



PUBLIC NOTICE & MEETING AGENDA

California State Summer School for the Arts

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm (end time approximate)

Join Virtual Meeting

Zoom Link: [Click Here](#)

Meeting ID: 881 9036 5615

Passcode: 304514

Phone Number:

+16699009128, 88190365615#, *304514#

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Quorum Call
2. Public Comment – an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board of Trustees regarding items not on the agenda

Consent Agenda

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes, December 22nd, 2025 ([page 3](#))

Regular Agenda

4. Contractor Department Chair Selection – Discussion and Potential Approval ([page 8](#))
 - a. Architecture and Environmental Design (AED) Program Update – Matthew Gallagher, Director
 - b. AED Department Chair Committee Recommendation – Alex de Ocampo, Trustee
 - c. 2026 Chair Selection and Approval – Board of Trustees

- 5. Spring Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule – Discussion and Potential Approval ([page 14](#))
- 6. Adjournment

Meeting Information

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Board of Trustees meeting, subject to the discretion of the Board Chair. At the discretion of the Board of Trustees, all items appearing on the agenda, whether expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. For each agenda item, the Board of Trustees will invite public comment; comments will be limited to three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Questions, Comments, and Requests

Questions or requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations due to a disability may contact California State Summer School for the Arts at comments@cσσα.ca.gov or (916) 413 - 0607. Additional information can be found on the CSSSA website: cσσα.ca.gov.

Comments submitted to comments@cσσα.ca.gov at least 12 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting will be shared with the Board of Trustees prior to the meeting, to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) verbal comments after notice offered the Board Chair during the meeting.

California State Summer School for the Arts, Board of Trustees

Noelle Bonner

Dr. Merryl Goldberg

Kim Pattillo Brownson

Roxanne Messina Captor

Mike Cannone

Mark Morikawa

Donna Miller Casey

Jeffrey Jorge Penichet

Alexander Cruz de Ocampo

Teri Schwartz

Moctesuma Esparza, Chair

Laura C. Romero, Ph.D

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Melissa Draper, Chair Emeritus

Emeritus Alan Sieroty, Emeritus

DRAFT - Board of Trustees Meeting – Proposed Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Agenda:

1. Open Session – Welcome and Quorum Call
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Public Comments
4. Closed Session for Internal Business – Discussion and Action
5. New Initiatives Brainstorm – Discussion and Action
6. 2025 Student Surveys – Bridge and Main Sessions - Discussion
7. Adjournment

(All scheduling and orders of business are subject to change. Any agenda item is subject to potential action by the Board of Trustees.)

Board Members in Attendance: Moctezuma Esparza, Mike Cannone, Laura Romero, Roxanne Messina Captor, Meryl Goldberg, Donna Casey

CSSSA Staff in Attendance: Matthew Gallagher, Debra Waltman, Ellie Lien, Sindy Arreola

Others in Attendance: Gary Shields, Jessica Hemingway, Linda Horner

Agenda Items 1-3: Open Session, Minutes and Public Comments

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm and a quorum was present.
2. The minutes were presented from the prior Board of Trustees meeting. Donna motioned to approve. Mike seconded. Roxanne, Meryl and Laura abstained. Remaining members were in favor.
3. There were no public comments.
4. Closed Session for Internal Business – Discussion and Action

The Board of Trustees entered into a closed session to discuss internal business.

A. CSSSA Theater Chair Search Committee

The Theater Chair Search Committee completed the interview and selection process for the vacant position. The committee narrowed the selection down to the top 3 candidates for a second interview. At the conclusion of the second interview, the Search Committee ranked Jeremy Guskin as the top finalist.

Donna moved to approve Jeremy Guskin as the new Theater Department Chair. Roxanne seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

B. 2026 Budget

There was a brief discussion of the 2026-2027 budget. No action was taken.

Laura moved to end the closed session and reconvene in the general session. Donna seconded. All in favor. Motion was approved.

5a. New Initiatives Brainstorm – Architecture Pilot Program

The following was presented to the Board of Trustees: The new host site, Cal Poly Pomona, has smaller facilities for 3D design and sculpture than the prior host site. Reducing the total number of students in the Visual Arts discipline by approximately 25 to 35 students would better align the existing curriculum with the available facilities.

As a potential solution, CSSSA proposes to add 10 students to the Film Department, increasing enrollment from 50 to 60 students. The remaining 15 to 25 students could be allocated toward a new pilot program.

CSSSA is currently in conversation with Cal Poly Pomona to pilot a new discipline focused on the built environment. Tentatively titled “Architecture”, the pilot would consider issues of design, sustainability, and the environment. This pilot would start with a small number of students with limited Cal Poly Pomona faculty. In future years, it could lead to a larger program that addresses the intersection of STEM and the arts. It could also provide growth opportunities for other CSSSA disciplines, including interdisciplinary programs with science and technology.

