

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

Monday, June 2, 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:

- Installation has started for *Bounce & Swing* at the Surprise Stadium
- Community voting is open for Traffic Cabinets designs through June 30
- City and District have started the process of creating a Facility Use Agreement for the Vista Center for the Arts

- 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 May 5th, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner deJong moved to approve the May 5th, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Rasul 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

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

Mike (Executive Director) and Bri (Program Director) of One Step Beyond, Inc. (OSBI) presented information about their organization including:

- Mission statement and goals
- Detailed description of the diverse Life Skills and Recreation programs OSBI offers
  - 20 plus class options; 5 campuses in Arizona
  - Serve over 600 members around the valley
  - Culinary and arts programs
- Events including annual trips, Friday Fun Nights, and Social Saturdays
- Participation in sports and partnership with AZ Special Olympics
- Provides pre-vocational and vocational services and skills
- Provides transportation for members as well as at-home services
- Founded in 2003
- Culinary Ho-down Event Dinner – July or August 2025

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

- Commissioners had questions regarding length of membership, application process, volunteer opportunities
- Opportunities to employ someone from OSBI, like catering for events

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

Ms. Akerly provided a summary of the Arts and Culture Grants Panel and applicants including:

- Goals of Grants
- Grant categories: Operating Support Grant and Project Grant details
- 13 eligible organizations submitted applications and have been recommended to receive grant funding in FY26

Following the presentation, the Commissioners held a discussion that included:

- Commissioner Hasan described his experience as a Grant panelist
- Commissioners asked questions about process, feedback, and experience
- Organizations must provide details on how funds were used in a final report
- Commission members would like a presentation summarizing final report data
- Checks and balances in place to ensure completion and proper use of funds

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

The Commission decided on a Commission Meetings Calendar for FY26

Commissioner Lieu motioned to approve Calendar A. Co-Chair Kupper 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 0 No Votes. Motion Carried.

5. Discussion pertaining to the Commission cultural support calendar.

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

- Break for Summer.
- Returning in September with Kat

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items Steps

- Next meeting will take place on July 30th, 2025. This will serve as SACAC August meeting

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong reports: Attended Oasis opening and Imprint Opening at WVAC
- Co-Chair Kupper reports: Attended opening night of Actor’s PLAYground; community is excited about the new Bounce and Swing public art installations
- Commissioner Rasul: Attended Oasis opening night. Reports that Oasis Park is getting a lot of attention
- Commissioner Lieu: Attended Oasis opening night and described her experience at the event. Oasis Park went viral on Tik Tok and cities across AZ have already heard about the new park
- Commissioners report they love the basketball court mural
- Chair Pullins and Co-Chair Kupper will be attending June 3 City Council Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. – Commissioner Hasan motioned. Commissioner Lieu 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Chair
<b>ATTEST:</b>	<hr/> Alexandra Giambalvo, Arts & Culture Assistant
<b>CERTIFICATION:</b> 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