

CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Council Overflow Room
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Kathie Morgan, Vice-Chair Taylor Ingro, Commission members, Crystal Kupper, Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Margaret Lieu, Rhiannon Miett and Susan deJong

Absent: None

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager and Heather Donaldson – Arts, Culture & Library Management Analyst, Sr.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager, reported on the following items:

- WVAC invited stakeholders to a presentation to roll out their strategic plan and pivot in operations and services. They are part of a 3 year organizational development program through the Virginia G. Piper Trust working with consultants and partners. They shared an emphasis on leaning into the council portion of their name, and discussed their 6 core areas of focus.
- The FY25 budget draft is still in-progress, we will have a presentation on a future agenda regarding the A+C budget once there is a draft. The requests for arts and culture in the FY25 budget include two staff positions at the coordinator level, an increase in grant funding to \$50,000, proposed FY25 Municipal Art Fund projects (traffic cabinets, Dick McComb Park, Countryside Recreation Center, and temporary art at Asante Library), and an increase in public art maintenance, administration, and education budgets in the Municipal Arts Fund. We are in a place that with strategic use of the Municipal Arts Fund we have financial capacity to grow programming and services, but are in need of staff to make those programs feasible.
- We have some panels coming up with representatives from the SACAC – following the panels they will provide an update to the commission on the panel discussion and selected applicants. Final designs of artwork will come to the commission for input.
 - Dr. Pullins – Fence Art
 - Taylor Ingro – MCRC Outdoor Gathering Space
 - Crystal Kupper – Traffic Cabinets
 - Margaret Lieu – A+C Grants

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the February 5, 2024 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Miett moved to approve the February 5, 2024 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Pullins 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation by Honor Dance.

Rachel Eastburn, Honor Dance President, discussed the following items:

- Personal introduction
- Honor Dance makes dance more accessible to youth by providing free and fun community-based opportunities
 - Travel to community sites where kids are at
 - Provide fun dance experience, give kids access to movement, music, etc.
- Honor Dance strives to eliminate barriers to dance instruction
 - Classes are tuition free
 - Provide positive environment where all students are encouraged
 - No specific dance shoes or clothing required
 - Classes are at community based sites to help with transportation difficulties
 - No experience necessary to participate and have fun
- Programs & Initiatives
 - 21st Century
 - Den Club
 - Dysart Community Center
 - Middle Schools
 - Summer Camps
- 2023-2024 Surprise Area Impact
 - 14 Group Sessions
 - 148 Tuition-Free Classes
 - 8 Community Sites
 - 90 K-8 Participants

Commissioner Kupper asked if Honor Dance accept kids in wheelchairs?

- They have never been approached by anyone in a wheelchair, but they would have no problem accepting them into the program. Their goal is to make the program accessible to anyone that wants to participate.

Vice Chair Ingro asked what schools Honor Dance has their program at?

- Sites serving the Surprise area are Dysart Community Center, and schools including Desert Oasis, Sonoran Heights, Asante, Sunset Hills, Countryside, Western Peaks and Rancho Gabriella. They also are able to switch to other Dysart Unified School Districts sometimes so that they can offer a class at another school not mentioned above.

Commissioner Mielt asked for a story of a child who didn't want to go to a class and who left very confident.

- This happens with the boys quite often who take a class who enter feeling shy, and leave with a smile and enthusiasm to return.

Chair Morgan asked if body image and confidence has anything to do with the older students not attending dance as much as the younger students.

- Observation is yes.

Commissioner Pullins asked how many Title I schools they have impacted.

- They didn't have the exact number available, but there is a good mix of both Title I and non-Title I schools welcoming the program in, and a need for students at all schools for the program.

3. Presentation and discussion regarding artwork location of "The 5 C's of Arizona" by Joe Tyler.

Ms. Akerly discussed the following items:

- Purpose of relocation of "The 5 C's of Arizona" art piece to better suit programming and space needs at Asante Library, and increase traffic and visibility of artwork
- Current Location – Asante Library
- Relocation – Regional Library
- Commission likes the Surprise Regional Library suggested placement and did not suggest any other potential locations

4. Discussion regarding the SACAC's mission, powers, duties, and responsibilities.

Ms. Akerly discussed the following items related to the SACAC's mission, powers, duties and responsibilities:

- Purpose of updates are to incorporate culture, align with staff reporting structures to new dedicated arts and culture staff, and broaden scope of commission.
- To update, the Commission may recommend to City Council an update to City Code.
- Mission
 - Commissioner Lieu suggested that we add arts and cultural growth and delete arts and culture after the development of...
 - Commissioner Mielt clarified what the Arts & Culture Division's mission statement is

- Composition
 - Commissioner Pullins suggested adding the word diverse
 - Commissioner Lieu suggested adding the word may
- Powers, Duties, Responsibilities
 - Ms. Akerly said the goal is to keep this broad so that there is less specificity and more room for Commission engagement
 - The Commission liked the way the Powers, Duties, Responsibilities were written and only suggested changing Arts & Culture Manager/Staff to Arts & Culture Leadership

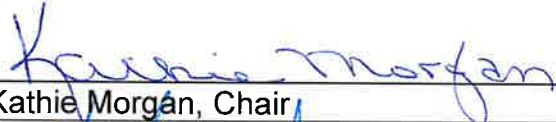
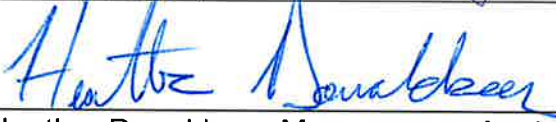
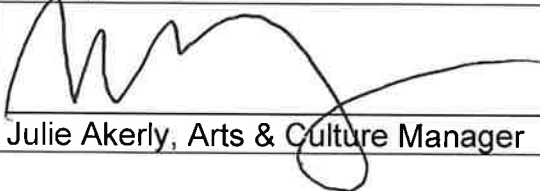
Ms. Akerly will bring this item back to the Commission during the April meeting for Commission to take action.

E. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong advised the Commission that there were 120 tickets sold to a very successful lunchtime theater
- Ms. Akerly advised that 60 people attended our first evening Speaker Series
- Commissioner Kupper advised that the Stage Left winter slate of shows went off fabulously
- Commissioner Kupper advised that the first Actor's Playground performance is coming up in a couple of weeks

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	 Kathie Morgan, Chair
ATTEST:	 Heather Donaldson, Management Analyst – Sr.
CERTIFICATION: I, Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager for the City of Surprise Arts, Culture & Library Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on March 4, 2024.	
	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager