

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 23, 2026

LOCATION: LACC Foundation Conference Room
Student Union Building
855 N Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90029

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION

Dial: 1 (669) 900-6833

Zoom Link: <https://laccd.zoom.us/j/85683291003?pwd=sCsPbFEiux9JtRPgrR3xWV1FxnVaxH.1>

Meeting ID: 856 8329 1003

Passcode: 358359

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: Robert Schwartz (Chairman); Danny Chan (Treasurer); Gregory Goeckner (Secretary); Jeff Zarrinam (Member-at-Large); and Martha Esparza (Executive Director)

Members Via Zoom: Marvin Hoffman (Immediate Past Chairman) and Julie Stromberg (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Amanuel Gebru (LACC President)

Guests: Shannon Carter (LACC VP of Administrative Services); Dr. Olga Diaz (LACC VP of SS); Dr. Sobia Khan (LACC VP of Academic Affairs); Daren Lynne; Eddie Hernandez; Helen Khachatryan and Silvia Martinez

I. CALL TO ORDER

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 A.M. by Robert Schwartz after a quorum was confirmed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. Action Item: Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from May 26, 2026.
 - i. Motion: Jeff Zarrinam moved to approve the minutes as presented.
 1. Second: Danny Chan.
 2. Vote: Approved unanimously.
 3. Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

M. ESPARZA

- a. Martha Esparza presented an update on Foundation activities, highlighting recent development efforts, corporate partnerships, and major initiatives.
 - i. DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS UPDATE
 1. Commencement Celebration: Martha reported that the College's commencement ceremony was highly successful, with more than 777 graduates participating. She noted that the Foundation provided commemorative rally towels for graduates and thanked Committee members who attended the event.
 2. Corporate Partnership: She also provided updates on the Foundation's corporate partnership efforts, including continued discussions with Honda to expand its support beyond grant funding through internships, mentoring, workforce development, and student engagement opportunities. In addition, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has expressed interest in strengthening its partnership with

the College by exploring internships and career pathway programs for students in healthcare-related fields.

3. Martha concluded with an update on the recently announced \$5 million philanthropic commitment from Milton and Debbie Valera. While the allocation designated for Los Angeles City College has not yet been finalized, discussions continue with the donors regarding funding that is expected to support the Guardian Scholars Program and student scholarships. The Committee acknowledged the significant impact the gift could have on student success and expressed appreciation for the Valeras' continued generosity.
4. Sculpture Garden: Martha reported continued progress on the Foundation's Sculpture Garden initiative, including ongoing collaboration with Steve Liebowitz and College leadership to advance the project. She shared that the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has expressed interest in providing the College with a long-term loan of sculptures for display on campus. Planning also continues for a mural that will complement the Sculpture Garden and enhance the campus entrance. The Committee members were enthusiastic about the project and its potential to beautify the campus and strengthen community engagement.
5. Athletics Partnership: Robert Schwartz provided an update on discussions with alumnus and former Foundation Board member, Dennis Gilbert regarding potential opportunities to support athletics at Los Angeles City College. The Committee discussed possible partnerships, including collaboration with the Perfect Game youth baseball organization, to strengthen athletic programming and increase student recruitment. Robert will continue discussions with College leadership and Dennis Gilbert to explore future opportunities.

ii. 2026 GALA UPDATE

1. Martha provided an update on planning for the Foundation's 2026 Gala, reporting that outreach continues to prospective honorees and distinguished guests, including Governor Gavin Newsom, Mark and Marilou Hamill, John Williams, and other community leaders. While some invitees have declined due to scheduling conflicts, discussions remain ongoing, and Martha and the team continue to pursue opportunities to secure high-profile participation.
2. Robert Schwartz discussed the event timeline and noted that, due to the uncertainty surrounding honoree confirmations, the Foundation may consider postponing the Gala to allow additional time for planning and fundraising. He reported that the Foundation's event planner believes the event could potentially be rescheduled without forfeiting the hotel deposit. Committee members also discussed additional potential honorees and fundraising opportunities. No formal action was taken, and Martha and Robert will continue evaluating the event schedule and provide a recommendation once additional responses are received.

iii. SWAP MEET - UPDATE

1. Martha provided an update on the Swap Meet, noting ongoing challenges with declining attendance and vendor participation. She thanked Vice President Shannon Carter for working with College administration and the Sheriff's Department to address unauthorized vendors operating on College property adjacent to the Swap Meet. Vice President Carter explained that increased patrols, improved signage, and a community-oriented enforcement approach will be implemented to discourage unauthorized vending while protecting College property.
2. The Committee also discussed potential long-term improvements, including beautification of surrounding areas, enhanced security measures, and the possibility of introducing a hybrid flea market model to increase vendor participation. The Committee members further explored the concept of a community Farmers Market as a way to strengthen neighborhood engagement and

support the College's Basic Needs initiatives. No formal action was taken, and staff will continue evaluating operational improvements and report back with recommendations.

- a) This month, swap meet revenue is down \$65,531.07 compared to last year.
- b) The commission for May 2026 was \$6,115.58 for both Saturday and Sunday.
- c) The year-to-date total is \$32,917.73

IV. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. GEBRU

- a. Vice President Shannon Carter presented the College Administration Report on behalf of President Dr. Amanuel Gebru, providing updates on the College's summer priorities and operational initiatives.
 - i. VP, Carter reported that the administration recently completed planning for the 2026–2027 academic year, focusing on developing a coordinated calendar of campus events, community engagement activities, and opportunities for collaboration with the Foundation and external partners. The calendar will be shared with Foundation to encourage participation in upcoming College events.
 - ii. She also highlighted several summer facilities improvement projects, including deep cleaning of campus buildings, carpet cleaning, preventative maintenance, and beautification efforts throughout the campus, including the Student Union Building and Foundation offices. Work is being scheduled to minimize disruptions to Foundation operations.
 - iii. Committee members expressed appreciation for the administration's proactive planning and ongoing efforts to enhance the campus environment and strengthen collaboration between the College and the Foundation.

V. TREASURE REPORT

D. CHAN

- a. The Foundation Financials were presented by Danny Chan.
 - i. May 2026 Financials and Credit Card Statements
 - 1. Action Item: Motion to approve May 2026 Financials including bank & credit card statements.
 - a) Motion: Jeff Zarrinnam - moved to approve the May 2026 financials and credit card statements as submitted.
 - b) Second: Robert Schwartz
 - c) Vote: Approved unanimously.
 - d) Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).
 - ii. Danny reviewed market conditions, noting that financial institutions continue to maintain a cautious approach while awaiting additional economic data. He reported that the Foundation's assets had exceeded \$60 million, reaching approximately \$61.2 million as of May 31, including unrealized gains. He further reported that the Foundation's primary investment portfolios had generated an approximate 8.5% year-to-date return and a 10.2% quarterly return. The Foundation also maintained nearly \$5 million in liquid assets, providing ample operating flexibility
 - iii. The Committee discussed the presentation of administrative and investment management fees in donor endowment reports. Members agreed staff should consult the Foundation's auditors regarding possible revisions to improve clarity. The Committee also discussed the Foundation's endowment spending policy and agreed that the Finance & Investment Committee should further evaluate possible recommendations while respecting donor intent.

VI. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. Robert provided additional comments regarding several strategic initiatives currently being pursued by the Foundation.

- i. He reiterated his appreciation for the significant work being performed by Foundation staff and College leadership in cultivating corporate and philanthropic partnerships that will provide long-term benefits to Los Angeles City College students.
- ii. Robert noted that the Foundation is entering an important period of strategic growth and emphasized that continued collaboration between the Board, College administration, and Foundation staff will be essential as major projects move forward.
 1. He encouraged Committee members to continue leveraging their professional and community relationships to introduce prospective donors, sponsors, and strategic partners to the Foundation.
 2. Robert also emphasized that maintaining flexibility in planning the Gala would ultimately position the Foundation for a more successful event should additional time be needed to secure distinguished honorees and maximize fundraising opportunities.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. No Public Comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM
- b. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM

NOTE: MSP=Moved Second Passed

Approved by Gregory Goeckner, Secretary