

**MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD JUNE 26, 2025**

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the ocfair.com website.

https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/17110255/25_06_June_Transcript.pdf

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Barbara Bagneris, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Director Dimetria Jackson. Roll call was taken by meeting secretary, Summer Angus.

4. DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson.

DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Chair Kovacevich and Directors La Belle and Ruiz.

Director Pham joined the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Melissa Au-Yeung, Chief Administrative Officer; Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Arnold Duong, OCFEC IT Technician; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; Evelyn Nunez, OCFEC Communications Associate; Stephen Sunseri, Office of the Attorney General (via Zoom); Reginald Joseph, transcriptionist; James Canfield; Casey Johnson; Reggie Mundekis

10. GOVERNANCE PROCESS *(item moved up)*

A. Presentation of Pride Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee

Information Item

Directors Rubalcava-Garcia and Jackson presented the Pride Month proclamation to Casey Johnson for his dedication to legal support and advocacy for the LGBTQ community.

Casey Johnson thanked the Board for continuing to fly the flag and recognizing Pride Month.

5. MINUTES:

A. Board meeting held May 22, 2025

Action Item

ACTION: Director Rubalcava-Garcia motioned and Director Bilezikjian seconded to approve the Minutes from Board meeting held May 22, 2025. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.**

6. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Reggie Mundekis introduced herself to the new CEO and shared some history and background of her support and advocacy for the fair to continue to be public property.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Standard Agreements: SA-120-25FT; SA-121-25YR; SA-127-25AS; SA-146-25PA; SA-147-25PA; SA-148-25PA; SA-149-25PA; SA-150-25PA; SA-151-25PA; SA-152-25PA; SA-153-25PA; SA-154-25PA; SA-155-25PA; SA-156-25PA; SA-157-25PA; SA-158-25PA; SA-159-25PA; SA-160-25PA; SA-161-25PA; SA-162-25PA; SA-163-25SP; SA-164-25PA; SA-165-25PA; SA-166-25PA; SA-167-25PA; SA-168-25PA; SA-169-25CF; SA-170-25CF; SA-171-25CF; SA-172-25CF; SA-173-25CF; SA-174-25CF; SA-175-25CF; SA-176-25CF; SA-177-25CF; SA-178-25CF; SA-179-25CF; SA-180-25CF; SA-181-25PA; SA-182-25PA; SA-183-25PA; SA-184-25PA; SA-185-25PA; SA-187-25PA; SA-190-25PA; SA-202-25PA; SA-203-25PA; SA-205-25PA; SA-206-25GE; SA-207-25CF; SA-208-25CF; SA-209-25CF; SA-210-25CF; SA-211-25CF; SA-212-25GE; SA-213-25FT; SA-214-25FT; SA-215-25YR; SA-216-25YR; SA-217-25PA; SA-220-25CF; SA-221-25SP; SA-222-25SP

i. Standard Agreement Amendments: SA-059-25GE (Amend. #1); SA-081-25GE (Amend. #1); SA-134-25FT (Amend. #1); SA-208-25SP (Amend. #2)

ii. Standard Agreement Amendments (Exercise Option): SA-046-22FT (Amend. #6)

B. Rental Agreements: R-008-25; R-019-25; R-025-25; R-039-25; R-040-25; R-082-25; R-096-25; R-099-25; R-100-25; R-105-25; 25 OC VA-01; EQC-014-25

i. Rental Agreement Amendments: R-029-25 (Amend. #1)

C. Commercial Rental Agreements: 25040; 25148; 25067; 25172; 25062; 25002; 25157; 25147; 25092; 25102; 25149; 25162

~~D. Concession Rental Agreements:~~ ~~25566; 25549; 25567; 25548~~

E. Independent Amusement Rental Agreements: 25649

F. Merchandise Service Rental Agreements: 25648

G. Platinum Rental Agreements: ?25714; 25717; 25725

H. Active Joint Powers Authority Agreements (New): None.

I. Judging Agreements: CA-072-25; CA-073-25; CA-074-25; HA-018-25; VA-024-25; VA-025-25; VA-026-25; VA-027-25; VA-028-25; VA-029-25

J. Correspondence:

Communications to the Board from members of the public related to OCFEC business are identified below and included with the Board materials (available on the OCFEC website). Note that this agenda item includes only those communication(s) that were sent to the entire Board and CEO before the publication of this month's agenda. The deadline for correspondence to be included on the September 2025 agenda is September 12, 2025.

i. None.

K. CDFA Correspondence:

Communications to the Board from the California Department of Food & Agriculture Division of Fairs & Expositions regarding relevant topics at Fairs and Expositions.

i. 6/12/2025 Russell Fenton Request to Reinstate Free Admission for Veterans and Active-Duty Military

– End of Consent Calendar –

Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer, pulled the Concession Rental Agreements noting that they are a duplicate, and were approved at the May Board meeting.

ACTION: Director Bilezikjian motioned and Director Jackson seconded to approve the consent calendar with Concession Rental Agreements 25566; 25549; 25567; 25548 removed. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.**

7. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to the Public)

The Board adjourned to closed session at 9:48 a.m. and resume at 10:22 a.m.

Items to report out of closed session: Vice Chair Bagneris read the following statement: The Board voted unanimously to appoint James Canfield as the District CEO. Directors Kovacevich, Bagneris, Bilezikjian, Jackson, Pham, Rubalcava-Garcia and Ruiz voted to select Mr. Canfield. Director La Belle was not present and did not vote on the matter. This reporting is required by government code sections 11125.2

James Canfield thanked the Board for their voted of confidence in him as the new CEO of the OCFEC.

8. CEO'S OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

COO Karns reported the following:

- New LED lighting in the Plaza
- OC Fair Job Fair was a success – filled 385 positions
- Staff and Board attended the annual Orange County Wine Society Judge's Banquet
- New digital marquee signs installed
- OCFEC to host a Full-Scale Threat Response Exercise on grounds in conjunction with Orange County Sheriff's Department, Costa Mesa and Santa Ana Police Departments and Costa Mesa Fire

10. GOVERNANCE PROCESS *(continued)*

B. Board of Director's Announcement of the Selection of the New District CEO, as Required Under Government Code, Section 11125.2.

Information Item

Item covered by the Vice Chair after the closed session statement announcing James Canfield as the new CEO.

C. Review and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) Account Resolution

Action Item

Melissa Au-Yeung, OCFEC Chief Administrative Officer, presented the LAIF resolution to update the list of signees on OCFEC's LAIF account to include the incoming CEO James Canfield and herself as CAO.

ACTION: Vice Chair Bagneris motioned and Director Rubalcava-Garcia seconded to approve the presented Resolution to update the list of signees on its Local Area Investment Fund account, with the modification of replacing TBD in Section 1 of the Resolution with James Canfield-Chief Executive Officer.

MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.

D. Presentation by Staff of the Mid-Year Budget Review

Information Item

CAO Au-Yeung presented the mid-year budget review.

Board and staff discussion ensued; items discussed included:

- Praise for the report
- Concert booking discussion:

- Impact of fewer concerts than budgeted
- Tougher year for bookings
- Potential concert bookings for 2026
- Competition in the market from other venues
- Possibility of increasing the entertainment budget
- Hesitancy in the market for spending money on entertainment
- Suggested agenda item to discuss marketing strategies

E. Presentation by Staff of the 2025 OC Fair Preview

Information Item

Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer, presented the 2025 OC Fair preview highlighting what's new at this year's Fair.

Reggie Mundekis asked if there will be an OC Fair app this year.

CBDO Capps answered that the website is more mobile friendly so there will not be a separate app this year.

Board discussion ensued; item discussed included:

- Praise for the report
- Excitement for the Fair
- More competitive entries than last year
- Praise for the website
- Excitement for the new featured exhibit *Rewind* (VHS art exhibit)
- Plans to celebrate Chicano Heritage Month during the Fair
- Free activities at the Fair provide value
- Immigrations issues – Know Your Rights signs posted for patrons

F. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report

Information Item

To assure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Committee reports are only for the purpose of the Committee chair, Ad Hoc Committee members or Liaison to provide a verbal update. Should the Board want to discuss any Committee work item not already on the agenda; those would need to be agendaized for a future Board meeting.

- i. **Leadership Committee** (Chair Kovacevich, Committee Chair; Vice Chair Bagneris)
- ii. **Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee** (Director Pham, Committee Chair; Director Bilezikjian)
- iii. **Facilities Committee** (Director Ruiz, Committee Chair; Director Bilezikjian)
- iv. **Governance Committee** (Director La Belle, Committee Chair; Chair Kovacevich)

v. Community Affairs Committee (Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Committee Chair; Director Jackson)

Vice Chair Bagneris, on behalf of the Leadership Committee, reported:

- Committee met on June 12 to plan the June agenda and discuss the ongoing CEO recruitment and transition process
- Next meeting is scheduled for 9/10/2025

Director Pham and Bilezikjian, on behalf of the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee, reported:

- Committee met on 6/23/25 and reviewed the May financials (financial reports covered by CAO Au-Yeung during the budget review agenda item)
 - Discussed softening on a couple of things related to the budget due to postponements and slower attendance

Director Bilezikjian, on behalf of the Facilities Committee, reported:

- The committee met June 4 and reviewed and discussed the following:
 - CapX projects - just under 50% done for the year
- Master Site Plan (MSP)
 - Phase One (Admin Building): Ken to give update
 - Phase Two (Midway restroom project): Designs at 90% and an updated budget is forthcoming
 - Still engaging with the Fire Marshal
 - Committee completed Master Site Plan walk on June 6
- PSPS: OCFEC to be reimbursed from delay of finishing the project
- HVAC project on one of the buildings will use part of the CapX contingency funds
- Next meeting is cancelled in favor of the Fair

COO Karns shared photos of the Administration Building project progress, along with a time lapse video of the project.

Director Rubalcava-Garcia, on behalf of the Community Affairs committee, reported:

- Committee met June 20 to discuss potential recipients of the Pride Month proclamation (Item 10A)
- Board and public invited to suggest recipients for the proclamations
- Host proclamation recipients at a Board dinner during the Fair

11. UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW

CBDO Capps gave an update on upcoming events at OCFEC.

12. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MATTERS OF INFORMATION

Board members made concluding comments, expressing the following:

- Community Affairs Committee asked all to send suggestions for proclamation recipients
- Congratulations and welcome to James Canfield as the new CEO

- Appreciation to staff for the progress get to this point
- Praise of staff and leadership
- Proud to be part of the organization
- This year's Fair sounds next level
- James Canfield has been introduced to staff and a press release went out
- Appreciation for the Board taking the time to find the new CEO
- Happy Juneteenth and Pride Month

13. NEXT BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Nick Kovacevich, Board Chair

James Canfield, Chief Executive Officer