

OAKLAND COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY
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Dr. Swarn Rajpal, *Chair*

Barbara Whittaker
Vice Chair

Jenny Brown
James Cristbrook

Jen Miller
Secretary

November 18, 2025

Chair Rajpal called the meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Committee Room A at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12E, Pontiac, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Barbara Whittaker, Jen Miller, Jenny Brown (4)

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

James Cristbrook (1)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Whittaker moved approval of the minutes of September 16, 2025, as presented.
Seconded by Brown.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT – CHAIR RAJPAL

Chair Rajpal reported that since the last meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority, he attended the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Board of Director's meeting, the DIA Annual Gala, along with the mural unveilings in Southfield, Lathrup Village, a mural tour in Detroit, and the

Oakland County Board of Commissioner's meeting.

DIA BOARD REPORT – BO CHENG & DAVE FLYNN

Bo Cheng and Dave Flynn, Oakland County Appointees to the DIA Board, were both in attendance. Dave Flynn delivered the report, stating that the DIA has been focusing on fundraising efforts, received the highest audit rating, and the DIA's efforts to revamp the marketing and digital department have been highly successful. Flynn also reported that a group of employees are working to unionize with AFSCME Michigan.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) – CY 2026 PROGRAM PLAN REPORT – JULIE MCFARLAND

Julie McFarland, Executive Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Calendar Year 2026 Program Plan Report.

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. Program improvements were made following the evaluation completed after the first school year. Additionally, Oakland County students receive free K-12 field trips with transportation, teacher professional development, and exhibition/learning resources and the DIA anticipates that it will meet the 60,000 annual student visits Service Agreement commitment.

Senior Programming will continue with the same programs: Self-Guided and Docent-Led Tours, and monthly Melodies at the Museum, which receive free transportation for groups of twenty-five (25) or more, and Behind the Seen art talks at community locations.

The 2026 InsideOut partner communities have been announced: Auburn Hills, Farmington, Groveland Township, Lathrup Village, Lawrence Tech, Lyon Township, Oakland Township, Oakland University – Meadowbrook Hall, Oxford, Walled Lake, Oakland County Parks, Oakland Community College, and Oakland County Senior Centers. The DIA is now accepting applications from communities that wish to participate in the 2026 Partners in Public Art Mural Program.

Judith Dolkart, Deputy Director of Art and Education Programs, gave a brief overview of current and upcoming exhibitions:

- *Guest of Honor: Armor as Fashion*, on view now through April 26, 2026
- *Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation*, on view now through April 5, 2026
- *Georgia O'Keefe: Architecture*, opens September 13, 2026, and will remain on view until January 3, 2027
- Permanent Contemporary Gallery Reinstallation will reopen in fall of 2026

Miller moved to receive and file the DIA CY 2026 Program Plan Report. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – AMY CARTER

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

Whittaker moved to accept the Oakland County Treasurer's Report under the condition of any future invoices or payments exceeding the approved budget will be brought before the Oakland County Art Institute Authority for approval before being paid. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

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

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

Miller moved to approve the FY 2026 Budget. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE UPDATE – SUSIE CORKER COBB

Susie Corker Cobb, Committee Coordinator, updated the Authority on the status of the 2026 Calendar. Authority Members will be contacted during the month of December to discuss further.

NEW BUSINESS

Miller moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Rehmann Audit Engagement Letter dated October 27, 2025, as required to begin the annual audit. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rajpal.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Susanne M Corker Cobb

[Susanne M Corker Cobb \(Jan 29, 2026 08:59:37 EST\)](#)

Susie Corker Cobb, Committee Coordinator

Jennifer K.N. Miller

Jen Miller, Secretary

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.