

CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Surprise Regional Library Programming Room
Meeting Minutes

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 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:

-
- Building Permit received for *Confluencia*
- Artist proposals in progress for projects at Surprise Regional Library and SCRC Gym Walls with artists from the pre-qualified muralist list

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 & Culture Advisory Commission Chair
 - Chair Dr. Charlottle Pullens nominated Vice-Chair Crystal Kupper
 - Commissioner deJong moved to approve Krystal Kupper as the new Commission Chair. Commissioner Lieu 2nd. Motion carried. 6 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains.

2. Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission Vice-Chair
 - Commissioner deJong nominated Commissioner Hasan Rassul as the new Vice-Chair
 - Commissioner deJong moved to approve Hassan Rassul as the new Commission Vice-Chair. Commissioner Dr. Pullins 2nd. Motion carried. 6 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains.

3. Consideration and action pertaining to the June 2nd, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.
 - Commissioner Lieu moved to approve the June 2nd, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 5 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

4. Presentation pertaining to the Asante Library Artwork Design as part of the West Valley iHOLA! project.
 - Artist Tiesha Harrison presented a slideshow which detailed the following:
 - Her previous community art and engagement projects, her past works of art, and how those inspired her iHOLA! project design
 - Her community engagement workshop in April 2025
 - Her current iHOLA! design
 - Tiesha asked the Commission for feedback:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the juxtaposition of the macrame flowers, bright colors, and the neon Plexiglas superimposed on top of the community paintings
 - Commissioners loved the interactive elements of Tiesha's project, noting elements of playfulness and youthfulness
 - Commissioners enjoyed Tiesha's interactive community engagement

5. Presentations pertaining to the City's Traffic cabinet artwork designs project.
 - Akerly introduced the City Traffic cabinet artwork project, including Arts & Culture goals and design theme
 - FY26 Traffic Cabinet Artists presented their designs:
 - Jackson Kloog:
 - Commissioners like the design, and added some feedback including thickening the circuit board lines and further amplifying the mountain texture so these details are not missed
 - Jesse Yazzie:
 - Commissioners like the bold, clean design
 - Commissioners suggested adding the desert landscape throughout the shoulder to add more interesting elements, and to create more visual context on that side of the cabinet for drivers who will only see one side
 - Jessi Kerr:
 - Commissioners liked the voter-approved design
 - Commissioners suggested not to update changes with added fish as it may compete with the original design

- Brianna Ruiz:
 - Commissioners liked the elements of blending nature and technology and think the design is perfect and beautiful
 - Commissioners suggested adding small rabbits on either side of the box, including rabbit ears peeking out

- Laura Thurbon:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the color and design
 - Commissioners were concerned about the measurements because they want the female face to shine front and center

- Lauren Lee:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the bold, vibrant colors
 - Commissioners resonated with the purpose and reason behind Lauren's design

- Nicole Davy:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the design, especially the colors, mid-century modern aesthetic, and the robot bees
 - Commissioners suggested adding more contrast to the bees and the face so these details are not lost

- Zachary Leo:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the design and humor
 - Commissioners would not change anything about this design

- Sienna Dutsch:
 - Commissioners enjoyed the contrast of the piece, as well as the movement of the figures in the piece

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items Steps


- Next meeting will take place on September 10th, 2025.

G. Current Events and Reports

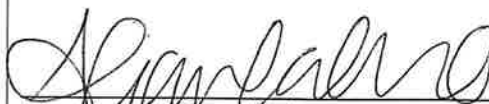
- Commissioner deJong reports attending: IMPRINT and Art Under Fire shows at Arts HQ, June 3rd Mayor and Council meeting, The Grand Photography Club show at City Hall Gallery, Make Music Day
- Next Commissioner outing: Arts HQ Gallery opening from 5-7, August 8th, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. – Commissioner Hasan motioned. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	 <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Crystal Kupper, Chair
--	---

ATTEST:



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.



Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager