

CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374

Monday, February 3, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Surprise Regional Library Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Vice-Chair Crystal Kupper, Commission members Katherine Dunphy, Steve Wallgren, Hassan Rasul, and Susan deJong.

Absent: Margaret Lieu

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager, Alexandra Giambalvo – Arts & Culture Assistant

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

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

- Traffic cabinet artist reception is taking place on February 12 from 5pm-7pm at Actors PLAYground. Ceremony and artist Q&A will begin at 5:30pm
- Invitation to Actors PLAYground Grand Opening on March 15 at 5pm, followed by performance of 12 Angry Jurors at 7pm.
- Successful new program of outdoor sketching tour at the community park
- Public art and gallery tour with One Step Beyond the week of February 10
- Vista Study is coming to the final phases. Consultant will work with partner leadership in February and prepare the final report for the public by the end of March.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the MLK Celebration and Day of Service.

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the January 6, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Wallgren moved to approve the January 6, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Vice Chair Kupper 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation by and general overview of the West Valley Arts Council.

Kathy Knecht, the Executive Director from West Valley Arts Council (WVAC) presented information about their organization including:

- Annual Report for 2024
- WVAC staff introductions
- Working with Arizona artists, local communities, and businesses
- Upcoming and past exhibits
- Lunchtime Theatre program; live-performance productions including music, comedy, and theatre
- WVAC goals – hope to bring more programs and arts into the West Valley

Following the presentation, the Commissioners and the presenter [WVAC] held a discussion that included:

- Commissioners loved the motto: “When it comes to the arts, more is more”
- Goals for WVAC include growing digital content and cultivating deeper connections with the community and the artists themselves
- WVAC is an advocacy organization and is happy to speak about the positive impact of arts in the community

3. Discussion of strategies to advance the SACAC's mission.

The Commission discussed the following:

- How to move the SACAC art mission forward
- How to stay more informed on current events and policies that effect arts and culture
 - Staff will compile a list of organizations for Commissioners to follow and join email newsletters to stay informed on national and local arts and culture happenings
- How to better inform different communities about upcoming events
 - Connect with homeschool co-ops
 - Build more support with OTS including attending Founder's Day event, incorporating OTS into the public art plan, and art and history tours
 - Explore partnerships with Surprise Youth Council
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4. Discussion pertaining to the Commission cultural support calendar.

The Commission discussed how they will continue to support Arts and Culture:

- Commissioner Leui: WHAM Exhibit (March 15th, 2-4 p.m.) CAFÉ Flutes will be performing from 3-4
- Suggested finding meet-up locations for larger events

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items Steps




- Next meeting will take place on March 3, 2025.

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioners really enjoyed the Surprise POPS Band
- Very impressed with the quality
- Commissioner deJong reports:
 - Went to West Valley symphony, AZ Speaks, MLK Day of Service event, Lunchtime Theatre, Arts HQ "Imprint" show opening, Dysart Art Exhibit reception, Surprise POPS Band

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. – Commissioner deJong motioned. Commissioner Dunphy 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	 Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Chair Crystal Kyppe
ATTEST:	 Alexandra Giambalvo, Arts & Culture Assistant
<p>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 February 6, 2025.</p>	
	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager