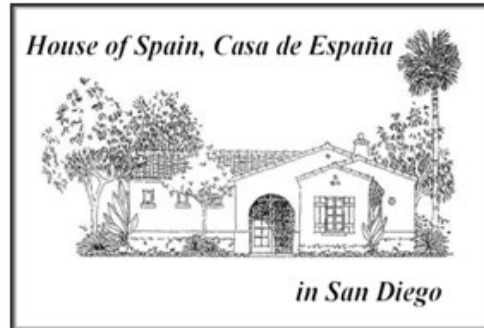


# House of Spain – Casa de España



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## Board of Directors Meeting (Monthly Meeting)

**Date:** February 8, 2026

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – noon

**Location:** 2168 Pan American Road East, San Diego, CA 92101

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## 1. Call to Order

President **Jesus Benayas** called the meeting to order at **9:36 a.m.**

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## 2. Roll Call & Quorum

### Officers Present:

President: Jesus Benayas

Vice President: Pedro Romon-Diaz

Secretary: Madison Dearie

Treasurer: Maria Jose Marmanillo

### Board Members Present:

Maruja Williams

David Buenaventura

Ana Ocampo

### Sergeant at Arms (non-voting):

Henry Herms

**Board Members Absent:**

Patricia Barry (proxy submitted to President Jesus Benayas)

A quorum was established.

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**3. Approval of Agenda**

- **Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented
  - **Moved by:** Maruja Williams
  - **Seconded by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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**4. Proxies and Election of New Board Member**

Patricia Barry submitted her proxy to President Jesus Benayas.

Laura Rivas, a long-time House of Spain member, was present and petitioned to join the Board of Directors.

- **Motion:** To nominate Laura Rivas to the Board of Directors
- **Moved by:** Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Seconded by:** Maruja Williams
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

**Laura Rivas was welcomed to the Board.**

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**5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion:** To approve the January 11, 2026 Board Meeting minutes
  - **Moved by:** Maruja Williams
  - **Seconded by:** David Buenaventura
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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**6. President's Report**

President Benayas provided updates on the following matters:

**Board of Directors Changes and HPR Delegation:**

Nina has retired from the Board of Directors but remains available to assist periodically. Henry Herms continues serving as House of Spain's delegate to the House of Pacific Relations (HPR). Madison Dearie volunteered to serve as an additional delegate. HPR meetings are typically held via Zoom on the first Sunday of each month.

**Secretary Email Access:**

Secretary Madison Dearie will be granted access to the official Secretary email account.

**Clover Payment System:**

The Clover payment system has been successfully implemented and operational for two weekends without issues. The system maintains transaction records and allows receipts to be sent electronically. Printing receipts is discouraged due to the cost of paper rolls. Pedro Romon-Diaz, Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo, and David Buenaventura coordinated installation and setup.

**223rd Anniversary of the Battle of San Diego Bay:**

The commemorative event will take place on March 22, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Naval Base Point Loma. The Commanding Officer has formally approved the event and program. Attendance is limited to approximately 20–30 guests, with priority given to Board members. President Benayas will serve as keynote speaker. Food will be served outdoors as in prior years. President Benayas will circulate an email to confirm attendance and establish a guest list.

**Author Presentation Event:**

Spanish author Jorge Luis Garcia Ruiz will be visiting San Diego and has been invited to present his book, *Revolution*, at the House of Spain.

- **Motion:** To host an author presentation event at the House of Spain on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- **Moved by:** Madison Dearie
- **Seconded by:** Maruja Williams
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

Attendance will be limited to approximately 30–40 guests. David Buenaventura will design promotional materials.

**Casita Maintenance and Improvements:**

New LED bulbs have been installed in exterior lighting. Pedro Romon-Diaz will evaluate installing sensors to improve efficiency. Landscaping and repairs to the bench area near the laurel tree have been completed. Pedro Romon-Diaz will also evaluate installation of a sensor system for lighting control.

**Insurance:**

HPR insurance coverage is currently under renewal due to acquisition of the prior insurance provider. The Board submitted required inventory documentation. The Special Use Permit (SUP) is under legal review, and potential operational changes are pending.

**Website Updates:**

Henry Herms, Jesus Benayas, and David Buenaventura will coordinate with the web designer to update the House of Spain website.

**Administrative Matters:**

The annual PO Box fee has been paid, and routine operational expenses are current.

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**7. Vice President's Report**

Vice President Pedro Romon-Diaz reported no additional updates beyond those covered in the President's Report.

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**8. Secretary's Report**

Outstanding Board documentation requiring signatures will be redistributed for completion.

Secretary Dearie confirmed that meeting minutes continue to be uploaded to the House of Spain website and provided to the web designer along with meeting agendas.

Laura Rivas will provide a photograph for inclusion on the website.

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**9. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Maria Jose Marmanillo presented a general financial update.

The Board discussed updating bank account signatories to reflect the current Secretary position. President Benayas and Secretary Dearie will schedule an appointment with the bank to complete the required changes.

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**10. HPR Report**

The following updates were provided regarding House of Pacific Relations matters:

- A new member organization, House of Afghanistan, has joined HPR.

- HPR is coordinating with local law enforcement regarding unauthorized fireworks activity affecting plane safety.
  - Parking-related concerns are ongoing.
  - The Hall of Nations is temporarily closed due to maintenance work.
  - The Board declined an offer from the Knights organization to provide stage setup and teardown services for \$50 each, opting instead to continue handling these internally.
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## **11. Committee Reports**

### **Battle of San Diego Bay:**

Covered in the President's Report.

### **Feria de Abril:**

Lead: Ana Ocampo

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Volunteers and Board members will assist with food preparation and event operations.

### **Ethnic Food Fair:**

Scheduled for May 2026. Further details forthcoming.

### **Volunteer Appreciation:**

Lead: David Buenaventura

Instead of hosting a dedicated event, the Board will provide volunteer appreciation gifts in the form of House of Spain shirts.

### **Latin Festival:**

Date to be determined.

### **Cabrillo Wreath Ceremony:**

Scheduled for September 2026; exact date pending.

### **Lawn Program:**

Scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026.

### **December Nights:**

Scheduled for December 4–5, 2026.

**House of Spain Calendar:**

Madison Dearie will assume responsibility for managing the 2026 event calendar.

**Scholarship:**

No updates at this time.

**Member Community Event:**

Ana Ocampo proposed hosting a House of Spain picnic and community gathering at Liberty Station.

- **Motion:** To host a House of Spain community picnic at Liberty Station on Sunday, June 28, 2026
  - **Moved by:** Ana Ocampo
  - **Seconded by:** David Buenaventura
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously
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**12. New Business**

No new business was introduced.

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**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at **10:49 a.m.**

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**Submitted by:**

**Madison Dearie**

Secretary, House of Spain

*Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on March 8, 2026.*