



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Ave.
Surprise, AZ 85374

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 @ 6:30 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 September 10, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 2. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the FY26 HeART and Culture of Surprise Award. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the FY27 Percent for Art Plan & Initial Project Description Review. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the Arts HQ Mural. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |

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, September 26th, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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: October 1, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations:

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

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the September 10, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the September 10, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

None

Objective Analysis:

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. MINUTES 091025_SACAC Meeting_DRAFT
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Surprise Regional Library Programming Room
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Crystal Kupper, Vice-Chair Hassan Rasul, Steve Wallgren, and Susan deJong.

Absent: Commissioners Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Katherine Dunphy, and 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:

- City received a \$14,000 grant from the AZ Commission on the Arts
- Department name has officially changed to Sports, Entertainment and Culture. The Arts and Culture Division is still a branch within the overall Department.
- Commissioner outing in September is Backyard Bash on September 24 at Mark Coronado Park.
- We will be discussing HeART and Culture of Surprise nominations at our November meeting.
- New First Fridays in Surprise event - www.firstfridaysurprise.com

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 July 30th, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.
 - Commissioner Rasul moved to approve the July 30th, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and report of FY25 Arts and Culture division programs and events

- Ms. Akerly presented the following details:
 - Event audience reach grew 50% from the previous year
 - Pilot programs grew: LIVE at Asante and outdoor public art sketching tours
 - Increased collaboration with other City departments
 - In progress: Roots of Creation Festival – January 24, 2026
- Goal: Increased access to programs and resources
 - 20 new artworks installed, hosted 16 events on weekends
 - Interdepartmental collaboration: created the Summer Reading Artist program
 - In progress: 12 new artworks underway
 - Non-profit organizational development support
 - The City provided free development training to 14 Surprise-based arts and culture organizations through Capably
- Commissioners are proud of the amount of involvement and programming Arts + Culture has accomplished in the City of Surprise

3. Discussion pertaining to the FY27 Percent for Arts plans.

- Ms. Akerly led a discussion for the FY27 Public Art Plan
 - Public Art Pan Goals:
 - Community survey priorities include parks, neighborhood, community center and libraries, opportunities for local artists, easily accessible, city center/art corridor placemaking, original town site, and mural replacements
 - Municipal Arts Fund balance update
 - Considerations for approved projects
 - FY26 Traffic Cabinets – 163rd Ave
 - Commissioners want to keep the student mentorship program
 - Commissioners discussed themes: homes, family, desert, **community**, sports (Pat Tilman Blvd.), curiosity, learning, people-focused
 - Selected Theme: Community - what makes a community?
 - Upcoming projects: Countryside Recreation Center; Dick McComb Park residency
 - Commissioners discussed existing arts plan
 - Commissioners discussed need for art in Original Town Site, and recommended changing the planned Elm St. project to an Original Town Site project
 - Commissioners like the idea of keeping Countryside Rec Center project as it has high visibility and high impact
 - Commissioners would like to keep the traffic cabinets art calls
 - Commissioners want to keep the mural replacements and decided substitute HOLA budget into mural replacement
 - Commissioners recommended moving the planned neighborhood pilot project to FY28

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items Steps

- Next meeting will take place on October 1st, 2025.

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong reports attending: Wanderlust opening at Arts HQ; City Hall Gallery – Viva la Cultura; attended the MLK Meeting
- Commissioner Rasul reports attending: Wanderlust opening at Arts HQ and spent time getting to know the artists; attended the MLK Meeting
- Chair Kupper and Ms. Akerly have a meeting planned to discuss Home School Arts programming
- Viva la Cultura event: 09/19/2025
- Next Commissioner outing: Friday, September 26th, 2025 – Surprise Backyard Bash @ Mark Coronado Park (5-9pm)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. – Commissioner deJong motioned. Commissioner Rasul 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> <p>Crystal Kupper, Chair</p>
ATTEST:	<hr/> <p>Alexandra Giambalvo, Arts & Culture Assistant</p>
<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 September 10, 2025.</p>	
	<hr/> <p>Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager</p>



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: October 1, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to the FY26 HeART and Culture of Surprise Award.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission would like to recognize individuals and organizations in Surprise who have made a significant impact or contribution to arts and culture in Surprise.

Objective Analysis:

Review goals and guidelines for the HeART and Culture of Surprise Award.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. HeART of Surprise Award
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HeART and Culture of Surprise Award

Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission

ABOUT AWARD

PURPOSE

- Created in 2024 by SACAC
- Annual nominations by commissioners
- Local individual or organization
- Recognize for advocacy and action that has impacted arts and culture in Surprise

ABOUT AWARD

CRITERIA

- Significant impact
- Novel, creative, and innovative
- Ensures equitable opportunities and access
- Leadership, encouragement, and support of others

ABOUT AWARD

PROCESS

- Commissioners nominate and present candidates
 - Form available for nominees to fill out
- Commissioners rank nominees based on criteria
- Recognition at public event



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: October 1, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to the FY27 Percent for Art Plan & Initial Project Description Review.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The Arts and Culture Division and SACAC created a 5 Year Percent-for-Art Plan in FY24, and have begun several new projects in FY25 and FY26 working towards the plan goals. Staff are beginning to work on the FY27 budget packages, which will include requests for percent for art projects.

Objective Analysis:

The SACAC will review the updated FY27 Percent for Art Plan and Initial Project Descriptions for four public art projects that will be included in the FY27 budget package request. The SACAC will provide any final input to the plan and FY27 projects before they are presented to City Council.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None at this time, however future action may lead to financial impact.

Budget Impact:

Discussion of this item will inform the FY27 Percent for Art Budget package. The budget will be derived from the Municipal Arts Fund and will be subject to the policies outlined in Ordinance #2021-05.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY27 Percent for Art Plan
 2. Initial Project Description - City Center Mural
 3. Initial Project Description - OTS Historic Neighborhood
 4. Initial Project Description - Traffic Cabinet FY27
 5. Initial Project Description - Veramonte Park
-

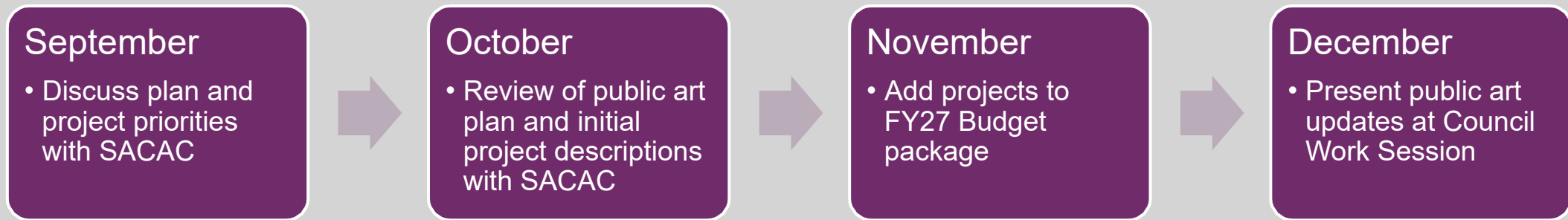
Public Art Plan

FY27 Project Recommendations



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Public Art Budget Approval Process



Traffic Cabinets

- Project Summary
 - Open to West Valley Artists
 - Continue student mentorship program
 - Community votes on designs
- Location
 - Up to 10 traffic cabinets on Greenway
- Budget
 - \$25,000



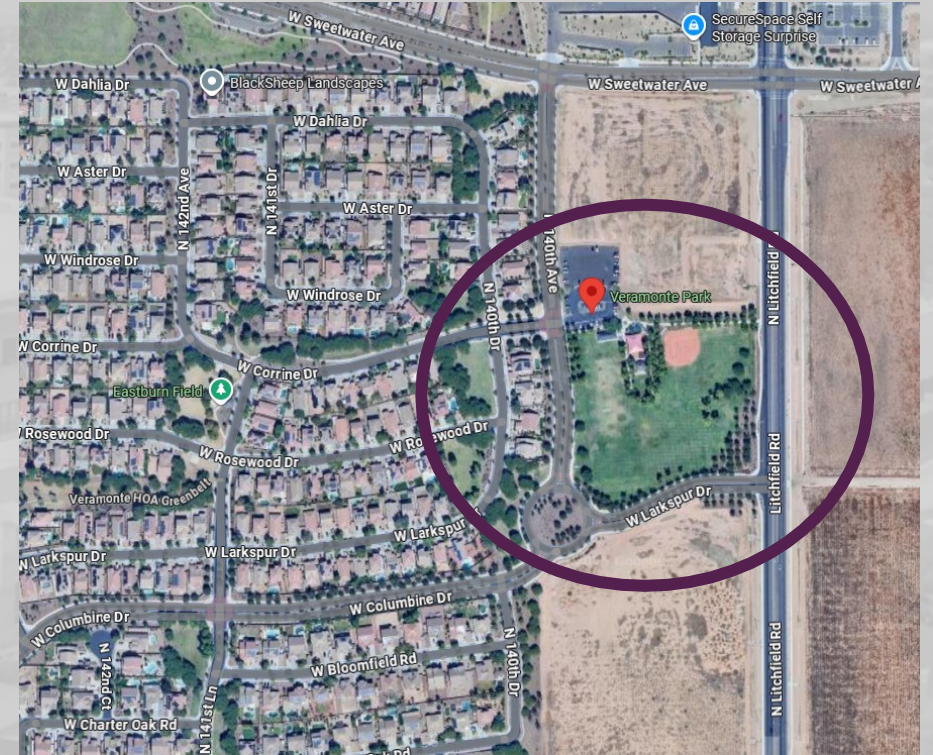
City Center Mural

- Project Summary
 - 100' x 9' Wall
 - Restoration of current mural > Replacement
 - Themes connected to location
- Location
 - Well Site on Bullard Ave
- Budget
 - \$35,000



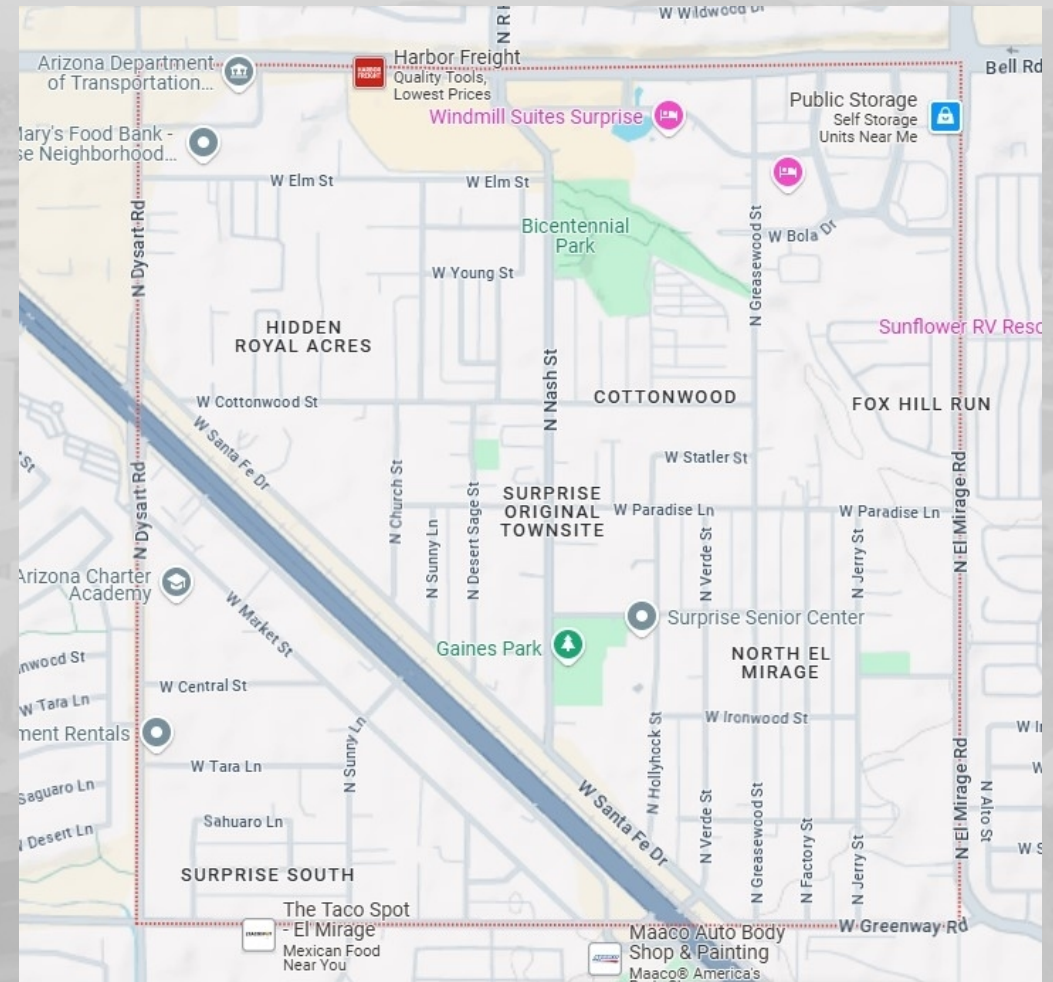
Veramonte Park

- Project Summary
 - Site-specific and engaging design
 - Artist will work with community to develop design proposal
- Location
 - Neighborhood Park in District 6
- Budget
 - \$100,000



