

**OAKLAND COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY**

1200 NORTH TELEGRAPH ROAD, PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0470  
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Dr. Swarn Rajpal, *Chair*

Barbara Whittaker  
*Vice Chair*

James Cristbrook

Jen Miller  
*Secretary*

September 16, 2025

Chair Rajpal called the meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Pernick-Aaron Conference Room at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12E, Pontiac, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Barbara Whittaker, Jen Miller, James Cristbrook (4)

**MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:**

None (0)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Whittaker moved approval of the minutes of April 29, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Cristbrook.

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Miller moved approval of the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Cristbrook.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Miller moved approval of the attached Communications. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

**CHAIR'S REPORT – CHAIR RAJPAL**

Chair Swarn Rajpal reported that he has recently attended several events hosted at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). The Oakland County Art Institute Authority is still awaiting a fifth member, to be appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Minority Party.

### **DIA BOARD REPORT – BO CHENG & DAVE FLYNN**

Bo Cheng, Oakland County Appointee to the DIA Board, provided an update on current DIA Board Activity. The DIA recently launched a new app that provides visitors with a map and audio guide experience. The museum also recently hosted an event for Detroit Mayor, Mike Duggan, and will be hosting an event on September 18, 2025, in lieu of Fash Bash, to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founders Junior Council and will reopen the African American Art gallery at this event. The's DIA financials were reported positively, with a ten percent (10%) endowment growth in the past year. The DIA's endowment is currently at \$566 million. The DIA will be hosting their annual Gala on November 8, 2025.

### **DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) – CY 2025 HALF-YEAR UPDATE – JULIE MCFARLAND**

Julie McFarland, Executive Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement, provided an update and PowerPoint presentation highlighting activities during January through June 2025.

The Presentation highlighted the four (4) pillars of the Oakland County Service Agreement with the DIA. Oakland County residents received unlimited General Admission with access to public programs and events, drop-in artmaking activities, and special exhibitions.

The DIA is in year two (2) of the In-School Pilot Program and will have completed the program with four school districts in Oakland County by the end of the 2025/26 school year. Additionally, Oakland County students receive free K-12 field trips with transportation, teacher professional development, and exhibition/learning resources.

During the first half of 2025, fifty-five (55) Oakland County senior groups have visited the DIA through the Senior Program, nearly reaching the commitment goal for the entirety of 2025. The Thursdays at the Museum Program continued to be a popular experience. Seniors may also take advantage of free docent-led and self-guided visits with free transportation for groups of twenty-five (25) or more, and Behind the Seen art talks.

The InsideOut 2025 program will remain on display in communities until mid-October and the 2026 communities have been selected. The digital platform supporting the InsideOut program proved to be effective in informing residents of all communities hosting installations. The 2025 Partners in Public Art mural program partners are Lathrup Village, Pontiac, and Southfield. Other programs that were available to residents were drop-in art making at fairs and festivals, Arts, Beats & Eats, Community Group Studio Program, and various programs hosted at Oakland County recreation centers, libraries, and community groups.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Ofrendas: Celebrating el Dia de Muertos* exhibition was installed this month. The exhibition officially opens on September 27, 2025, and will be on view through November 2, 2025.

Cristbrook moved to receive and file the DIA CY 2025 Half-Year Update. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – AMY CARTER**

Amy Carter, Accountant II, Oakland County Treasurer's Office, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Cristbrook moved to receive and file the Oakland County Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE FY 2026 BUDGET – AMY CARTER**

Amy Carter presented the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget to the Authority.

Cristbrook moved to postpone consideration of the FY 2026 Budget. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Cristbrook moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Susie Corker Cobb, Committee Coordinator



Jen Miller, Secretary

**NOTE:** The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.