

**SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**  
**(Action Items Displayed in Italics)**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025 — 10 a.m.**

**I. ROLL CALL**

*Chair Skorpanich, and Commissioners Brown, Chinn, Gossett, Harrell, Moodian (arrived at 10:30am), Thoms, and Yauger were present. Vice Chair Sarkis and Commissioners Johannes, Richonne, and Senft were absent.*

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission and are not contained in today's agenda.

*No comments were received from the public.*

**III. STAFF UPDATE (ITEM(S) A)**

**A. CULTURAL RESOURCES OPERATIONS FACILITY UPDATE**

Staff will give an update on the recent happenings within the Cultural Resources Operations at historical facilities.

*Dennis Shaffer, OC Parks Cultural Resources Operations Manager, provided an update and answered the Commissioners' questions.*

**IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A-B)**

**B. REPORT FROM AD HOC NETWORKING EVENT COMMITTEE**

The Ad Hoc Committee will provide an update on the planning for the Annual Networking Event.

*The Ad Hoc Committee announced the selected date of the event, which will be September 24. The Committee also provided an update on the status of securing equipment rentals for the event.*

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and file.

*The item was received and filed.*

**C. COOPER CENTER TOUR**

The County of Orange's John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center in as OC Parks facility that houses the County of Orange Paleontology and Archaeology collection (Collection). The staff and volunteers at this facility

work to preserve and curate the Collection in order to educate the public about the County's ancient history.

- 10:00 a.m.: The Cooper Center  
Address: 1141 E. Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92701
  - A staff member will be on site to direct parking.
  - Tour the facility and learn about the work done to preserve the Collection.
  - Learn about the history of the facility.

*OC Parks Archaeological and Paleontological staff provided a tour of the facility and answered the Commissioners' questions.*

**V. ADJOURNMENT 11:30 p.m.**



# Old Orange County Courthouse 2026 Exhibit Plan

OC Historical Commission — September 2, 2025





# Old Courthouse History



- Built in 1901
- Richardsonian Romanesque revival architecture with red sandstone façade
- Originally home to all County offices with one superior courtroom
- Current Courthouse was completed in 1968
- Now operates as both exhibit space and County offices

Old Orange County Courthouse 2026 Exhibit Plan

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# Daily Operations at the Courthouse

- Building is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Historic tours and school field trips scheduled by request
- Building Tenants include Clerk of the Board, OC Archives and Clerk Recorder
- Total number of weddings in 2024 – 6,938

# The Chicano Collection

- First new exhibit in the gallery since 2019
- This exhibit was on display from August to December 2024
- Included a 20-minute video which played in the gallery
- Ribbon cutting event with Supervisor Sarmiento from District 2

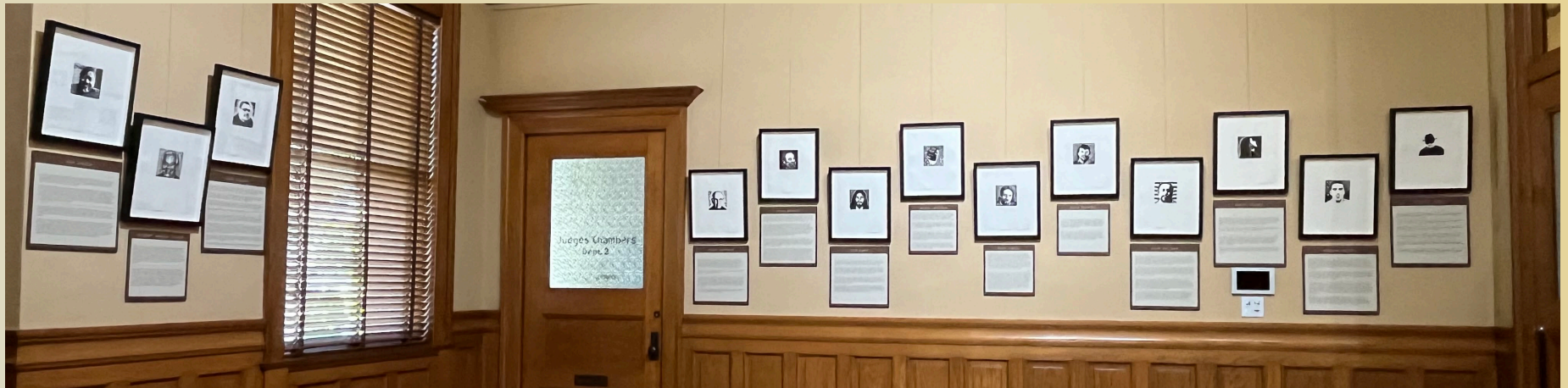


Old Orange County Courthouse 2026 Exhibit Plan

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# Old Orange County Courthouse 2026 Exhibit Plan

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# Omnivision

- Collaboration with the Southern California Plein Air Painters Association (SOCAL PAPA)
  - OC Parks has worked with this group at Upper Newport Bay in the past.
  - This was the first collaboration at the Old Courthouse
- Over 200 pieces of art on display
- Featured students from a local arts high school
- All the artwork was for available for sale, except the student work





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# Backyard Kingdom: Exploration of Life in OC Parks

- Features 8 different OC Parks facilities including wilderness, regional, and historical parks
- Highlights a plant or animal that can be seen while visiting each of those parks
- Utilizes large colorful photographs
- This was an in-house exhibit designed to fit the space and can be reused again in the future.





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# The Other Side of Memory

- Current exhibit – will be on display from August 2025 to December 2025
- Photography by Luis C. Garza
- Includes photographs from East Los Angeles during the early 1970s, his South Bronx neighborhood during the 1960s, and his 1971 travels to Budapest and Hungary.
- All the photographs have been grouped together in pairs



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# Exhibits in Progress

- Second Collaboration with SOCAL PAPA
- Folklórico – Relámpago del Cielo
- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence – 2026



# 250 Years After 1776



## MISSION

- To engage the citizens and residents of Orange County in commemorating and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States
- For More information visit:  
[USA250-OC.com](http://USA250-OC.com)

# Semiquincentennial Constitution Exhibit

- 74 years before California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state
- The goal of this exhibit is to explore how constitutional and civil rights fit into the history of orange county, especially through the lens of cases heard at the Old Orange County Courthouse
- It will cover:
  - Powers of the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Branch
  - How the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment effected judges and juries as well as changes to the Old Courthouse building itself
  - Four court cases related to constitutional amendments

# Amendments

- **Fourth Amendment:** Protects Individuals from unreasonable search and seizures.
- **Fourteenth Amendment:** Guarantees all citizens equal protections under the law. Prohibits states from depriving any person of life liberty or property without due process.
- **Nineteenth Amendment:** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.



# Semiquincentennial Constitution Exhibit

## 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- **Doss V. Bernal 1943**
  - Successfully challenged residential segregation of Mexican Americans in Orange County
  - One of the Earliest legal victories against racial covenants
- **Mendez V. Westminster 1946**
  - Not heard at the Old Courthouse, but cites Doss V. Bernal as precedent
  - Successfully challenged the segregation of Mexican-American students in public schools
  - Referenced in Brown V. Board of Education

# Semiquincentennial Constitution Exhibit

## 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- **Reitman V. Mulkey 1967**
  - In 1963, California passed the Rumford Fair Housing Act that banned racial discrimination by property owners who refused to sell/rent on the basis of color.
  - In 1964, Proposition 14 to nullify the law was passed.
  - In 1966, California Supreme Court held that Proposition 14 was designed to overturn state laws prohibiting discrimination, encouraged discrimination and was invalid under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
  - In 1967, U.S. Supreme Court upheld the California Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision.

# Semiquincentennial Constitution Exhibit

## 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- **Chimel V. California 1969**
  - Police officers with a warrant authorizing Chimel's arrest were allowed into his home by his wife. Upon receiving his warrant for arrest, "Chimel denied the request of officers to look around" which was ignored.
  - Items taken from Chimel's home were used to convict him, and the state courts upheld the conviction and allowed searches far beyond an arrestee's reach.
  - U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-2 in favor of Chimel, and that the search of Chimel's house was unreasonable under the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Court emphasized the need for a search warrant to search the entire house.



# Relámpago Del Cielo — Grupo Folklórico De Santa Ana

- Local Santa Ana folklórico dance group will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- This exhibit will cover the background of this organization and the history of folklórico dancing



# Old Courthouse 2026 Exhibit Plan

- January to March – SOCAL PAPA
- April to July – Constitution Exhibit
- August to December – Folklórico Exhibit

# Thank You

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