



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board February 23, 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/

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, February 23, 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. 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**
 - 3a. Vote to approve the February 23, 2026, Agenda
4. **GUEST PRESENTATION**

Receive a presentation from retired educator and historic interpreter Connie Korenstein, who 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. The presentation is the next part in the Cultural Heritage Board guest speaker series, *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*.

BREAK

2:30 P.M. RECONVENE THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Action: Receive a presentation from Miguel Rodriguez, Community Relations and Workforce Development Director for The Port of Hueneme, on The Port's efforts to design and construct a full-size bronze statue of Richard Bard at Hueneme Wharf Plaza. In addition, Mr. Henry Travers Newton, a descendant of the Bard family, will present on his efforts to further recognize the influential family.

6. CONTINUED ITEMS

None

7. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

7a. Vote to approve the February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

8. 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.

9. REPORTS

9a. Board Member Reports

9b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held March 9, 2026, if there are items to be reviewed.

11. 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 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 February 9, 2026, **Draft Meeting Minutes**

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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. **1:20 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), Tyson Cline, Sylvia Schnopp, Gary Blum, Miguel Fernandez, and Anthony Angelini

CHB Members Absent: Herbert Gooch

Staff Present:

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 February 9, 2026, Agenda

Board Member Angelini made a motion to approve the February 9, 2026, Agenda. Board Member Cline seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3b. Vote to approve the January 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Fernandez noted a correction to the following sentence on page 3 of the draft minutes: "In addition, it was recommended that letter width depth be at least one-quarter inch." Board Member Fernandez made a motion to approve the January 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes as revised. Chair Winters seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Board Members Cline and Schnopp abstained).

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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.

Presentation: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the item background 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 Planning Division staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
2. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **PROVIDE** comments on the proposed Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2025-2026.

Discussion:

Board Members provided feedback on each program task individually as follows:

Task #1: Verify Mills Act contracts are in compliance

Board Member Schnopp recommended that owners of historic properties be notified of the existence of the Mills Act Program. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that such a recommendation could fit in well with a number of other tasks on the work plan related to public outreach.

Board Member Blum inquired whether Mills Act contracts are limited to rehabilitation work? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that Mills Act contracts require preservation and maintenance of character-defining features in addition to completion of a rehabilitation plan.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #2: Provide training opportunities for the Cultural Heritage Board on both general historic preservation topics and internal review processes

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #3: Provide training to Resource Management Agency Divisions (e.g. Building and Safety and Code Compliance divisions), Public Works Agency, and City of Oxnard staff on the review process for permit requests at designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites

Chair Winters inquired as to whether this training should be regularly calendared, such as twice annually? Tricia Maier, staff, noted that the training has been recorded and made available to staff on an as-needed basis, including as part of Planning Division staff onboarding. In addition, Dillan Murray is available any time as a staff resource on the cultural heritage review process.

Board Member Fernandez inquired whether any outreach is done to cities that are not currently under contract, such as the City of Santa Paula? Tricia Maier, staff, provided an overview of how the County of Ventura's relationship with the incorporated cities has evolved over time, and noted that CHB staff can certainly reach out to city staff to inform them of the possibility of contracting with the County.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #4: Provide training to Planning Division staff on historic preservation standards and guidelines, the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, application procedures, permitting procedures, Section 106 review, and all areas related to the day-to-day running of the Cultural Heritage Program

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #5: Collaborate with public agencies and organizations to identify opportunities, build partnerships, and advance shared objectives in historic preservation

Board Member Fernandez recommended that staff reach out to historical societies across the county for potential collaboration opportunities, such as the Pleasant Valley Historical Society. Board Member Angelini recommended that local colleges also be a source of potential collaboration.

Board Member Cline recommended using such partners to help share and promote the existence of the Mills Act Program.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #6: Satisfy annual CLG goals and objectives

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #7: Install an informational display booth at the Ventura County Fair

Board Member Fernandez recommended that last year's Fair display boards be reused again for summer 2026, but that new children's activity worksheets be developed this year. Board Member Fernandez also commented on the value of collaborating with Plein Air Ventura County on a potential joint display at the Fair, noting that last year the two displays did not have a visual connection.

Board Member Angelini suggested combining Task #7 with Task #14. A consensus of Board Members favored keeping the tasks separate to emphasize their individual differing priorities.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #8: Develop web content for individual Ventura County Landmarks and Points of Interest

Chair Winters recommended that staff periodically report back to the CHB on new content that is produced. Chair Winters recommended that future Planning interns who assist with CHB tasks be recognized with a certificate for their contributions, and/or report out on such work directly to the CHB at a hearing so their efforts can be recognized.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #9: Continue to expand the breadth of online historical data available to the public on the Planning Division website

Board Member Schnopp suggested that additional heritage tourism content be developed as feasible, such as a self-guided historic walking tour or a driving tour. Board Member Blum recommended that if created, such resources be shared with tourism staff and visitor's bureaus from various local cities for promotional purposes, in addition to developing greater collaboration on that topic.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #10: Continue the Annual Preservation Award Program in recognition of Historic Preservation Month

A consensus of Board Members noted the value of this annual event and recommended it be made a high priority.

Board Member Schnopp congratulated staff on the good publicity surrounding this event last year. Board Member Angelini noted his view that additional opportunities to recognize good historic preservation work be pursued throughout the year.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #11: Pursue grant opportunities to support the Cultural Heritage Board Program, as available

Board Member Angelini inquired how potential grant funds would be directed or spent? Tricia Maier, staff, noted that such authority would rest with the Planning Director, potentially with recommendations solicited from the CHB.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #12: Hold a Cultural Heritage Board quarterly guest speaker series

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #13: Inventory and screen County of Ventura-owned properties and Public Works Capital Improvement Projects for the presence of designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites

Board Member Cline expressed his wish that all County-owned facilities be evaluated for historic eligibility. Tricia Maier, staff, explained that due to the large number of County facilities, conducting a comprehensive countywide historic survey of all structures and locations is not feasible at this time. Instead, this process provides an opportunity for CHB staff to offer early input to the Public Works Agency on properties that appear potentially historic, so that such consideration can be incorporated into the environmental review for each project.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #14: Install the CHB informational display booth at 1-2 additional community events

Board Member Fernandez noted the substantial amount of work involved with setting up the display booth and suggested that a smaller, more mobile display be developed for simpler setups. Chair Winters suggested that a branded tablecloth be produced. Board Member Schnopp recommended that the booth be installed at any one of the numerous events held in Oxnard throughout the year.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #15: Designate Additional Points of Interest

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to the difference between a Point of Interest and Site of Merit? Dillan Murray, staff, provided an overview of the different types of Cultural Heritage Sites provided for in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #16: Hold 1-2 Mobile Meetings of the Cultural Heritage Board Each Year at Offsite Locations

Board Member Fernandez noted that past meetings have been held at Fillmore City Hall, Strathearn Park, and in Ojai, typically in conjunction with a project being reviewed in the area.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Task #17: Host *Treasures of Ventura County* Art Show in partnership with Ventura County Arts and Culture Division and the Ventura County Arts Council

Board Member Fernandez recommended this event be widely promoted via County channels. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that RMA's Public Information Officer has been doing so, with more promotion planned.

A consensus of Board Members were in favor of this task.

Board Member Schnopp moved to add the following two tasks to the work plan:

1. Promote Heritage Tourism. Staff will collaborate with the RMA Public Information Officer and local tourism representatives to develop content and strategies that highlight and promote heritage tourism. This may include development of a walking or driving tour of various historic sites.

2. Increase Public Awareness of the Cultural Heritage Program. Staff will work with the RMA Public Information Officer to enhance outreach and visibility of the Cultural Heritage Program, including promoting available incentives such as the Mills Act Program.

Board Member Angelini seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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.

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

1. **DISCUSS** and **DETERMINE** whether to form an ad hoc committee to coordinate Historic Preservation Awards for 2026.

Discussion:

Chair Winters noted that the expected time commitment would consist of approximately three Zoom meetings, each lasting one hour or less.

Board Member Angelini expressed interest in serving again. Board Member Fernandez supported the quality work of the previous ad hoc committee members.

Board Member Cline made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to coordinate Historic Preservation Awards for 2026 consisting of Chair Winters, Board Member Angelini, and Board Member Gooch, if he is willing. If Board Member Gooch is not available, the CHB will consider an alternate. Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

6. NEW ITEMS

None

7. REPORTS

7a. Board Member Reports

Board Member Cline reported that the Ventura City Council is scheduled to review its citywide historic survey for potential approval in the coming week, marking the culmination of an 11-year process.

Chair Winters left the meeting at this time.

Board Member Blum reported that docents from the historic Faulkner House near Santa Paula recently provided an informative tour of a building in Oxnard's Heritage Square designed by the same architect. The tour was recorded and has been made available online. Board Member Blum also expressed concern that a barn structure within the Leonard Ranch Historic District in Oxnard is undergoing demolition by neglect.

Board Member Angelini reported that the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will host its annual ArtsFest on May 16, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He also reported that he will be leading community engagement efforts for the City of Simi Valley's recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary, including outreach to promote business and community events related to the anniversary.

Acting Chair Fernandez reported that he recently attended the behind-the-scenes tour at the Museum of Ventura County Dillan organized for CHB members, which he found to be very informative. He noted that the museum maintains a research library that is open to the public. Acting Chair Fernandez also reported discovering a historical landmarks booklet previously produced by the Cultural Heritage Board, which he shared with CHB members.

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that the next expected hearing will be February 23, 2026. At this meeting, as part of the CHB speaker series, *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*, 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, and a representative from The Port of Hueneme will speak on The Port's efforts to do the same.

Finally, 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 three members. Meeting days and times have been previously communicated to Board Members.

Tricia Maier, staff, reported that she accepted a position as the City of Port Hueneme's Community Development Director and will be departing the County of Ventura after 23 years of service. Ms. Maier noted that she anticipates staying in touch by way of the City of Port Hueneme's contract for cultural heritage services with the County of Ventura. She reported that her last CHB meeting will be February 23, 2026.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled hearing was reported to be February 23, 2026.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:20 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Dillan Murray, Secretary

Date