



California Film Commission Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2026 • 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Warner Bros. Discovery
4300 W. Olive Avenue
Burbank, California 91505
Stage 15 Conference Room

Commissioners in Attendance

Wendy Greuel — Chair; Joshua LaFarga — Vice Chair; Jennifer Gonring — Secretary; Arturo Barquet; Brian Brokaw; Cindy Capobianco; Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur; Andrew Davis; Thom Davis; Steve Dayan; Bonnie Goldfarb; Karen Horne; Janet Knutsen; Alya Michelson; Supervisor Holly Mitchell; Nikki Perez; Kerri Wood Einertson.

CFC Staff

Colleen Bell; Yetee Osunsanmi; Fanshen Cox; Trey Bellows; Leo Fialho; Joseph Cruz; Gillian Anderson; Matthew Curran; Brandy Davis.

Guests

Carolyn Angius; Joel Baral; Oliver Bell; Alfonso Casey; Kristi Cortez; Ed Duffy; Manijeh Fata; Sabrina Jurisich; Serena Kung; Danny De Lillo; Scott Lipke; Joseph Lombardo; Lauren Pizer Mains; Kevin McDonald; Lori Moilov; Lauren Muniz; Melissa Patack; Lenée Richards; Eddie Robinson; Jay Roewe; Isaiah Sandoval; Robbie Staenberg; Stephanie Stethem; Caroline Torosis; Arlen Valdivia; Michael Walbrecht; John Wang; Donna Washington; Shawn Wu.

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

Chair Wendy Greuel called the California Film Commission Board meeting to order and welcomed members of the Board, California Film Commission staff, invited guests, industry partners, and members of the public attending the meeting.

Chair Greuel thanked Warner Bros. Discovery for hosting the Board meeting at the Stage 15 Conference Room and acknowledged the importance of bringing together industry leaders, labor representatives, production partners, and state representatives during an important time for California's film and television industry.

II. Chair's Report — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

Chair Wendy Greuel provided the Chair's Report and began by recognizing the continued work being done by the California Film Commission during a significant and evolving period for California's entertainment industry.

Chair Greuel acknowledged that the film and television industry continues to experience major changes and challenges, including increased competition from other states and international production markets. She emphasized that the Commission's ongoing work remains critical to ensuring California maintains its position as the worldwide leader in film and television production.

Chair Greuel explained that California's entertainment industry represents much more than creative content. She explained that the industry is a major economic driver that supports thousands of working Californians and has a direct impact on:

- cast and crew members;
- below-the-line workers;
- small businesses;
- vendors and suppliers;
- local communities throughout the state.

She emphasized that every production that chooses California generates economic benefits that extend beyond the studio system and supports families, workers, and businesses connected to the production ecosystem.

Chair Greuel recognized the progress made through the expansion and modernization of California's Film and Television Tax Credit Program and acknowledged the implementation of Program 4.0 as a significant investment in California's future.

She stated that Program 4.0 reflects a strong commitment from state leadership to respond to the needs of the entertainment industry, address production migration concerns, and encourage productions to remain, return, and expand within California.

Chair Greuel thanked Governor Gavin Newsom, GO-Biz leadership, legislative partners, industry stakeholders, Commissioners, and California Film Commission staff for their continued dedication and collaboration in strengthening California's production environment.

She specifically acknowledged the significant work performed by CFC staff behind the scenes to implement the expanded program, noting that administering a larger and more complex program requires extensive coordination, communication, and operational support.

Chair Greuel stated that the Commission's continued priorities include:

- retaining California production jobs;
- increasing statewide filming opportunities;
- protecting and supporting entertainment workers;
- strengthening partnerships between government, studios, labor organizations, production companies, and local communities;
- expanding workforce development opportunities;
- ensuring California remains competitive nationally and internationally.

Chair Greuel emphasized that the Board's responsibility includes providing oversight and ensuring that California's programs remain:

- transparent;
- effective;
- accountable;
- responsive to industry needs.

She noted that continued collaboration among government leaders, studios, unions, guilds, production companies, local jurisdictions, and community partners is essential to protecting California's role as the global center of entertainment.

Chair Greuel concluded her report by thanking the Commissioners, CFC leadership team, staff, and industry partners for their continued commitment and stated that the collective effort of everyone involved will help strengthen California's film and television industry for the future.

III. Approval of February 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

Chair Greuel presented the February 27, 2026, California Film Commission Board meeting minutes for review and approval.

Board members were provided the opportunity to comment, ask questions, or request revisions.

There being no additional changes requested, a motion was made to approve the February 27, 2026, Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. The Board voted, and the February 27, 2026 minutes were approved.

IV. Director's Report — Colleen Bell, Director, California Film Commission

Director Colleen Bell began her Director's Report by welcoming the elected officials, Chair Wendy Greuel and members of the California Film Commission Board.

Director Bell reported that as the California Film Commission approached the end of another fiscal year, the Commission continued to experience strong momentum across its programs and an increased level of confidence in California as a premier production destination.

She described the year as one focused on implementation, modernization, and measurable results, particularly through the successful launch and administration of California's expanded Film and Television Tax Credit Program 4.0.

Director Bell reported that since the launch of Program 4.0, the California Film Commission accepted a total of 133 projects into the Film and Television Tax Credit Program.

She stated that collectively these approved projects represented approximately:

- \$5.5 billion in California spending;
- nearly \$1.3 billion in tax credit allocations awarded to date;
- 28,393 projected cast and crew jobs;
- 5,659 California production days;
- 1,046 out-of-zone production days;
- more than 196,000 background performer days worked.

Director Bell emphasized that these numbers represent more than statistics — they demonstrate renewed confidence and growing demand for California as a production location.

She reported that when comparing the period from July 2025 through the meeting date with the same period in the previous fiscal year, demand for the Film and Television Tax Credit Program, measured by applications received, increased by 43 percent.

Director Bell explained that this significant increase demonstrates that California's modernized incentive program is attracting strong interest from:

- producers;
- major studios;
- independent filmmakers;
- content creators.

She stated that these applicants want to bring their productions to California because of the state's unmatched workforce, infrastructure, and creative resources.

Television Production Growth Under Program 4.0

Director Bell reported that one of the strongest indicators of Program 4.0's success has been renewed growth in television production.

She stated that during the first fiscal year of Program 4.0:

- 21 new television series received tax credits;
- 6 pilots received tax credits;
- these projects represented approximately \$290 million in tax credit allocations.

Director Bell compared those numbers to the final fiscal year of Program 3.0, when only eight new television series received tax credits.

She explained that this increase demonstrates both the competitiveness of the enhanced program and the entertainment industry's confidence in California's:

- workforce;
- production infrastructure;
- creative ecosystem.

New Production Categories Added Through Program 4.0

Director Bell explained that modernization of Program 4.0 expanded eligibility to production categories that were previously unable to participate in California's incentive program.

For the first time, eligible categories now include:

- half-hour comedy series;
- animated television projects;
- animated feature films;
- large-scale competition shows.

Director Bell reported that the Commission was already seeing positive results from these expanded categories.

She highlighted several productions accepted into the program, including:

- the award-winning half-hour comedy series *The Studio*;
- the animated television project *Stewie*, a *Family Guy* spin-off;
- *President Curtis*, an Adult Swim spin-off;
- the large-scale competition series *Schooled!* from Jimmy Kimmel and Mark Rober.

On the feature film side, Director Bell noted that accepted animated projects include:

- *The Simpsons Movie 2*;
- an untitled DreamWorks animated feature;
- *Phineas and Ferb*.

Director Bell explained that these projects represent exactly the type of production activity California hoped to attract through modernization.

She stated that these productions create:

- new employment opportunities;
- additional work for California artists and technicians;
- increased business for vendors and small businesses supporting production.

Industry Momentum and Production Confidence

Director Bell stated that beyond the numbers, the Commission is seeing a renewed sense of momentum throughout the industry.

She explained that CFC is experiencing:

- increased engagement from studios;
- increased interest from independent producers;
- greater utilization of California's production infrastructure;
- more projects reconsidering California as a first-choice production location.

Director Bell stated that productions that may have previously looked outside California are now seriously evaluating opportunities to remain and produce within the state.

She credited this momentum to the collective efforts of:

- California Film Commission staff;
- industry partners;
- labor organizations;
- stakeholders;
- legislative leaders;
- Governor Gavin Newsom;
- GO-Biz;
- members of the Board.

Director Bell stated that while important work remains ahead, California has established a strong foundation for continued growth, competitiveness, and production retention.

Legislative Update

Director Bell provided a legislative update regarding California Film Commission staffing needs.

She reported that three new California Film Commission positions successfully advanced through the Senate Appropriations Committee and remained under consideration as part of the state budget process.

Director Bell explained that these positions are critical to supporting the expanded scope of Program 4.0 by:

- increasing operational capacity;
- supporting program administration;
- maintaining service levels for applicants;
- ensuring accountability to stakeholders and the Legislature.

Program 4.0 Permanent Regulations Update

Director Bell reported that CFC continues working diligently on the permanent regulations for Program 4.0.

She explained that staff remains actively engaged with stakeholders, including:

- labor representatives;
- studios;
- independent producers;
- legal counsel;
- industry organizations.

Director Bell stated that these discussions have been productive and continue helping the Commission develop a durable regulatory framework that balances program integrity with industry needs.

Before concluding her report, Director Bell thanked the Board members for their service to the people of California.

She stated that their guidance, expertise, and commitment have been invaluable during a period of significant change and opportunity for California's entertainment industry.

Director Bell emphasized that the Board's work helps ensure California remains the global leader in film, television, and content production.

She expressed appreciation for the partnership between the Board, CFC staff, government partners, and industry stakeholders.

Director Bell stated that the Commission is not simply administering a tax credit program, but is:

- supporting thousands of workers;
- strengthening local economies;
- investing in creative careers;
- protecting California's production future.

She concluded by stating that California has always been the place where imagination meets opportunity, and that the Commission's responsibility is ensuring future generations of storytellers, creators, and production professionals can continue building their futures in California.

Director Bell thanked the Board and stated she looked forward to the continued discussion.

V. Deputy Director's Report — Yetee Osunsanmi, Deputy Director, California Film Commission

Deputy Director Yetee Osunsanmi thanked Chair Wendy Greuel and began the Deputy Director's Report by acknowledging that the California Film Commission had reached the midway point of 2026.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi stated that, as Director Colleen Bell mentioned in the Director's Report, the Commission remained energized by the successful delivery and performance during the first year of implementation of the expanded Film and Television Tax Credit Program 4.0.

She explained that hearing stories about crew members being hired to work on productions throughout Los Angeles and across California provided a strong sense of pride in the work being performed by the Commission.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi recognized that these accomplishments were possible because of the daily efforts of the California Film Commission team, working in partnership with:

- Governor Gavin Newsom;
- the Governor's Office;
- the Legislature;
- industry stakeholders;
- many partners represented at the Board meeting.

She encouraged anyone with positive production stories or examples of the program's impact to share them with the Commission so that CFC can help capture, highlight, and amplify those success stories.

CFC Outreach and Education

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that the California Film Commission had continued a very active schedule since the previous Board meeting in February.

She emphasized that whether someone contacts CFC by phone or email, staff can connect them with the appropriate subject matter expert to provide assistance and guidance.

She explained that CFC staff members collectively have decades of experience and provide support in areas including:

- Film and Television Tax Credits;
- permitting;
- filming locations;
- general production assistance;
- statewide production resources.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi stated that the CFC team is available as a resource to help productions navigate filming in California.

She reported that CFC participated in numerous events locally in Los Angeles, throughout California, and internationally.

She highlighted several organizations, events, and partnerships since the previous Board meeting.

San Francisco Film Festival

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that CFC served as a sponsor for the San Francisco Film Festival.

During the festival, CFC attended the opening night film *The Invite*, a California Film and Television Tax Credit Program project.

She noted that the film was directed by Olivia Wilde, who also starred in the project alongside Seth Rogen, Edward Norton, and Penélope Cruz.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi stated that Olivia Wilde participated in a panel discussion following the screening and that it was exciting to see the work completed by the cast and crew in California.

She explained that the production included filming in San Francisco, with the majority of production taking place in Los Angeles.

She also noted that *The Invite* premiered at Sundance in January and was later acquired by A24, which planned to distribute the film later that month.

San Francisco Pitch Fest and Industry Days

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that CFC also participated in Pitch Fest and Industry Days in San Francisco.

CFC hosted a resource table where staff provided guidance to emerging filmmakers preparing their first short films and feature projects.

She explained that the event allowed CFC to:

- provide feedback and perspective to filmmakers;
- explain available Commission resources;
- discuss how state resources can work with local incentives.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi specifically noted San Francisco's recently expanded incentive program, which can be combined with the California state incentive program.

AFCI Studio Summit

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that CFC sponsored the AFCI Studio Summit and participated in an industry panel.

She explained that she helped moderate the panel, which featured:

- Manijeh Fata – San Francisco Film Office;
- Beth De Araujo – Producer and Director of *Josephine*, a California Film and Television Tax Credit project.

She noted that *Josephine* premiered at Sundance and received distribution through Sumerian Pictures.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi stated that the Studio Summit provided an important opportunity to meet stakeholders and present expanded California production opportunities made possible through AB 1138.

She added that it was valuable to meet and learn from film commission offices from around the world.

Handy Foundation Partnership – Michael Screening

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that CFC partnered with Career Pathways provider the Handy Foundation for a screening and panel discussion connected to the recently released film *Michael*, another California Tax Credit Program project.

She stated that Director Colleen Bell participated on a panel with:

- Ri-Karlo Handy – Founder of the Handy Foundation;
- Chelsye Abrams – Apprentice Editor on *Michael*.

The discussion highlighted workforce development and opportunities created through production partnerships.

Blue Cloud Ranch Visit

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that she and Director Bell visited Blue Cloud Ranch, a film location in Santa Clarita.

She explained that the location provides established sets available for productions.

She noted that the long-running television production SEAL Team utilized Blue Cloud Ranch and donated several exterior sets after the series concluded so future productions could continue using them.

Ongoing Communications with Partners and Stakeholders

Deputy Director Osunsanmi discussed CFC's continued communication with local partners and industry stakeholders.

She reported that CFC maintains regular contact with FilmLA and participates in updates regarding:

- statewide Tax Credit Program information;
- permitting updates at state facilities;
- overall California production activity.

She stated that CFC also maintains a standing coordination meeting with:

- Steve Kang – Mayor's Entertainment Council;
- Gary Smith – County Film Office.

These meetings allow partners to discuss local filming updates and production-related issues.

Film Liaisons in California Statewide (FLICS)

Deputy Director Osunsanmi recognized FLICS as a dedicated coalition of knowledgeable film commissioners and film office directors throughout California.

She explained that FLICS supports filming statewide by connecting communities and assisting production operations from:

- San Diego;
- Humboldt;
- regions throughout California.

She reported that the next FLICS Board meeting was scheduled for June 29.

California Day at the American Pavilion – Cannes

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that CFC participated in the second annual California Day at the American Pavilion during the Cannes Film Festival.

She identified event partners including:

- Marina del Rey Tourism Board;
- Film Santa Monica;
- Chula Vista Entertainment Company;
- Film Liaisons in California Statewide;
- NewFilmmakers Los Angeles.

She explained that panels focused on:

- how tourism boards support productions;
- the role of local film offices;
- emerging production resources statewide;
- opportunities for emerging filmmakers;
- California's expanded Film and Television Tax Credit Program;
- stackable incentives available through local jurisdictions.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi highlighted a "beachside chat" between Director Colleen Bell and Christopher Slager, Head of Film for Fifth Season.

She noted Fifth Season is producing Ang Lee's upcoming film Gold Mountain, a California Tax Credit recipient preparing for production in Sacramento.

She also reported that IndieWire partnered with the American Pavilion to expand the event's reach through:

- social media video coverage;
- editorial coverage;
- digital advertising.

Film USA Panel – Cannes

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that Director Bell also participated in a Film USA panel while in Cannes.

The panel included:

- Manijeh Fata – FLICS / San Francisco Film Office;
- Cassandra Hesseltine – FLICS;
- Michael Glaser – Supervising Location Manager for One Battle After Another and guest speaker from the previous CFC Board meeting.

The discussion focused on "One Battle After Another: Powering Production in California."

Permitting Updates

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that the CFC permitting team continues facilitating approvals and communication between state facilities and production partners preparing for filming.

She noted that the department recently issued a production alert regarding potential impacts from the upcoming World Cup.

She explained that additional information is available on the CFC website under News and Notices. She also acknowledged Permit Manager Leo Fialho and stated that he was available to assist with questions.

Locations Update

Deputy Director Osunsanmi reported that the CFC Locations team continues working to update thousands of statewide location listings.

She stated that the team also creates customized location packages upon request to support productions seeking filming locations.

Staffing Update

Deputy Director Osunsanmi welcomed Gillian Anderson as the newest member of the California Film Commission Administrative Team.

She reported that Gillian joined CFC in early May and assisted with meeting check-in.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi stated that the Commission was very happy to have Gillian as part of the team.

Social Media and Closing Remarks

Deputy Director Osunsanmi encouraged Commissioners, partners, and members of the public to follow California Film Commission activities through social media:

- Film California – Instagram;
- California Film Commission – Facebook;
- California Film Commission – LinkedIn;
- Film California – X.

Deputy Director Osunsanmi concluded her report by thanking the Board and returned the floor to Chair Wendy Greuel.

VI. DEIA Report — Fanshen Cox, DEIA Manager, Tax Credit Program, California Film Commission

Fanshen Cox reported that the DEIA team continues to implement the requirements established under SB 132 and expanded through AB 1138. Of 104 eligible projects, 95 have opted into the DEIA provisions. The team is also nearing decisions on two projects that have completed the full review process.

Key updates included:

- A research specialist will be hired to assist the DEIA team with quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.
- The annual DEIA report to the Legislature will transition from a calendar-year report to a fiscal-year report, with the first fiscal-year report anticipated by the end of September as required by AB 1138.
- Once permanent regulations are confirmed, the team will begin collecting ZIP code, veteran status, and disability status as part of final assessment requirements.
- The DEIA team emphasized that this demographic information is not used to determine whether a project has made a good-faith effort.
- The team plans to expand reporting by fiscal year and category and incorporate an intersectional analysis.
- Beginning in 2027, the annual diversity report is expected to include aggregate, project-level analysis of whether diversity work-plan goals were met.

Resources provided to productions include guidance for the four mandated categories: inclusive hiring, equity education, industry capacity building, and supplier diversity. The team also provides customized feedback on work plans, mandatory orientation sessions, sample responses, monthly open guidance sessions, a filmmaker and production resource table containing nearly 300 resources, and a growing supplier-diversity table featuring vendors throughout California.

Board Discussion

Several Board members and industry representatives raised concerns about the rigor and administrative burden of the DEIA process, particularly for projects that already have diverse casts and crews or existing studio diversity programs. One industry representative stated that projects have been rejected or required to resubmit despite having substantial diversity already in place. Concerns were also raised that some existing studio and workforce programs may not receive sufficient credit under the current requirements.

The Board discussed whether the process could be streamlined while still meeting the Legislature's intent, and whether the requirements might inadvertently discourage participation. The discussion also included concerns about potential conflicts between California's requirements and federal law.

Colleen Bell emphasized that the goal is for projects to participate in the DEIA program and ultimately receive 100% of their available tax credit, rather than opting out and forfeiting 4%. She acknowledged that the first year of implementation has involved growing pains and stated that the Commission is listening to stakeholder feedback and working through the regulations.

The Board also discussed the importance of ensuring that the data presented to the Board is California-specific and relevant to the Tax Credit Program, particularly when evaluating below-the-line workforce diversity. Members noted that some of the national industry statistics presented do not directly measure the activities funded by the California tax credit program.

The discussion concluded with interest in:

1. Reviewing the number of projects that opted out and the circumstances surrounding those decisions.
2. Preparing a report addressing the concerns raised about the current DEIA process.
3. Using stakeholder feedback to identify potential improvements as the permanent regulations move forward.
4. Examining how other states—including New York and Georgia—administer diversity requirements in their incentive programs.
5. Comparing those programs with California's approach to determine whether there are useful practices that could inform the process.

VII. Guest Speaker and FilmLA Update — Donna Washington, Vice President of External Affairs, FilmLA

Donna Washington, Vice President of External Affairs for FilmLA, provided a presentation and update regarding filming activity, production trends, and the current state of on-location filming.

Donna thanked the California Film Commission Board and staff for the opportunity to provide an update and acknowledged the strong partnership between FilmLA and CFC.

She discussed FilmLA's role in supporting production activity by coordinating permits, assisting productions, and working with communities throughout the Los Angeles region.

Washington provided information regarding:

- regional filming activity;
- production trends;
- industry recovery;
- permit activity;
- challenges affecting production volume;
- opportunities for continued growth.

She explained that while the entertainment industry has faced challenges in recent years, collaboration between agencies, government partners, and the industry remains critical.

Washington discussed how production activity impacts:

- crew employment;
- small businesses;
- vendors;
- local economies;
- communities where filming occurs.

She emphasized that filming supports studios and production companies, as well as thousands of workers and businesses connected to the entertainment industry.

She acknowledged the importance of California's expanded incentive program and discussed how remaining competitive helps encourage productions to film locally.

VIII. Public Comment — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

Chair Greuel opened the floor for public comment. Staff confirmed that no public comment requests had been submitted either in person or virtually at the time the agenda item was called. No public comments were made.

IX. New Business — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

None.

X. Adjournment — Wendy Greuel, Chair, California Film Commission Board

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.