The CSSSA application process for the 2026 session remains open until February 28. Therefore, if CSSSA and Cal Poly Pomona can make expeditious arrangements for this new pilot, the discipline can be added to the application with enough lead time before the deadline. Cal Poly Pomona is confident that they can build a curriculum quickly as they have done similar projects in recent years. Also, the undergraduate architecture program at Cal Poly Pomona has approximately 3,000 applications for only 200 spaces annually. Cal Poly Pomona is certain that their prospective student audience will be eager to apply to this pilot.

Roxanne moved to approve the Director’s recommendation to increase the Film department by 10 spots, reduce the Sculpture program by 30 and create a new Architecture department with 25 students as a pilot program. Donna seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

5b. New Initiative Brainstorm – Special Scholarship Pilot

The following was presented to the Board of Trustees: CSSSA is mandated to reflect the geographic regions of the State of California in the study body, per CSSSA’s legislation. As was presented in the 2025 Data Dashboard earlier this fall, several regions and counties have not had any students enrolled in recent years. Some larger counties, such as San Bernardino and Riverside, have been underrepresented with very few students. Further, CSSSA and the CSSSA Foundation have been visiting schools and offering masterclasses in target regions. However, these efforts do not always result in student applications, which remains a barrier in the process to enroll.

For the 2026 session, CSSSA proposes offering 2 spaces each to a shortlist of target 5 schools / organizations. The spaces would be nominated by the faculty or administration of those organizations, and the nominees would be offered full-tuition scholarships. 2 spaces would be offered per organization to ensure a supportive “buddy system”. The goal is to have greater state-wide representation, and to have graduates return home and spread the word about CSSSA.

If approved by the Board of Trustees, CSSSA will work with the CSSSA Foundation as well as district and county offices to identify the 5 target organizations for the 2026 session.

Donna moved to approve the Director’s proposal for a special scholarship pilot program. Laura seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

6. 2025 Student Surveys – Bridge and Main Sessions

This agenda item was tabled and will be heard at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

Please see the attached student survey reports, based on feedback from students following the 2025 Summer Bridge Program and main CSSSA session. The following are data highlights:

Summer Bridge Program

32% of the student body completed the survey.

75% of students described their Summer Bridge experience as Excellent or Very Good.

96% of students believed CSSSA helped them think about educational and career goals.

82% of students felt CSSSA exposed them to artists of diverse cultural perspectives.

83% of students valued the student activities programming.

89% of students were very satisfied or satisfied with the variety of discipline-specific workshops and classes.

CSSSA Main Session

46% of the student body completed the survey.

93% of students described their 2024 experience as Excellent or Very Good.

99% of students believed CSSSA helped them think about educational and career goals.

91% of students described learning from CSSSA faculty as Excellent or Very Good.

91% of students reported an increase in technical artistic skills

91% of students reported an increase in knowledge of themselves as a person.

7. Adjournment

Donna motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. Laura seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was approved.

New Board of Trustees Appointment

CSSSA's Board of Trustees Welcomes New Member – Jeff Jorge Penichet

The Speaker of the Assembly recently appointed Jeff Jorge Penichet to the Board of Trustees. The following is a brief bio:

As a business owner and longtime board member for multiple non-profit organizations and previous commission appointments, he is experienced in organizational management, quality effectiveness analysis, policy development, financial statement evaluation, and investment recommendations.

He founded, managed and grew from a start-up to a medium sized business entity Bilingual Educational Services, Inc. Over time, he developed systems for producing and publishing educational materials; moved from manual records to computerization with specialized software; analyzed financial growth and contained labor and production costs; and, developed organizational structures for a 65,000 square foot storage and distribution warehouse.

As a Commissioner for the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System for four years, he helped evaluate and recommend investments for a \$14 billion portfolio in several investment categories including stocks and private equity.

He is a long time Board Member of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), an organization that provides preschool and family services to over 125,000 clients annually. The organization has expanded its budget from \$20 million to \$250 million. For the last 14 years, he has been serving as Chairperson of Properties, Inc., supervising the acquisition of 7 buildings and increasing income substantially for the parent organization.

He was appointed to the (QPC) Quality and Productivity Commission of Los Angeles County by Supervisor Hilda Solis in 2014 and continues to serve on that Commission.

Penichet holds a masters of fine arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a bachelors degree from the University of Washington.

California State Summer School for the Arts

February 17, 2026

Agenda Item 4: Contractor Department Chair Selection:

- a. Architecture and Environmental Design (AED) Program Update – Matthew Gallagher, Director
- b. AED Department Chair Committee Recommendation – Alex de Ocampo, Trustee
- c. 2026 Chair Selection and Approval – Board of Trustees

Prepared by: Matthew Gallagher, Director

Presented by: Matthew Gallagher, Director and Alex de Ocampo, Trustee

Recommended Action: Approve Chair Selection Committee Recommendation for 2026 Architecture and Environmental Design Chair

Action Type: Approve

a. Architecture and Environmental Design Program Update

Following the Board of Trustees approval on December 22, 2025 to launch a new pilot program in Architecture, CSSSA published the new discipline on the program website, admissions application, and social media. The title was tentatively revised to Architecture and Environmental Design in response to industry research, as well as feedback from the Board of Trustees.

The website description reads as follows:

CSSSA is pleased to announce a new discipline in Architecture and Environmental Design (AED) in partnership with our 2026 host site, Cal Poly Pomona. This new discipline will offer design studio courses that consider the architecture, sustainability, and the environment. Students will engage with challenging design projects that demonstrate socially and environmentally responsible design practices. The curriculum will expand each student's understanding of how to make knowledgeable and thoughtful design contributions to the spaces and environments we inhabit.

The admissions application prompt is as follows:

- a. Create a drawing, collage, or a 3D model that expresses the ideal building, park, or city of your dreams. You may use any material of your choosing, including unconventional materials, if desired. Upload one image of your entire piece (required) and up to two additional detail images (optional).

b. Write a one-paragraph description of your concept in Assignment A and upload it as a separate document. Your statement should explain the ideas and intentions behind your work, including what inspired your design and how it reflects your vision of an ideal environment. You may also briefly describe your choice of materials or process if it was an intentional part of your concept.

CSSSA has identified studio spaces at Cal Poly Pomona to host the new discipline, which includes two studios and 2 computer Mac labs. Prospective student interest in the program is strong with 38 in-progress applications as of February 12, close of business. The application deadline of February 28 may remain open on a rolling basis following the deadline for late applicants should space remain available in the discipline.

b. AED Department Chair Committee Recommendation

The AED Search Committee completed the interview and recommendation process for the chair position. Committee members include:

Alex de Ocampo – Trustee
Jeffrey Jorge Penichet -Trustee
Moctesuma Esparza - Trustee
Matthew Gallagher – CSSSA Agency

There were 4 applicants in total, and the committee interviewed all candidates. The committee debriefed the candidates following the interviews and submitted their interview scores. The top candidate was Rohan Guyot - Sutherland. The following are highlights of his candidacy:

- 13 years of teaching experience at schools and universities around the world
- 18 years of industry and project management in sustainable design
- Extensive international experience, including work with the United Nations and site-specific architectural projects around the world
- CEO and Founder of Regenerative Systems, a green/sustainably focused design practice
- Education and industry expertise in renewable, regenerative design

The following are Rohan's application materials. The search committee recommends him as the new Architecture and Environmental Design Chair for the 2026 session. If approved by the Board of Trustees, the appointment will be made public once Rohan accepts the position and signs the services contract.

c. 2026 Chair Selection and Approval

The Board of Trustees shall discuss the committee's recommendation and hear public comments before proceeding with potential approval.



Rohan Guyot-Sutherland (MA)

Designer, builder, teacher and advocate of Regenerative Practices around the world.

Teaching Experience

- **2022 - Now**
Calpoly University Pomona, USA
Lecturer in Sustainable Architectural Design
- **2022**
Long Way Home, Guatemala
Lead instructor at the Green Building Academy
- **2021**
Tampere University, Finland
Teacher in Whole Systems Design
- **2020**
Collège Boréal, Canada
Teacher in Net Positive Architecture
- **2019 - 2021**
Calpoly University Pomona, USA
Guest teacher in Regenerative Building Solutions
- **2016 - 2018**
Earthship Academy of Taos, USA
Teacher in Regenerative Solutions for Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Projects
- **2016**
University of Douala, Cameroon
Teacher in Self-Sustaining Solutions
- **2016**
National Advanced School of Engineering, Cameroon
Teacher in Self-Sustaining Solutions

Contact

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Languages

EN, ES, FR, DE, IT

Expertise

Teacher, Builder, Designer,
Community Manager, Video
Production and Photography

Education

Master's - Milan, Italy
Bachelor's - Leeds, United Kingdom
Earthship Academy - Taos, USA
Gernot Minke - Valparaiso, Chile

Hobbies

Current Affairs, Permaculture,
Cultural Exchanges, Trekking,
Foraging, Reading and Cooking



○ **2015**
Alliance Française de Lyon, France
Teacher in Permaculture and Community Building

○ **2014**
Escuela de Arquitectura y Diseño - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile
Teacher in Integrated Systems for Autonomous Buildings

○ **2014**
Escuela de Arquitectura UV - Universidad de Valparaíso, Chile
Teacher in Nature Based Solutions

○ **2013**
Université de Yaoundé 1, Cameroon
Teacher in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Working Experience

○ **2019 - Now**
Founder and CEO - Regenerative Systems
Design/build regenerative solutions for homes, businesses and public spaces

- Bioclimatic Architecture
- Water Harvesting
- Waste Reuse
- Green Energy
- Agro-Ecology
- Regenerative Landscaping

○ **2016 - 2018**
Earthship Biotecture - Taos, New Mexico
Education and Communication Manager

- Coordination of the Earthship Academy
- Teacher, both in class and on the worksites
- Media Production and Public Relations

○ **2015 - 2016**
Eco-CASA - Edea, Cameroon
Founder and Coordinator
Designing, planning and overseeing the construction of a sustainable orphanage

○ **2014**
Atacaminga - Atacama, Chile
Cofounder and Coordinator
Disaster relief design, coordination and teaching for landslide remediation



- **2013 - 2015**
Earthship Biitecture - Malawi, Argentina, Chile
Project Manager
 - Construction work and oversight
 - Teaching and Interpretation (EN-ES)
 - Public Relations and Cultural Envoy

- **2013 - 2014**
Minga Valpo and Bioreconstruyendo - Valparaiso, Chile
Cofounder and Project Manager
Disaster Relief intervention as designer, instructor and head of various post-fire sustainable relief efforts

- **2011 - 2013**
United Nations Development Program - Yaounde, Cameroon
Monitoring and Evaluation Expert
Design/planning, cultural liaison and oversight of the Program of Adaptation to Climate Change

- **2010**
Energy Cities - Besançon, France
Program Manager
Management of projects promoting Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Green Transport in European cities

- **2009 - 2010**
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Freiburg, Germany
Program Manager
Planning, lobbying and oversight in projects related to Green Building, Transport and Governance

- **2008**
United Nations Environmental Program - Sophia Antipolis, France
Intern Program Manager
Planning, event management and networking for the Mediterranean Action Plan

- **2006**
Mirror Foundation - Chiang Rai, Thailand
Disaster Relief Volunteer
Organization, reconstruction, and further prevention of landslides in a village devastated by strong tropical rain

- **1998 - 1999**
American School - Kraków, Poland
Basketball coach and caregiver volunteer

California State Summer School for the Arts

February 17, 2026

Agenda Item 5: Spring Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Prepared by: Matthew Gallagher, Director

Presented by: Matthew Gallagher, Director

Recommended Action: Approve Spring Meeting Schedule

Action Type: Approve

Background

CSSSA has confirmed a quorum for two spring meetings at the following dates and times:

March 17th, 2026 – 1:00 PM

May 20th, 2026 – 1:00 PM

All Board of Trustees meetings have been hosted virtually over the past several years. Board Chair, Moctesuma Esparza, proposes that the Board of Trustees convene at the host site, Cal Poly Pomona, for one of the spring meetings. The reasoning is that Board of Trustees have not met in-person since July 2022, and the Board used to meet in-person prior to the pandemic. There are also several new members who would benefit from meeting with the Board in-person.

CSSSA Director, Matthew Gallagher, surveyed the Trustees individually and found that the second proposed meeting on May 20th would be best for most members as an in-person meeting. The location of Cal Poly Pomona was noted as a far distance for two members; therefore, the question was raised if there is a more central location in Los Angeles that could be made available. The CSSSA Foundation Office in Playa Vista is an additional option for consideration by the Board. Hosting the meeting at Cal Poly Pomona would allow the Trustees to see the new campus and tour the facilities during ongoing planning efforts.

CSSSA has historically invited the Board of Trustees to visit CSSSA during the summer session to experience the program first-hand. Several events take place that provide an ideal opportunity to experience the program and meet enrolled students. They include:

Opening Ceremony – July 4th, 2026

Arts Advocacy Day – July 11th, 2026

Visiting Artist Workshops and Lecture – Ongoing

Final Performances – July 27th to July 31st, 2026

Student Graduation – August 1st, 2026

CSSSA will send the full calendar of events to the Board of Trustees leading up to the start of the summer session. Members of the Board are encouraged to visit as they are available and to make arrangements with the CSSSA Director, Matthew Gallagher, in advance of their visit.

Recommended Action

CSSSA is seeking to hear the Board's discussion and consideration of the potential action outlined above, including approval of the spring meeting schedule, and the proposed in-person meeting and location. Spring meetings will be planned by the agency following the directive of the Board of Trustees.