Newton Pham** Sure. Yeah. So it's a little early on in the year. So the revenue comparing to the budget's gonna look a little bit bumpy, but for the beginning of the month in January 2025 revenue came in at 645,000 which is unfavorable to budget by 324,000 and it's primarily driven by the fact that the way we budgeted the concert revenues is based on a straight line average versus the actuals. And then canceled events and an ongoing transition taking place at the ranch. Total expenses for the month are 2 million, which are favorable to budget by about 581,000 and this is mainly due to ongoing vacancies and decreased event activity and a delay in utility and waste removal invoices. Now for the period ending in January, net proceeds are

favorable to budget by about \$257,000. You know, with all the the investment we have in the property, cash is still very healthy at 552.2 million. The next meeting we'll have is going to be March 24 And with that, you know ends the report you.

- Nick Kovacevich** Sure, One question, Director Pham is, as the committee, you guys looking at any bad debts or any outstanding receivable, except, you know, we're owed. You guys ever look at that?
- Newton Pham** We typically do from time to time, especially right after the fair didn't do it this last meeting though.
- Nick Kovacevich** Okay, yeah, make sure that that's, you know, under control. I don't expect any huge things there, but if we could get a quick update on that in the next report that would be great.
- Newton Pham** Sure, sounds good. Understood the mission.
- Nick Kovacevich** Anything else to report? All right, we'll move on to the Facilities Committee Reports and that committee we have Director Ruiz here.
- Robert Ruiz** Yeah, we had we met this month, very important meeting that we have with Michele, and they brought us up to date on the projects that we have going on here, I think 17 projects that are active that we have going here, and they also brought us up to speed on the Admin Building, which is behind schedule because we did have some rain. Six, so amount of six weeks, Ken? Okay, all right, so we're going with that I don't know if you can tell by the building, it's coming along great. So I'm looking forward to that the drawings. Have a third set of drawings, which are now waiting for approval from the State Fire Marshal, right? And so phase two of the Midway, restrooms and showers, we have 60% drawings that have been completed, that have been forward to the estimator. The team's looking to move forward to having 90% drawing was completed, and will go to the estimator. And The Ranch. We were brought up to speed on that and as well as the information that Michele presented to us today. So I'm excited about that, like Director Bagneris had said, and looking forward to our next meeting, we're going to do a tour of the admin building, so I'm looking forward to that, and hopefully we'll have more of an updated report on the admin building and we tour that. Other than that, that's going to be it. Anybody has any questions?
- Michele Richards** Thank you. Some photos to share again. You want to walk us through those.

**Ken Karns** So you know, here you'll see the from the existing building A, the new operable windows are going in and fixing up the facade with with the stucco. And up top you see the siding going on the existing building and sealing up the roof on their story. Prepping for stucco on and we call the addition Building B, just for our own to keep it simple when we're talking, so it's being prepped and ready to get sealed in. Inside drywall taping, getting ready to do some priming and painting very soon. So with that, that means that all the rough end is going quite well. Once you see drywall being being taped, rough in this coming together quite nicely. And there's a picture of the town square leading in. It's really, really starting to take shape. So when you when, when we have the opportunity to tour you through some of those things that you saw on paper early on, we have to really see them now.

**Michele Richards** This photo really doesn't do it justice that that roofing is beautiful. The wooden, yeah, and the natural light coming in, it's it's really spectacular.

**Robert Ruiz** So because of some rain, we're all tarped in, so you might see that light, that all that black will be gone and there'll be nice windows. There's that light to see. I There's a lot goes on before paint goes on the wall.

**Barbara Bagneris** Can you show that?

**Ken Karns** Yeah, a lot of material arriving. Procurement is going quite well. It's quite an active, an active site. So let's just give the perspective from that angle there.

**Barbara Bagneris** So questions. So with the six week delay, Lego village stays up for the fair, that space that used to be hadicap, that's not going to be usable?

**Michele Richards** No, no, I'm turning to Ken because I know there was an update.

**Ken Karns** So in the in the report, we do discuss it, and the team is prepared to have a go. No, go, wait, and we're prepared to execute in either way. And I'm not, I don't want to be evasive, but next week, on the Wednesday, when we have our Facilities Committee, in advance of the CEO from CCA is arriving, I'm gonna have a meeting with him, and we'll have further updates.

**Doug La Belle** The restroom facility manager, what is the current estimate that. Will start construction after the fair analysis.

**Michele Richards** Thank you.

**Ken Karns** So the schedule that we're driving is to have it on the street so that during a fair we can do a walk through with with potential bidders, and then execute the shovel in the ground as soon as after fair as possible.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, thank you. All right, anything else on the facilities, thank you for the update and the gorgeous photos. So we'll go to the Community Affairs Committee, Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Thank you so chair Rubalcava-Garcia, and I met with CEO Richards the first week of February. We discussed potential recipients for Black History Month proclamations. Few names can result in We also actually reached out to some stakeholders in the community to get some feedback. As you saw today. Connie Jones, the former director of the Southwest community center and art board member made Action Partnership, Lauren County was chosen and it was honored to present the award to her today. And recognize her and her husband. So today, and I guess the next meeting will be to be determined. We have to determine who's going to be the recipient of next month's women's history with us? Yeah, it's history month of March, so we're working diligently on that. And if you have any recommendations, you know members or a staff somebody who should be considered, please, I guess you can let's CEO Richards know about that, or send me a message, but I just sent it to you when we meet and have that discussion. I'd love to hear from everybody too. Because if it's somebody that you know what you're aware of, you know of that maybe we don't. So I do like to get the view back with Miss Jones. Our name came up a couple of times. So it was like, okay, and like, you know, they say you want to get to someone there flowers while they're still around. So yes, nice and lovely to do that today.

**Doug La Belle** Next month Is which?

**Dimetria Jackson** Women's history.

**Doug La Belle** Got it.

**Michele Richards** And we are celebrating Black History Month. This graphic is from the California Department of Food and Agriculture from the state level. I think Director Jackson has a little background on this art.

**Dimetria Jackson** So the Black History Month 2025 theme is African Americans and labor, as you can see, focus on the impact of work on the experience of black people. That work ranges from the past of cultural labor of enslaved Africans to today's black professionals providing leadership as corporate executives and entrepreneurs.



**Barbara Bagneris** Yeah, all right, Black history...I just had a comment. As we say in my church, Black history is American history. We're always happy to be able to highlight what's happening in the black community. And I love the fact that it's always about labor, agriculture, bring it here so it ties in nicely with what we do. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great. Thank you, and thank you. That's a great proclamation ceremony we did as usual.

**Dimetria Jackson** Thank you guys.

**Nick Kovacevich** It's great work that you guys do so. Unfortunately, you had to represent the whole group today. There was a very good reason that Director Rubalcava-Garcia wasn't able to make it today. So I wish her luck. So next, we've got upcoming events preview, and we've got, go from one Michele to Michele another Michele.

**Michele Capps** So a few things to talk about this event. Saturday, we have the California bridal and wedding expo, so dozens of wedding services will be there. So everything that it takes to plan a wedding, from florists and photographers to invitation centers, so everything you could possibly need all in one location there and then moving on the following weekend, March 6 through the 9th is Pacific Coast sport fishing, and It is a tackle and boat show. It's the West Coast premier Outdoor Show. It includes manufacturers, retail sales, travel lodges and dealers from hundreds of outdoor products. And that's \$20 that's going to run Thursday through Sunday. And then the big one, big, big one is the Overland Expo, and that one is March 15 through the 16th. That weekend is the ultimate gathering for adventure travel enthusiasts. The event covers hundreds of hours of hands on classes, expert led workshops and inspiring talks from renowned speakers and trainers from around the globe. So that one is actually, there's quite a buzz out on the street, and it's going to be rightly attended here. So pretty exciting that it's here

**Dimetria Jackson** Is it just to kind of share information, if you wanted to?

**Michele Capps** Some retailers will be there as well. So if you want to see RVs needs, okay, camping equipment.

**Nick Kovacevich** Is there a cap on the amount of camp overnights?

**Michele Capps** I don't know about that. Then moving on to Centennial farm workshops, we have the preservation workshop, the make it and take it so everything about preserving food, and that is with the UCCE master food preservers. Attendees will learn up to date process

recommendations and how to process your food safely, and they'll explain the reasons behind the processes. We're also going to have a hydroponics class for the home gardener. This session will introduce participants to the fundamentals of growing plants without soil. So can't get your hands dirty on this one. And then we have a couple of discovery days coming up March, 7 and 18th. Um, every Thursday you know that we have the farmers market that new next week is Goodwill Industries will be dropping out the truck here for donation pickups every Thursday in conjunction with the farmers market. So for all of those boxes and bags of things you've been driving around in your car, my car... Yeah, exactly. Our staff is so excited that, you know, once a week exactly, bring it to the goodwill truck. So that's going to be new. So we signed an agreement with them, and then moving on our own heroes Hall. So on February 15, the exhibit opened up for echoes of conflict, remembering Vietnam, and this Saturday, we have our first a few Speaker Series, and this one is "Breaking Barriers, Black Marines" reflect on war, service and sacrifice and the exhibit. This one compelling panel discussion with three members of the first all black unit in the Marine Corps whose service spans from World War Two to Desert Shield, with a focus on their Vietnam war experiences. And all three are Montford white marine association members and accredited with their significant role in breaking racial barriers within the military. So if you can, please be part of that one. So that is this Saturday. That's fine.

**Barbara Bagneris** I'm excited about this. My brother's wife's father, we called him dad, Phil. He was a mother. Frank Reed. They all got honored at the White House. They were all in their like 90s at the time, and he was the first black to serve at Marine National Headquarters in Washington, DC. So I'm very excited about this, and I will be there.

**Michele Capps** Excellent. And then our next speaker series, just so you can get that on your calendar, March 29 two o'clock that, and Chair Kovacevich will be there too, so we'll have good representation from the military that kind of blew the surprise February birthday, but a birthday in just a few days march...Happy Birthday

**Dimetria Jackson** Thank you so much.

**Michele Richards** My youngest sister's birthday too.

**Nick Kovacevich** Alright. Well, thank you very much. Steps coming up as always, and good stuff coming up. The next Board meeting is March 27 and hope to see everybody in a month. We'll close with board of directors, matters of information. We'll start with Director Pham on Zoom.

**Newton Pham** Sure, hey everybody, good to see you via zoom. Wish I could have been there in person. Voice is a bit scratchy. I don't think I'm sick or anything, just of things, more of a matter of being a conference in Vegas for the last four days, but just wanted to be, you know, better safe than sorry for, you know, for most folks, and then no other matters of comment. Really appreciate the presentations today. You know, the exciting stuff on the ranch and and I really like the community affairs presentation day as well. So thanks everybody.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, We'll go around the room. Director Ruiz.

**Robert Ruiz** I don't have anything other than just great meeting me. Thank you for pushing it along. Michele again, thank you for everything you're doing with your staff.

**Nick Kovacevich** I thought you'd be commenting on the Lakers new addition, superstar, coming to LA Yeah, yes. Director La Belle.

**Doug La Belle** I really liked the community affairs, that was an excellent presentation earlier today. Just a delightful lady and Uber driver. Just as a thought to kind of follow up on what David mentioned about the rain carriage that we're going to get from Knott's Berry Farm. Well, I know I can't remember what it is in the Master Site Plan, but at some point in time, we're going to do some buildings out there, educational facility. One of the things bigger memories from long time back Equestrian Center in Chino Hills, when Helen passed and the House came to the city, we converted that home into kind of a small meeting area, but also a wedding reception area, and there were dressing rooms for men, the women, that sort of thing. And you know, that might be something we might want to look into a little bit when we get to our educational facility. There might be a component we could put in there that might enhance the ability to have weddings and that sort of thing. I know that a lot of people that we have pretty much on an annual basis, we have weddings during the fair for a long time, fare attendees and that sort of thing. So this might be something to look at with that great job, as always. Michele on reports and staff appreciate it, and we'll see you all next month.

**Nick Kovacevich** Director Jackson

**Dimetria Jackson** Great meeting. And it was an honor and pleasure to meet Miss Jones. I hadn't met her before, and it was really nice because I said we got feedback. Hermes popping up. So really was happy to meet her and her husband. And I really do love being part of the community affairs committee. I mean, every time I get a chance to meet somebody, or serve a proclamation to them or their organization and them, it just it makes me feel good, and it's like, this is why we do what we do. And I

love that outreach that we have with we talked about doing something at the fair kind of extend that to another level. So I'm really excited about that. So I'm going to be like, beaming, hope I'm there on that. So really, just aside about that and the right meeting, and I enjoy working with say that. And I'm also looking forward to birthday month tomorrow, oh no, Saturday, and then my husband's birthday is actually March 6. So let's become my birthday month. I should have walked in and Robert announced it. Oh, I said My birthday is coming. So sorry, Thank you all.

**Nick Kovacevich** And my vice-chair.

**Barbara Bagneris** Everyone, don't worry about me and that wedding coach, my next wedding, if it ever happens, will be at the courthouse. Great meeting. As always. Appreciate all the feedback. I just appreciate what this this body does for the community. Bears coming up on Cooper, but I want to call out Reggie Mundekis right now. She's the only one in the room from the public, but for the day my first meeting, she's a staple. I expect to see her face and if I don't, I'm calling to try to find out what's going on. Appreciate how she has supported this board and continues to be with us. RJ, I didn't forget you. So thank you. And looking forward to Mumford appointments on Saturday. My oldest grandson turns forward on your birthday now, so I remember that now, because keep that in my mind. So thank you. Thank you all the staff that's here and support.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, thank you everyone. Just another smooth meeting. And love the chemistry of the board here. It's great. I'll give a big shout out to Vice Chair Bagneris, because, you know, I've been at the fair here. You know, around the events, I was at the train show, which was great, huge turnout for that train show. Really cool, kids loved it. I will be hopping over to the farmers market right after this. I'm going to be at the Mumford event with you on Saturday, and planning to continue to try to get to as many things as possible, but I cannot outdo you. Because you have so many things, you're always showing up, you're putting the work. And I just, I love it, and it's, it's a see you set the bar. So I was actually a little worried about you don't have to say a few words at the event Saturday. But now that I know the personal connection and how good you are, I think you might have, I sincerely appreciate the efforts and representing the board at so many things, and I want to continue to do my part as we all, you know, make efforts, and it's great that we have these rounds. It's great that we get to be so involved. And, you know, it's also great that we have such great staff, and it runs without us as well. So thank you guys. And that's a great last day of February, last day of Black History Month. And you know, there's a lot of good stuff going on. Another thing with the Centennial Farm shoot. But also, let's, let's keep, let's keep at it everyone and see y'all next month. All right, meeting adjourned.

