

**Board of Directors Meeting
Oakland School for the Arts
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:00 p.m.**

**Oakland School for the Arts
Dufwin Theater Building
519 17th Avenue, 7th Floor
Oakland, CA. 94612**

Board of Directors Present:

Safia Fasah, Chair
Rick Armbrust
Sorell Raino-Tsui
Phil Green

Philip Milestone
Aubra Levine, Treasurer
David Simmons, Secretary
Sorell Raino-Tsui

School Staff:

Mike Oz, Executive Director
Beth Brenner-Josef, Director of Finance
Steven Borg, Director of Advancement & Marketing

Board Meeting

**March 10, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. on the 7th Floor
OSA, Dufwin Theater Building, 519 17th Street, Oakland, CA**

Safia Fasah called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Roll-call was taken. All board members were present except Aubra Levine who joined at 5:08 pm.

Safia Fasah noted the *Meeting Norms and Land Acknowledgement* and encouraged board members to read them.

Safia Fasah called for public comment on non-agenda items. There were no public comments

The Student Council Report was delivered by Bailey Estrella-Kowal and Nyx Reese. During public comment Executive Director Mike Oz offered to connect the Student Council with Visit Oakland.

Board members thanked the students for their presentation.

The Board of Students of Color Report was delivered by Ava Brooks and Jair Sanchez-Campbell.

There was no public comment.

Board members thanked the students for their presentation.

There was no COSATS Report.

The Second Interim Report 2025-2026 was presented by Beth Brenner-Josef

There was no public comment.

After some questions during Board discussion about the budget, Philip Milestone moved to approved the Second Interim Report 2026-26. This motion was seconded by David Simmons. The Second Interim Report 2025-26 was approved by an unanimous vote.

The Auditor Renewal Recommendation, Christi White, for 1 year, was presented by Beth Brenner-Josef.

There was no public comment.

Phil Green moved to approved the Auditor Renewal Recommendation. This motion was seconded by Rick Armbrust. The Auditor Renewal Recommendation was an approved by an unanimous vote.

Mike Oz and Safia Fasah provided a Catalyst Campaign update.
There was no public comment.
A brief board discussion followed.

The Board entered CLOSED SESSION on the following agenda items.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

(Gov. Code Section 53946.9(d)(2))

One potential case related to the defense and indemnification provisions of the January 7, 2022 retention agreement between OSA and the Oppenheimer Investigations Group LLP

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Gov. Code section 54956.9(d)(1).)

Case Name Unspecified: (disclosure would jeopardize settlement negotiations)

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Gov. Code § 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: Justin Sceva

Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director

The Board RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION. Safia Fasah took the Roll call. All Board members were present. Safia Fasah indicated that there was nothing to report out.

Safia Fasah adjourn the meeting 7:09 pm.

OSA is fully ADA accessible. Anyone requesting accommodation should contact Steven Borg at sborg@oakarts.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any topic relevant to OSA. In order to hear from as many voices as possible, the Board Chair may institute a reasonable time limit for all speakers prior to the beginning of public comment. OSA reserves the right to limit the number of speakers. All listed times are approximate. Agendas and materials may be viewed at www.oakarts.org or in the Dufwin Theater Building Entrance at 519 17th Street, Oakland, CA 94612 during normal school hours.

Meeting Norms

- The Board recognizes the importance of all stakeholder voices at OSA. Collaboration and community are essential to the viability of our school.
- The purpose of this meeting is for our Board of Directors to meet with each other and conduct school business, as well as to receive input from the school staff and the community via public comment.
- Public comment may be made on topics that relate to the school. After hearing a report, members of the public have the opportunity to offer comments in a designated time prior to the Board discussion of that agenda item. Outside of public comment, members of the public are also welcome to observe the Board meeting.
- To protect student and employee privacy, please refrain from using the name or any information that could imply the identity of any student or employee.
- The Board Chair may institute a reasonable time limit for all speakers prior to the beginning of public comment. To be sure of hearing from a variety of people, minutes may not be transferred to other speakers.
- The Board cannot respond to public comment on non-agenda items. This does not mean that the Board is not listening.
- We strive to be a learning community that learns from each other. We are also a community comprised of people who care very deeply about the school. We recognize that all voices are not treated equally in our society but aim to value and respect all voices equally in this forum. We may have different idea of how to achieve goals, and we may feel passionately about our points of view. This needs to be a safe space for a variety of opinions. Finally, we address each other in a respectful manner to foster collaboration, build community, and to model good citizenship for our students.

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Land Acknowledgement

OSA is situated on Huichin, the unceded territories of the Chochocho-speaking Lisjan Ohlone peoples, who have lived upon this land since the beginning of time. Indigenous peoples – in California, the Americas, and around the world – are still here.

OSA recognizes the historic genocide and ethnic cleansing inflicted upon Indigenous peoples in California and the Americas, including their forced removal from ancestral lands, and the deliberate and systematic destruction of their communities and culture. These conditions are ongoing and Indigenous people have been fighting against cultural erasure and for their sovereignty since the beginning of colonization.

To this end, we as a community strive to honor the Indigenous members of our community, uplift their voices and contributions to arts and culture, center Indigenous peoples' worldviews in our classrooms, and support Indigenous sovereignty everywhere.

This land acknowledgement is a small act in supporting indigenous communities and centering the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and inclusion work within the Oakland School for the Arts. Solidarity with indigenous nations can include:

1. Donating time and money to Indigenous-led Organizations;
2. Amplifying the voices of Indigenous people leading grassroots change movements;
and
3. Returning land.

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