



# Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board February 9, 2026, Meeting Agenda

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • [rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/](http://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/)

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, February 9, 2026, at **1:15 p.m.** the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) will convene for a public meeting to be held at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, Multipurpose Conference Room. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

## **PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments may be provided using the following options: (1) e-mail public comment in advance of the meeting; and/or (2) in-person public comment.

**Option 1** – If you wish to make a comment on a specific item in advance of the meeting, please submit your comment for that item via email by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing to Dillan Murray, staff, via email at [Dillan.Murray@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Dillan.Murray@venturacounty.gov). Please indicate the Agenda Item Number on which you are commenting in the Subject Line of your email. Your comment will be provided to the Cultural Heritage Board and placed into the item’s record at the Cultural Heritage Board hearing.

**Option 2** – If you wish to make a comment in-person, you must be present at the meeting location and provide your comment prior to the close of the public comment period for the item you wish to speak on.

## **AGENDA**

1. **1:15 P.M. CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**
2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
  - 3a. Vote to approve the February 9, 2026, Agenda
  - 3a. Vote to approve the January 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This time is set aside for public comment on items not otherwise on this agenda which are within the purview of the Cultural Heritage Board. Speakers wishing to address the CHB shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes for their comments. The CHB is prohibited from taking action on any item that is not part of the printed and published agenda.

**5. CONTINUED ITEMS**

**5a. Action:** Receive a presentation and provide feedback to staff on the draft Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2025-2026 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report that will be prepared in spring 2026 for submittal to the California Office of Historic Preservation.

**5b. Action:** Discuss and determine whether to form an ad hoc committee to coordinate Historic Preservation Awards for 2026. Awards would be presented during Historic Preservation Month in May 2026.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**7. REPORTS**

**7a.** Board Member Reports

**7b.** CHB Program Updates from Staff

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held February 23, 2026.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Dillan Murray, staff, at (805) 654-5042 or via email at [Dillan.Murray@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Dillan.Murray@venturacounty.gov). Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (72 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



# Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board January 26, 2026, **Draft** Meeting Minutes

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • [rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/](http://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/)

**Note: The following is a summary of actions taken by the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) at their public hearing and not a verbatim transcription.**

1. **1:15 P.M. CONVENE THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

**CHB Members Present:** Mike Winters (Chair), Herbert Gooch, Gary Blum, and Miguel Fernandez

**CHB Members Absent:** Tyson Cline, Sylvia Schnopp, and Anthony Angelini

**Staff Present:**

Daniel Houck, Associate Planner, City of Oxnard Planning Division

Dillan Murray, Senior Planner, Ventura County Planning Division

Tricia Maier, Planning Programs Manager, Ventura County Planning Division

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

3a. Vote to approve the January 26, 2026, Agenda

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to approve the January 26, 2026, Agenda. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3b. Vote to approve the December 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Gooch made a motion to approve the December 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW ITEMS**

**ADJOURNED AS THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

**CONVENED AS THE CITY OF OXNARD CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

- 6a. Location:** Bank of A. Levy Building, 143 W 5th Street, Oxnard, CA 93030 (Ventura County Landmark #56) (Supervisory District #5—Lopez)

**Action:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a non-illuminated dimensional letter sign totaling 49 square feet at a business located at 143 W 5th Street, Oxnard, CA 93030 (Bank of A. Levy, Ventura County Landmark #56). The proposed sign would consist of ¼-inch-thick letters that are acrylic painted dark bronze and stud-mounted flush with a silicone glazing sealant. Letters would be drilled into the building's concrete tile wall (Case No. CH25-0063).

**Disclosures:** Board Member Fernandez disclosed that he discussed the project privately with both Board Member Blum and the director of the Downtown Oxnard Improvement Association.

**Presentation:** Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the property location, background, historical significance, staff conclusions, and recommendations. Staff recommended the CHB take the following actions on this item:

1. **CONDUCT** public hearing, **RECEIVE** oral and written testimony, and **CONSIDER** the CHB staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto;
2. **FIND** that the proposed project meets the requirements of the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance §1371-4; and
3. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness (Ordinance Section 1371) with any project modifications determined necessary to conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and Ordinance Section 1371-4.

**Discussion:**

Jack Woodruff of Vogue Sign Company was in attendance.

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to whether the downtown Oxnard sign regulations would allow the applicant flexibility to move the sign to the building's other street frontage on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, or alternatively add a second sign on 5<sup>th</sup> Street denoting the building as the "A. Levy Building"? Daniel Houck, City of Oxnard staff, noted that the code permits one sign at this building, but the applicant could locate it on either street frontage. City staff

may be able to permit a second sign if it's interpreted to be a building architectural element, but that would need to be determined.

Board Member Blum expressed his view that the building owner or tenant could build the historical significance of the building into their commercial brand, similar to what was done with the National Bank of Whittier Building in Whittier, CA. Next, Board Member Blum noted that he felt this project should have been routed to Oxnard's Downtown Design Review Committee for review and comment. In addition, Board Member Blum shared his observation that the proposed sign letters lack sufficient depth, resulting in minimal shadowing and a flat appearance.

Finally, Board Member Blum noted that while there is a historical plaque inside the building, there would be value in having a plaque on the building's exterior to highlight its historical significance, such as near the rear paseo.

Jack Woodruff of Vogue Sign Company provided information on the design approach to the sign and shared samples of acrylic and bronze letter options. Mr. Woodruff noted that acrylic was chosen due to the weight factor, cost, and to minimize drilling into the building. Mr. Woodruff stated that bronze letters could be utilized, but that it would increase costs.

Board Members Fernandez and Blum emphasized the importance of mounting the sign letters with a stand-off from the building to create shadowing and better replicate the historical signage, which likely featured at least a half-inch offset which should be matched. In addition, it was recommended that letter width be at least one-quarter inch.

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to adopt staff's recommended actions including the adoption of the following recommendations related to the scope of work in order to better conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*:

- **Recommendation #1: Sign Material.** The applicant should use a traditional signage material historically associated with buildings of this type, such as bronze, to ensure consistency with the historic fabric of the property. Additionally, lettering should be of sufficient depth to create shadows and a more textured appearance and mounted with an offset, not installed flush to the building.

- **Recommendation #2: A. Levy Building Signage.** Using similar lettering, the applicant should install signage on the Fifth Street building façade within the upper entablature identifying the building as the “A. Levy Building,” subject to approval by the City of Oxnard. The applicant may relocate or exchange signage between building elevations on A Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street as desired or as necessary.
- **Recommendation #3: Patch Previous Sign Holes.** Given the location of previous tenant signage, unused sign holes may exist; any such holes encountered during sign installation should be patched in a waterproof manner using materials compatible with the historic façade.
- **Voluntary Recommendation #4: Landmark Plaque Installation.** It is recommended that the property owner consider installing a landmark plaque on the building’s exterior identifying it as the former A. Levy Bank/Building, using the standard County of Ventura landmark plaque template.

Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

## **ADJOURNED AS THE CITY OF OXNARD CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

## **RECONVENED AS THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

- 6b. Action:** Receive a presentation and provide feedback to staff on the draft Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2025-2026 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report that will be prepared in spring 2026 for submittal to the California Office of Historic Preservation.

**Discussion:**

Due to Board Member absences, Chair Winters noted the value in continuing this item to a future meeting date.

Board Member Gooch made a motion to continue this item to a future date. Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

- 6c. Action:** Discuss and determine whether to form an ad hoc committee to coordinate Historic Preservation Awards for 2026. Awards would be presented during Historic Preservation Month in May 2026.

**Discussion:**

Due to Board Member absences, Chair Winters noted the value in continuing this item to a future meeting date.

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to continue this item to a future date. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**7. REPORTS**

**7a. Board Member Reports**

Board Member Fernandez reported that he recently attended a home tour for a modern residence on Garden Street on the west side of Ventura. The home was featured on a YouTube channel called “The Value of Architecture.”

Board Member Blum expressed his frustration that a rebuild project for a residence at 119 B Street in Oxnard was not routed for cultural heritage review. The Victorian style residence was within a historic survey area and previously included on a historic home tour route. Daniel Houck, City of Oxnard staff, acknowledged the challenges with becoming familiar with the cultural heritage review process and determining which cases require routing for CHB review, but expressed confidence that similar issues would not occur going forward.

Board Member Gooch reported that construction is progressing for the residential project surrounding the historic Timber School in Newbury Park. In addition, the new Thousand Oaks city hall is under construction and will include commercial components in its vicinity.

**7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff**

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that the next expected hearing will be February 9, 2026, if there are items to be reviewed.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that Board Members have been scheduled for Behind-the-Scenes Tours of the Museum of Ventura County beginning this month. Due to Brown Act requirements, each tour must have no more than 3 members. Meeting days and times have been previously communicated to Board Members.

Finally, Mr. Murray reported that the next part in the CHB speaker series, *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*, will take place at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Retired educator and historic interpreter Connie Korenstein will bring to life the fascinating story of the Port of Hueneme, from Thomas Bard's 1871 vision of an agricultural shipping wharf through the ups and downs of his son Richard's struggle to build out the grand port his father envisioned. Also at this meeting, Henry Travers Newton, a descendant of the Bard family, will present on his efforts to further recognize this influential family.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled hearing was reported to be February 9, 2026, if there are items to be reviewed.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:18 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dillan Murray, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date