



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N Bullard Ave,
Surprise, AZ 85374
 Monday, June 2, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
 Surprise Regional Library

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Staff Reports
- E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the May 5, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Arts, Culture & Library Department |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation pertaining to an overview of One Step Beyond, Inc. | Arts, Culture & Library Department |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to a report and review of the Arts and Culture Grants Panel and grant applicants for FY26. | Arts, Culture & Library Department |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar. | Arts, Culture & Library Department |
| 5. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the Commission's cultural support calendar. | Arts, Culture & Library Department |

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
- G. Current Events and Reports
- H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Friday, May 23rd, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Arts, Culture & Library District: Citywide
Department
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the May 5, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the May 5, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

N/A

Objective Analysis:

N/A

Policy Compliant:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 050525_SACAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Surprise Regional Library Conference Room
Meeting Minutes DRAFT

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioner Katherine Dunphy, Commissioner Steve Wallgren

Staff: Kendra Pettis – Sports & Tourism Director, 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:

- Summer Oasis court mural installation is near completion. We will be at Safety Splash on May 9 with art activities, basketball, and an opportunity to meet the artist.
- Updates have been made to the lighting circuit for Bloom Where You're Planted
- Installation beginning for Bounce & Swing at the Stadium on May 12 and is estimated for completion at the end of June/early July.
- Community voting opens in June for Traffic Cabinets designs.
- Summer Reads free art workshops at all the libraries June-July
- City of Surprise staff art exhibit on display at City Hall through May
- 13 eligible grant applications received. Panels will be meeting next month to determine applicant scores
- AZ Speaks program on indefinite pause due to National Endowment for the Humanities funding cuts

- 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 March 3, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Rasul moved to approve the March 3, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Lieu 2nd. 5 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation by WHAM Art Association.

Connie Whitlock, the Executive Director and Founder of WHAM, presented information about their organization including:

- Mission statement and goals; WHAM as a community art center
- Past shows and events in Surprise and around the valley
- Community engagement and contribution including senior support, Little Free Library installations, First Friday events, kids and family art classes, Veteran's and First Responder classes, adaptive classes, teen focused classes, WHAM on Wheels, public art, poetry and music events
- Future projects: Teen poetry nights, literary arts, author's circle

Following the presentation, the Commissioners and the presenter WHAM held a discussion that included:

- Commissioners were impressed by the variety of programs that WHAM provides

3. Presentation and discussion on the Vista Center for the Arts Market Feasibility Study and Business Plan.

Ms. Akerly provided a summary of the presentation provided to City Council in April including:

- Roles of partners
- Timeline
- Next Steps

Following the presentation, the Commissioners held a discussion pertaining to their role of advocacy and education that included:

- Role of advocating and education of presenting program as it develops
- Discussed fundraising, marketing, and awareness of Vista
 - Suggested advocating within each commissioner's individual networking group
 - Future marketing at City of Surprise events
- Commissioners and community members are excited about the new growth and opportunities
- Vista Center will become an additional perk of moving to / living in Surprise
- Commission members thinking about ways to inform Council of their support
 - Thank you letters/emails of support
 - Speaking at during public comment at future council meeting
 - Attending council meet-ups in their District

4. Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

The Commission will revisit this item on a future agenda.

5. Discussion pertaining to the Commission cultural support calendar.

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

- May: Commissioner Walgren – Choir (Thursday, May 8th)
- June: TBD
- July: TBD

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items Steps

- Next meeting will take place on June 6, 2025.

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong reports:
 - Attended lunchtime theatre, LIVE! at Asante, Ground Floor art show opening, WHAM flute concert, Commission dinner, Vista Presentation at City Council meeting, Charter School reception, School Board Vista presentation, State of the City, Staff Art Show at City Hall Gallery, AZ Humanities Program rally
- Commissioners really enjoyed the Joe Tyler Home Studio tour

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu motioned. Commissioner Rasul 2nd. 5 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Chair
ATTEST:	<hr/> Alexandra Giambalvo, Arts & Culture Assistant
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 May 5, 2025.	
	<hr/> Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Arts, Culture & Library District: Citywide
Department
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation pertaining to an overview of One Step Beyond, Inc.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The City of Surprise provided grant funding to 14 organizations in FY25. Organizations who received grant funding and are based in Surprise have been invited to present at a commission meeting to share information about the organization and their impact on Surprise.

Objective Analysis:

A representative from One Step Beyond, Inc. will present information about their organization and create space for questions from the commissioners.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

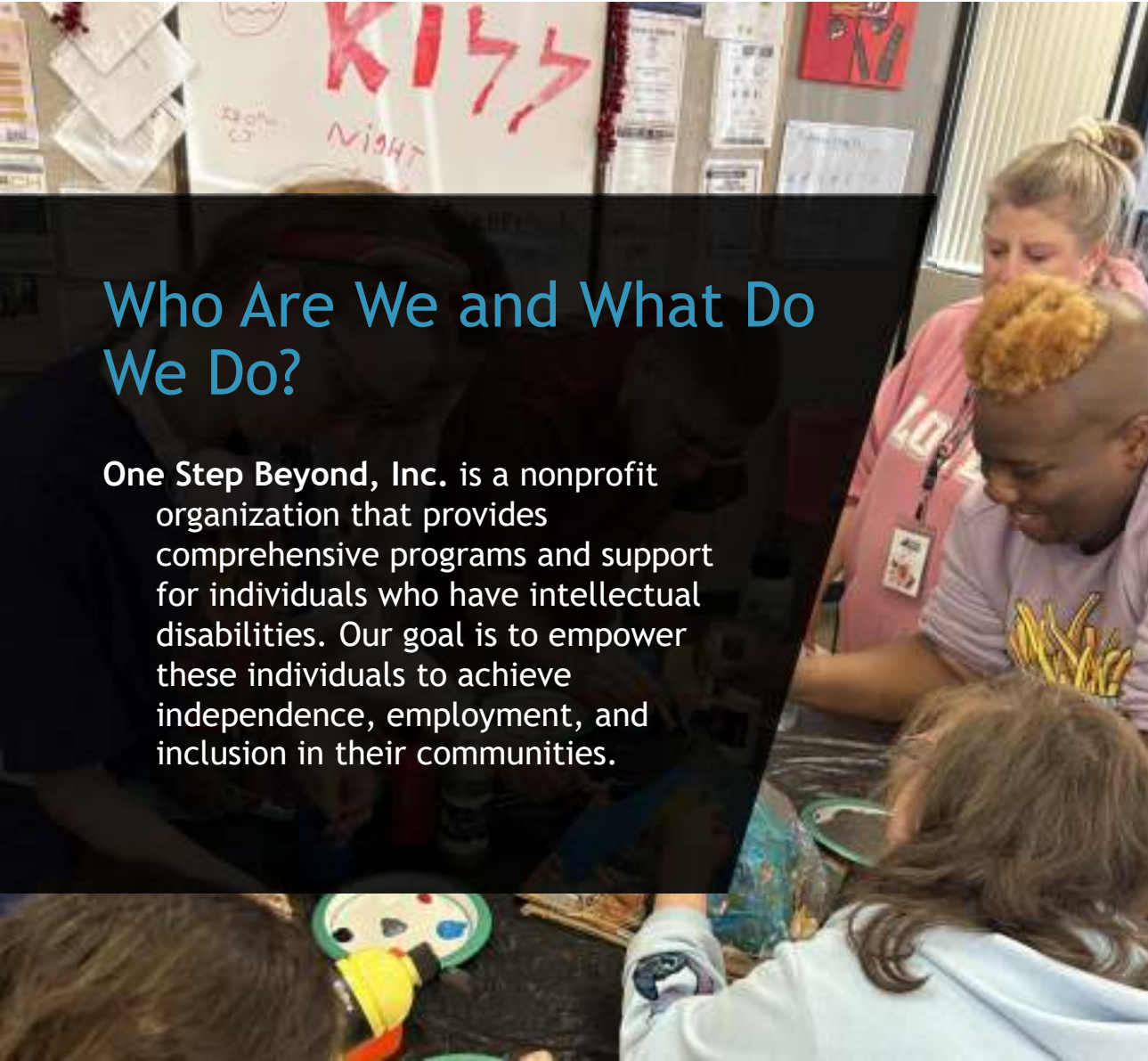
ATTACHMENTS:

1. OSBI Programs Presentation
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Who Are We and What Do We Do?

One Step Beyond, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive programs and support for individuals who have intellectual disabilities. Our goal is to empower these individuals to achieve independence, employment, and inclusion in their communities.



WHAT DO WE OFFER?

We provide full-day, Monday through Friday programs that empower adults with intellectual disabilities to build independence, engage in their communities, and achieve personal growth. These structured day programs focus on developing life skills, job readiness, and meaningful social connections. Offered at our campuses in Glendale, Peoria, Scottsdale, Surprise, and our newest location in Southwest Phoenix, each site is thoughtfully designed to support the unique needs and goals of every member. We server over 600 members and just over 190 in Surprise area.



PROGRAMS WE OFFER:

Life Skills Programs	Recreation & Fine Arts	Employment	Culinary	Community Based Programs	Events & Showcases
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Life Skills Program

Over 20+ Class Options

For example:

English 101/English102

Life Skills Math/ Budget Class

Healthy Life Habits

Job Readiness 101/ Job Readiness 102

Life skills Culinary

Healthy Relationships

Advocacy Club

Gardening

Bowling

Partnership with Estrella community College

Members take Accredited Classes (CPD150/MS
OFFICE suite)

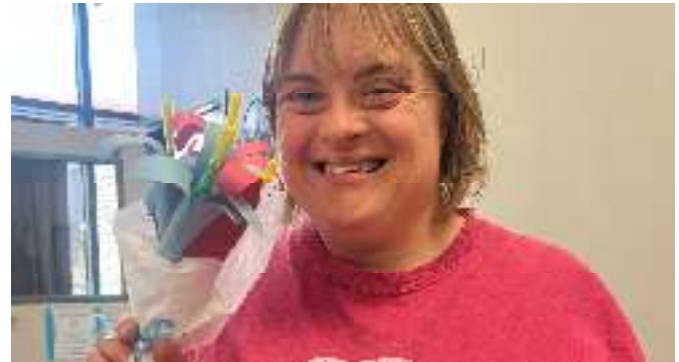




Southwest Phoenix DTA







Recreation Program

Music

- Intro Band/Performance Band
- Karaoke

Fine Arts

- Intro/Studio/Independent
- 2D Art (Painting & Drawing)
- 3D Art (Pottery)

Health and Fitness

- Personal Fit
- Cardio Blast

Dance

- Beginner/Intermediate/Performance Dance
- Cheer
- Yoga
- Zumba

Special Olympics & Hockey

- Soccer, Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Bocce Ball & Track and Field

Events

- Friday Fun Nights
- Winter Formal
- Annual Trip





I love for people to enjoy my art daily. That's what I love about making ceramics. Some people use a mug or bowl I've made everyday and that means something to me.
-Justin



It's easier to make what I imagine in my head out of clay more than anything else I've tried
-Stephanie













Pre-Vocational (Volunteer & Job Readiness)

Vocational Group Supported/ Individual Employment

Pre-Vocational

- Job Readiness Skills
- Mock Applications
- Career Preparation
- Volunteer Activities
- Job Search

Vocational (Paid Employment)

- BW Parts
- Turning Page Bookstore
- City of Surprise Senior Center
- City of Surprise Fire Dept.





Culinary Program:

- ▶ **Focus:** Employment training for community jobs or placement in OSBI's Catering Program through Group Supported Employment (GSE).
- ▶ **OSBI Catering:** Licensed & accredited in Maricopa County.
- ▶ **Specialty:** Custom catering by individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- ▶ **Services:** Weddings, corporate events, dessert platters, charcuterie boards, bulk orders & more.
- ▶ **Training Includes:** Prep cook, cooking, and server responsibilities.







Thank you for the opportunity to share our programs—we appreciate your time, interest, and support as we continue to create meaningful opportunities and impact through our services.

Questions?



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Department
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to a report and review of the Arts and Culture Grants Panel and grant applicants for FY26.

Motion:

None.

Background:

Thirteen (13) eligible applicants submitted applications for the FY26 Arts and Culture grants. A representative of the SACAC served on a panel with four (4) other community members to score applicants and recommend award amounts based on available funding, programming budgets, and achievement of criteria. Thirteen (13) organizations have been recommended to receive grant funding in FY26.

Objective Analysis:

Commission panel representatives and staff will report back to the commission on the process, scoring, and award recommendations of the thirteen (13) applicants.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY26 Grants Panel

Panel Update

— FY26 Arts and Culture Grants —

Goals of Surprise FY25 A+C Grant

- Sustain and grow arts and culture organizations
- Support and expand cultural services for residents
- Approachable, accessible, and equitable access to City resources

Grant Categories Eligibility

Operating Support Grant (\$2000-\$8000)

- Arts and culture based core mission
- Non-profit organization
- Over 50% of programming in Surprise
- Funds can be used for personnel, production, or administrative expenses for programming in Surprise
- One per year per applicant
- Completed organizational development program or recent strategic plan
- Multi-year funding

Project Grant (\$500-\$5000)

- Arts and Culture Programming
- Non-Profit or Fiscal Sponsorship
- Activities in Surprise
- Start-up projects accepted
- Funds can be used for personnel, production, or administrative expenses for programming in Surprise
- One per year per applicant, may be in partnership or use venue of Operating Support Grant applicant

Panel Process

Review Process

- Panel of community members
- Attended an onboarding training
- Reviewed and scored applications based on criteria
 - Intentionality, community, impact, resourcefulness
- Met to discuss applications, provide feedback for applicants, and final score



A+C Project Grantees



All Call Theater



AZ Art Alliance



Café Flutes



Dysart USD



One Step Beyond, Inc.



West Valley Symphony

A+C Project Grant Rec. Award Amounts

Level	Organization	Score	Award Rec.
1	All Call Theater	High	1500
1	AZ Art Alliance	High	1500
1	Café Flutes	High	1500
1	One Step Beyond, Inc.	High	1500
3	Dysart USD	High	5000
3	West Valley Symphony	Medium	3500
		Total	14,500

A+C Operating Support Grantees



Actors PLAYground



Ground Floor Artists



Honor Dance



On Stage Now



Surprise POPS Band



WHAM



WVAC

A+C Operating Support Grant Rec. Award Amounts

Level	Organization	Score	Award Rec.
1	On Stage Now	Low	2000
1	Surprise POPS Band	Low	2000
1	Honor Dance	Medium	3000
2	Ground Floor Artists	High	6000
3	West Valley Arts Council	High	8000
3	Actors PLAYground	High	8000
3	WHAM Art Association	Medium	6000
		Total	35,000

Next Steps

- Approval by ACL Director
- FY26 budget adoption by Council
- Send award letters
- Final reports due June 2026



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Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Arts, Culture & Library District: Citywide
Department
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

Motion:

I move to approve the FY2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting calendar [A or B].

Background:

Per Surprise Municipal Code Sec. 2-295(12)(c): "Each body must establish an annual schedule for regular meetings designating the time, date and location for such regular meetings." This item has been placed on the agenda to allow the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission an opportunity to review and approve the FY2026 meeting calendar.

Objective Analysis:

N/A

Policy Compliant:

N/A

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY26 SACAC Meeting Calendar A
2. FY26 SACAC Meeting Calendar B



**Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Meetings – Fiscal Year 2026
Calendar A**

*All meetings take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Regional Library Conference Room,
unless otherwise noticed on the meeting agenda*

Meeting Dates:	Reason for Reschedule:
July Meeting Cancelled	July Recess
Wednesday, July 30, 2025	Staff Availability Limited (Wednesday, August 6)
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	Staff Availability Limited (Wednesday, September 3)
Wednesday, October 1, 2025	
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	
Wednesday, January 7, 2026	
Wednesday, February 4, 2026	
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	
Wednesday, June 3, 2026	

**Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Meetings – Fiscal Year 2026
Calendar B**

*All meetings take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Regional Library Conference Room,
unless otherwise noticed on the meeting agenda*

Meeting Dates:	Reason for Reschedule:
July Meeting Cancelled	July Recess
Wednesday, July 30, 2025	Staff Availability Limited (Wednesday, August 6)
Monday, September 8, 2025	Labor Day September 1
Monday, October 6, 2025	
Monday, November 3, 2025	
Monday, December 1, 2025	
Monday, January 5, 2026	
Monday, February 2, 2026	
Monday, March 2, 2026	
Monday, April 6, 2026	
Monday, May 4, 2026	
Monday, June 1, 2026	



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Arts, Culture & Library District: Citywide
Department
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to the Commission's cultural support calendar.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The commission previously discussed ways they could fulfill their mission of advocacy and education for arts and culture in Surprise. The commission agreed to select one arts and culture event to attend each month to support and learn about organizations and programs in Surprise.

Objective Analysis:

The SACAC will share upcoming arts and culture events in Surprise and discuss at least one event each month to attend as a commission.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:
