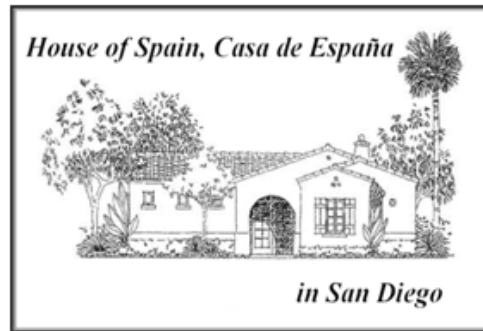


House of Spain – Casa de España



Board of Directors Meeting (Monthly Meeting)

Date: April 12, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

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

1. Call to Order

President Jesus Benayas called the meeting to order at **9:46 a.m.**

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
- Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
- David Buenaventura
- Ana Ocampo
- Laura Rivas

Board Members Absent:

- Patricia Barry (no proxy submitted)

Sergeant at Arms (non-voting):

- Henry Herms – present

A quorum was established.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

- Moved by: Ana Ocampo
 - Seconded by: David Buenaventura
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
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4. Proxies

No proxies were submitted.

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 8, 2026 Board meeting minutes

- Moved by: Pedro Romon-Diaz
 - Seconded by: Maruja Williams
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
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6. President's Report

President Benayas provided updates on the following:

Feria de Abril

- Event turnout was lower than prior year but included **higher participation from Spanish community and families and children in particular.**
- Two paellas were sold (compared to three prepared last year, with two sold), and eight tartas de Santiago were sold (same as prior year, though we had three more that went unsold this year).
- Attendance was approximately 38 members, higher than usual.
- Gross revenue was approximately \$3,000, with an estimated net of \$2,500.
- Use of the new payment system was successful and generated approximately \$150 in tips.
- Board discussed increasing child-focused activities and marketing toward young families for future events.
- Weather and parking impacted attendance.

EFF Event (May 2–3)

- Confirmed House of Spain will **not participate** due to unresolved cost-sharing and logistics concerns.
- The Casita will remain closed that weekend to avoid potential cost obligations.

Battle of San Diego Bay (March 22)

- Event was successful with strong participation from military personnel.
- Food service was well managed; no leftovers.

Revolution Book Presentation

- Event was well attended and successful.
- Promotional video and interview recorded and uploaded to the House's YouTube channel. Members should distribute and subscribe to channel if not already doing so.

Administrative Updates

- Continued work with accountant on administrative matters.
- HPR insurance documentation submitted; awaiting response.
- Website updates ongoing (thanks to Henry Herms and David Buenaventura).
- No response received regarding Málaga letter to the City of San Diego.

Staffing Proposal

Motion: To hire a student assistant (Thomas) for up to 4 hours per week at \$20/hour to support documentation, social media, and historical projects

- Moved by: Madison Dearie
- Seconded by: Maria Jose Marmanillo
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Additional Update

- If Julieta or Lisbeth are unavailable, the President's grandson Jake will serve as substitute support staff.

General

- Routine shopping and mail matters addressed.
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7. Vice President's Report

No updates were provided.

8. Secretary's Report

- No formal report.
 - Secretary will distribute the 2026 calendar of events.
-

9. Treasurer's Report

- Financials reviewed.
- Investment portfolio decreased approximately \$13,000 in March but recovered over \$10,000 in April.
- Approximately \$50,000 held in cash reserves earning ~3% to maintain liquidity.

- Financial position remains stable.
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10. HPR Report

Henry Herms provided updates:

- Proposed updates to **Hall of Nations usage rules**, including:
 - Transition from fixed penalty fees to “up to” fee structure for violations.
 - Clarification of “serve and sell” language.
 - HPR considering formation of committees.
 - Updates on street vendor enforcement issues in the Gaslamp Quarter, fears this may affect Balboa Park.
 - EFF participation estimates vary (13–19 houses).
 - Total shared event cost estimated at \$4,800 after \$1,500 city grant.
 - Estimated cost per house approximately \$240.
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11. Committee Reports

Upcoming Events

- **250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (July 4–5)**
 - Lead: Jesus Benayas
- **Picnic at Liberty Station (June 28)**
 - Lead: Ana Ocampo
 - Promotional materials to be developed with David Buenaventura
- **Latin Festival (September 19)**
 - Tentative hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Cabrillo Wreath Ceremony (September 27)**
 - Coordinators: Jesus Benayas, Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Lawn Program (October 10)**
- **December Nights (December 4–5)**
- **December Nights Volunteer Thank You Event**
 - Merchandise planning in progress

Safety Update

- Requirement to place tarp under setups
- Electrical setups identified as tripping hazards; alternatives to be evaluated

Calendar of Events

- Secretary to distribute finalized calendar

Scholarship

- No updates
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12. New Business

No new business was introduced.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **10:45 a.m.**

Submitted by:

Madison Dearie
Secretary, House of Spain

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors at their June 7th, 2026 meeting.