Original Townsite Historical Neighborhood

- Project Summary
 - Artist selected to work with OTS community
 - Build a plan for art that amplifies the OTS as a historic neighborhood
- Location
 - Multiple locations throughout Original Town Site
- Budget
 - \$300,000



FY27 Municipal Arts Fund Budget Request

FY 27	\$	100,000	Parks - Veramonte
	\$	35,000	City Center - Bullard Ave Mural Original Town Site Historical Neighborhood
	\$	300,000	Traffic Cabinet - Greenway Rd
	\$	25,000	Administration & Education
	\$	40,000	Grants
	\$	60,000	Maintenance
TOTAL BUDGET	\$	635,000	

FY27 City Center Mural

Initial Project Description

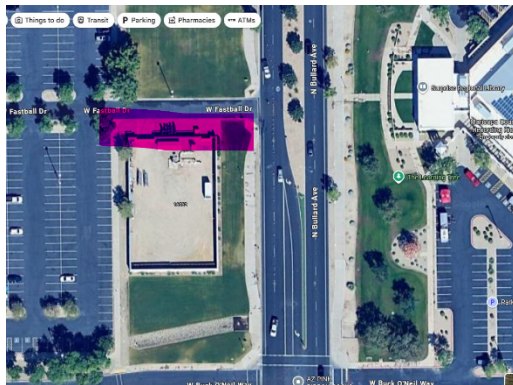
Strategic Plan Goals

- Plan for signature artworks throughout the city, including identifiers at cultural hubs
- Expand public art and educational opportunities for students and artists
- Invite more community members to participate in decision-making
- Maintain and restore artworks in the City art collection

Community Involvement

The selected artist will be expected to work with the community to create an artwork design that reflects the location, themes, programs, events, and community members who frequently visit the Surprise Stadium and Mark Coronado Park for events.

Project Parameters



Location

The mural will be located at a utility facility on Bullard Ave between the Surprise Stadium and Mark Coronado Park. The facility currently has a mural that is need of significant restoration which would have a greater cost than replacing with a new mural.

Project Scale

This is a mid-scale artwork that will remain installed at the location, and receive regular maintenance including annual cleaning and sealing every 5 years. The dimensions of the wall are 100' x 50'.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to Arizona Artists on the City of Surprise pre-qualified muralist list or a neighboring City's prequalified muralist list. The artist must be experienced in creating large-scale murals and working with community.

Selection Process

Artists from the City's pre-qualified lists will be invited to create design proposals. Selected artists will participate in interviews with a panel of community members and/or a youth group.

Design & Review Process

Artists selected will undergo a process of community input and design review.

- Apply to RFQ for selection by panel
- Attend information meeting, visit the site, gather community input, and research
- Share design with SACAC for feedback and input
- Final design must be cleared by staff for appropriateness of content and feasibility

Timeline

Artist Selection	July 2026 – September 2026
Design Phase	October 2026 – December 2026
Installation	February 2027

Project Budget

Description	Amount	Qty	Total
Artwork Budget	\$25,000	1	\$25,000
Contingency			\$10,000
		Total	\$35,000

Original Townsite Historical Neighborhood Art Project

Initial Project Description

Project Purpose & Strategic Plan Goals

- Create historical programs to preserve and share Surprise's history
- Plan for signature artworks throughout the city, including identifiers at cultural hubs and neighborhood entrances
- Identify opportunities and partnership to enhance the City's historic preservation
- Invite community members to participate in decision-making in the creation of new programs and partnerships

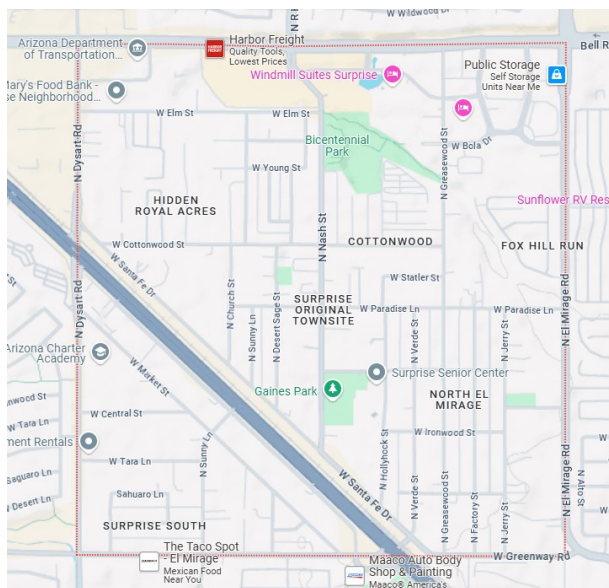
Community Input

The artist selected for this project will be required to work with the Original Town Site community to create their design proposals. They will be expected to visit the community, talk with community members, and involve community members in the process of creating their designs, voting or selecting the final artwork(s), and/or supporting the installation of the artwork(s). The designs should consider history, culture, neighborhood identity, functionality, and building of community identity through artistic expression.

Project Parameters

Project Scale

This is a call for a residency that will result in the creation of a plan for artwork in the Original Town Site, and the completion of temporary and/or permanent artwork(s) that may be 3D structures or 2D on surfaces. Final designs may include multiple artworks and locations throughout the Original Town Site based on the selected artists expertise, community input, and budget.



Location

The Original Town Site is the neighborhood located in the original square mile of the City of Surprise. There are several City-owned facilities and land, as well as sidewalks and roadways that could serve as sites for public art. There is also potential to work with businessowner and homeowners to use art to identify historical sites in the neighborhood. The selected artist will be responsible for working with the neighborhood residents, stakeholders, and City staff to determine appropriate locations and sites for artwork.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to Arizona-based artists with experience working with community in their artistic process. Artists from the West Valley of the greater Phoenix area are strongly encouraged to apply. Artists working in any medium may apply individually or as an artist team.

Selection Process

Artists will apply to an RFQu through Submittable with examples of past work, an artist statement, and a statement of why they are interested in this project. A panel of 5 community members, including one community member from the neighborhood, one representative from SACAC, one artist, and one representative from the Human Services and Community Vitality Department, will select 5 artists and 2 alternates to move forward to an interview round. The same panel will interview finalists and select 1 artist/artist team and up to 2 alternates to be selected for this project.

Design & Review Process

Artists selected will undergo a process of community input and design review.

- Artist is selected by a community review panel based on their qualifications and alignment with the goals of the project and needs of the community
- Selected artist will visit the site, meet with community members, gather input, and research to create their initial designs
- Designs will be shared with neighborhood community members and SACAC for input and feedback
- Final design must be cleared by CIP, Arts & Culture staff, and any other City department impacted by the design proposal for appropriateness of content and feasibility
- Approval of building permits or any other required permits prior to fabrication.

Timeline

Neighborhood Research	July 2026 – December 2027
Artist Selection	January 2027 – April 2027
Design Phase	April 2027 – April 2028
Fabrication	May 2028 – October 2028
Installation	Winter 2028

Project Budget

Description	Amount	Qty	Total
Artist Residency Fee	\$50,000	1	\$50,000
Artwork Budget	\$200,000	1	\$200,000
Contingency			\$50,000
		Total	\$300,000

Project Inspiration & Ideas

Murals to identify historical sites & neighborhood entrances



Historical markers on street poles & on women's history trail



Decorative planters, lightpoles, sidewalks, or benches



FY27 Traffic Cabinet Art Program Initial Project Description



Project Purpose & Strategic Plan Goals

- Prioritize art works and programs located in areas of the city that do not currently have works of art
- Create a utility box art program for local artists in alignment with roadway improvement plans
- Deepen and expand partnerships with local schools to ensure public art and educational opportunities for students and artists
- Create programs and artist calls specifically for local artists
- Actively promote grant, partnership, and artist opportunities and provide mentorship and support to new organizations and artists

Community Input

Selected artists will create two designs, the community will then have the opportunity to vote on their favorite design from each artist.

Student Program

Two students will be selected to participate in a mentorship program with a professional artist, and to create unique designs for a traffic cabinet location.

Project Parameters

Location

Greenway Road is recommended as the FY27 location for traffic cabinet artwork. The recommendation is to align with CIP Roadway Improvements each year. Staff will work with Transportation to select exact locations based on feasibility, visibility, and repair schedules.

Project Scale

Each year, up to 10 traffic cabinets can be wrapped in art by up to 10 artists. Artists will only be responsible for one design each. Each traffic cabinet is approximately 78"H x 44"W x 28"D. Exact dimensions will be given to the artist once selected.

Type of Artwork

Traffic cabinets will be wrapped in 2D Vinyl, there will be no hand-painted traffic cabinets at this time. Vinyl wraps last longer, and are more easily replaceable in the event of damage, sun, or traffic cabinet replacement by Transportation. Artists will be responsible for preparing the digital artwork in the recommended file format, and artwork will be printed and installed by printing company.

Eligibility

This project is open to West Valley artists (West of the I-17) and two students. Artists working across a broad range of artistic mediums are eligible, as long as they are able to create a digital file of their artwork. Artists who were commissioned in FY26 to create a traffic cabinet design are not eligible; they will be eligible to apply again in FY28.

Selection Process

Artists will apply to an RFQ through Submittable with examples of past work, an artist statement, and a statement of why they are interested in this project. A panel of 5 community members, including 1 representative from transportation, one representative from SACAC, and one artist will select up to 10 artists and 2 alternates. Staff will hold workshops on how to apply and actively promote the opportunity to West Valley artists.

Design & Review Process

Artists selected will undergo a process of community input and design review.

- Apply to RFQ for selection by a community panel
- Attend an information meeting, visit the site, gather community input, and research
- Share designs with community for voting
- Share selected design with SACAC for feedback and input
- Final design must be cleared by staff for appropriateness of content and feasibility

Timeline

Artist Selection	October 2026 – December 2026
Design Phase	January 2027 – May 2027
Fabrication & Installation	June 2027

Project Budget

Description	Amount	Qty	Total
Print & Installation	\$11,000	1	\$11,000
Artist Fee	\$1000	8	\$8000
Student Program	\$6000	1	\$6000
		Total	\$25,000

Veramonte Park Art Initial Project Description

Project Purpose & Strategic Plan Goals

- Prioritize art works and programs located in parks and areas of the city that do not currently have works of art
- Ensure that diverse voices and perspectives are invited, welcomed and included in planning and funding decisions
- Invite more community members to participate in decision-making on panels and in the creation of new programs and partnerships
- Leverage city departments, resources, and facilities to embed arts and culture opportunities in every neighborhood, opening access to creative engagement and arts participation citywide

Community Input

The artist selected for this project will be required to work with the park's community to create their design proposals. They will be expected to visit the park, talk with community members, and involve community members in the process of creating their designs, voting or selecting the final artwork(s), and/or supporting the installation of the artwork(s). The designs should consider functionality, play, and building of community identity and culture.

Project Parameters

Project Scale

This is a call for permanent artwork(s) that may be 3D structures or 2D on surfaces. Final designs may include multiple artworks and locations throughout the park based on the selected artists expertise, community input, and budget.

Location

Veramonte Park is a small neighborhood park in District 6, located at 12741 N 140th Dr, Surprise, AZ 85379. The park has a splashpad, playground, green space, and ramadas could be potential locations for artwork.



Eligibility

This opportunity is open to established artists in the United States. Arizona artists, artists from the West Valley of the greater Phoenix area are strongly encouraged to apply. Artists working in any medium may apply individually or as an artist team.

Selection Process

Artists will apply to an RFQu through Submittable with examples of past work, an artist statement, and a statement of why they are interested in this project. A panel of 5 community members, including one community member from the park's neighborhood, one representative from SACAC, one artist, and one representative from the Parks and Recreation Department, will select 5 artists and 2 alternates to move forward to an interview round. The same panel will interview finalists and select 1 artist/artist team and up to 2 alternates to be selected for this project.

Design & Review Process

Artists selected will undergo a process of community input and design review.

- Artist is selected by a community review panel based on their qualifications and alignment with the goals of the project and needs of the community
- Selected artist will visit the site, meet with community members, gather input, and research to create their initial designs
- Designs will be shared with park community members and SACAC for input and feedback
- Final design must be cleared by CIP, Parks and Recreation, and Arts & Culture staff for appropriateness of content and feasibility
- Approval of building permits or any other required permits prior to fabrication.

Timeline

Artist Selection	January 2027-April 2027
Design Phase	May 2027 – April 2028
Fabrication	April 2028 – September 2028
Installation	Fall 2028

Project Budget

Description	Amount	Qty	Total
Artwork Budget	\$75,000	1	\$75,000
Contingency			\$25,000
		Total	\$100,000

Budget Comparisons/Project Examples



Iris of Memory
New Orleans, LA
Year: 2020
Budget: \$50,000



Squirrels & