

House of Spain – Casa de España

Approved minutes--July 9,2026



Board of Directors Meeting (Monthly Meeting)

Date: June 7, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – noon

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

1. Call to Order

President Jesus Benayas called the meeting to order at **9:40 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
- Patricia Barry
- Laura Rivas

Board Members Absent:

- Anna Ocampo (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: Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
 - Seconded by: Maria Jose Marmanillo
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
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4. Proxies

Ana Ocampo's proxy submitted to Jesus Benayas.

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 12th, 2026 Board meeting minutes

- Moved by: Ignacio Vazquez Riesgo
 - Seconded by: Maria Jose Marmanillo
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
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6. President's Report

President Benayas provided updates on the following:

Board Meetings

- The May Board meeting was canceled due to Mother's Day.

Fragata Álvaro de Bazán Visit

- The Spanish Navy frigate Álvaro de Bazán will be in San Diego June 9–12.
- Invitations for the June 10 reception will be distributed.
- Members were encouraged to RSVP.
- Secretary Madison Dearie will distribute location and access information.

250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

- Planning discussions continue regarding House of Spain participation in events at the Hall of Nations on July 4–5.
- Jesus Benayas and Henry Herms will represent the House of Spain both days.

Staffing

- President Benayas worked with the accountant to add student assistant Tomas Rogers to the House of Spain payroll.

Insurance and Special Use Permit

- Updated HPR insurance information has been received and is under review.
- Significant changes in coverage and cost structures are being evaluated.
- HPR is no longer providing visitor injury coverage through its policy.
- The Board is evaluating Commercial General Liability insurance options and obtaining additional quotes.
- Directors and Officers liability coverage remains in place.
- Questions remain regarding the status of the Special Use Permit (SUP) and whether House of Spain activities should be covered under that permit.
- The Board will continue discussions with HPR and the City of San Diego regarding permit status and insurance requirements.

Website Updates

- Website improvements remain in progress.
- President Benayas thanked Henry Herms and David Buenaventura for their continued efforts.

Administrative Matters

- Routine shopping and mail matters addressed.

7. Vice President's Report

No updates were provided.

8. Secretary's Report

- Secretary Dearie will distribute the updated 2026 calendar of events.
 - Approved Board meeting minutes will be distributed.
 - Staff and volunteer records will be updated to reflect recent additions.
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9. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Maria Jose Marmanillo provided a financial update.

- The organization may need to transfer funds to cover upcoming operating expenses.
 - Approximately \$60,000 is currently held in cash reserves within the Fidelity account.
 - Approximately \$9,000 is maintained in the checking account.
 - Overall financial position remains stable.
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10. HPR Report

Henry Herms provided updates regarding House of Pacific Relations matters.

- HPR continues discussions regarding operational requirements and the number of days member houses may remain closed.
 - Updates were provided regarding planning for the Ethnic Food Fair and participating houses.
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11. Committee Reports

Upcoming Events

- **250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (July 4–5)**
 - Lead: Jesus Benayas and Henry Herms
 - Jesus Benayas and Henry Herms will attend both days
- **Picnic at Liberty Station (June 28)**
 - Lead: Ana Ocampo
 - Promotional materials to be developed with David Buenaventura
 - David Buenaventura requested event information for flyer preparation
- **December Nights Volunteer Appreciation Gift**
 - David Buenaventura presented concepts for volunteer appreciation merchandise.
 - The Board discussed providing volunteer T-shirts and hats in lieu of hosting a separate appreciation event.
 - Proposed designs will be presented at the July Board meeting for review and approval.
 - Design concepts include volunteer-specific shirts with House of Spain branding.
- **Latin Festival (September 19)**
 - Tentative hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Cabrillo Wreath Ceremony (September 27)**
 - Coordinators: Jesus Benayas and Pedro Romon-Diaz
- **Lawn Program (October 10)**
- **December Nights (December 4–5)**

Calendar of Events

- Secretary Dearie to distribute finalized calendar

Scholarship

- No updates were provided

Queens & Kings Selection

- Potential candidates are currently being identified and evaluated.
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12. New Business

No new business was introduced.

13. Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Madison Dearie
Secretary, House of Spain

Minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the July 12th meeting.