

CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Monday, August 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
Surprise Regional Library
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Pullins, Vice-Chair Kupper, Commission members Hassan Rasul, Margaret Lieu and Susan deJong.

Absent: Taylor Ingro

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:

- Vista Center for the Arts Feasibility Study Update
 - Theatre DNA has been contracted to conduct an Art Center Feasibility Study with a focus on the governance and operations of the Vista Center for the Arts.
 - The study is expected to take 6-7 months and will include meetings with many individuals, a working group, and focus groups.
 - The commission will be frequently updated and asked for input throughout the process.
- MCRC artwork update
 - A final artwork has been selected – we will have an update on our next agenda as the panel was after the cutoff date for this meeting.
- iHOLA! Multi-City temporary art program
 - 6 West Valley cities are participating in a new temporary public art program
 - The call to artists is now live on our website and at www.westmarc.org/hola
- Event updates
 - Continued, new, and updated events coming for FY25
 - Visit website for more information and to register: www.surpriseaz.gov/arts
 - LIVE at Asante is a new music series outside at Asante library. The City contracted local organization On Stage Entertainment to manage bookings and day-of audio visuals. A local visual arts organization has also been contracted for each event to do an interactive art activity
 - Public Art Sketching Tours are returning, but are getting elevated with teaching artist Rae Wilson who has created lesson plans for tours at City Hall and the Community Park

- Tours to artist Joe Tyler's home studio are a favorite of the community and also returning
- AZ Speaks is continuing with options during the day at City Hall and in the evenings at the library
- Lunchtime Theater returns as well – dates and artists have not yet been posted
- Arts & Culture will be at some other City events, I will be sending an email looking for volunteers and commission support to welcome and introduce at our events if available.
- August 20 City Council Work Session and Meetings
 - We will be presenting studies on the economic impact of arts and culture during the council work session with West Valley Arts Council
 - We will bring forward for Council approval to amend the City Code regarding the mission, powers, duties, and responsibilities of the SACAC

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Chair.

Commissioners went around the table to introduce themselves and speak about their background.

Commissioner deJong moved to select Commissioner Pullins as Chair of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission. 5 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Lieu moved to select Commissioner Kupper as Vice-Chair of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission. 4 yes votes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rasul moved to select Commissioner Rasul as Vice-Chair of the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission.

4 Yes votes (deJong, Kupper, Lieu & Pullins) for Commissioner Kupper.
1 Yes vote (Rasul) for Commissioner Rasul.

3. Consideration and action pertaining to the June 3, 2024 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Kupper moved to approve the June 3, 2024 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion carried.

4. Report and discussion of community pool basketball court mural panel review.

Ms. Akerly provided the Commission with an update regarding the Basketball Court Mural Panel (RFQ) where she addressed the following topics:

- Goals of the Project
- Eligibility
- Community Pool Project
 - Background
 - Location
- Review Process
- Scoring Criteria
- Finalists invited to create proposals
 - Lauren Lee
 - Clyde Thompson
 - Estevan Curiel
- Pre-qualified Muralist List for future mural opportunities
 - Lauren Lee
 - Clyde Thompson
 - Estevan Curiel
 - Adrian Ramirez
 - Tato Caraveo
 - Muta Santiago
 - Juan Morales
 - Isaac Caruso
 - Tyson Krank
 - Francisco Garcia
- Next Steps

5. Presentation and discussion pertaining to the traffic cabinet artwork final design presentations.

Ms. Akerly introduced the 10 West-Valley artists who were selected by a panel of community members to create artwork designs for the traffic cabinet project. Each artist presented their community engagement, design inspiration and final designs to the commission. The commissioners provided input and feedback on each artist's design and process.

1. Charith Denson
Commissioners appreciated the artist's depth of community engagement, the color palette, the bold design, and appropriateness of design for the location.
2. Christine Sherer
Commissioners appreciated the bright colors for this area, and the appropriate curb appeal for the community. They also commented on the timelessness of the flower design, and the bold colors to grab passers by attention.
3. Isaac Escarcega
Commissioners appreciated the youthful approach, the iconic aspects that nod to Arizona, and the reference to Luke Airforce Base with jets in the design.

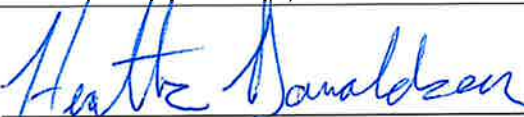
4. Maureen A. Fairbanks
Commissioners appreciated the visibility of the artist's oil painting technique in the design, as well as the use of verticality in the design. They also liked the inclusion of lesser-recognized Arizona wildlife including a quail and Gila Monster.
5. Maxx Valentine
Commissioners appreciated the small details like the saguaro on the fingernails and appreciates the artist's time in learning about Surprise history in the process. They felt that the colors are very inviting and reflecting of Arizona's beautiful skies. They did recommend increasing the size of the butterflies so they would be more visible from the road.
6. Mikayla Hammock
Commissioners were impressed by the level of detail in the design and appreciated the black background to make the design pop. The commissioners did appreciate the nod in design to the Coyote Lakes HOA in the design but suggest removing the lines in the coyote on the top so that it did not reflect the HOA's logo.
7. Nate Butt
Commissioners liked the approach to the desert night sky, but expressed concerns that the bottom desert landscape might be too dark. Commissioners suggested adding more "moonlight" to the plants and grounds as well as increasing contrast to define the landscape better. Commissioners also suggested for the artist to consider shooting star designs in place of the UFOs, while other commissioners felt the UFOs were a fun element.
8. Robert Panzer
Commissioners were impressed by how much of the community input the artist was able to incorporate in their design, and how it reflects the history and culture of Surprise. They also appreciated that it will be easy to see from the road with bold lines and bright colors. Commissioners would like the artist to further investigate the petroglyphs so that we can better understand the context and ensure we are appropriately honoring the history and cultures represented.
9. Steve Deschenes
Commissioners appreciated the clear reflection of the artist's quirky and fun style in this design, as well as the unique story behind the design. They appreciated the creative and bold coloring, and the general nod to Arizona in a unique way.
10. Veronica Verdugo-Lomeli
Commissioners appreciated how well the artist reflected the Original Town Site history and location into their design. They noted that the design pays a lot of respect to the culture and history, and well represents the area. There was a suggestion to try brighter colors for the truck as a nod to the car shows that frequently occur in the Original Town Site.

6. Current Events and Reports

- Lieu – Travelled all summer long – Vicky Hunt passed away a few weeks ago – She was a Peoria Councilperson and WHAM board member – active in West Valley arts – integral in art advocacy for multiple cities – it is because of her that we were able to get a large amount of student artwork out in public
- deJong - Suggest change in commission reports – would like to be able to include things going on in Surprise during current events and reports

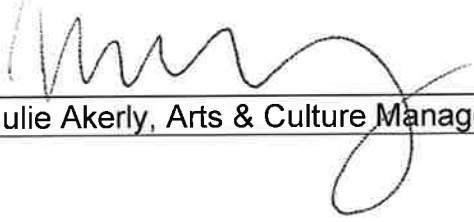
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	 Dr. Charlotte Pullins, 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 August 12, 2024.

	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager
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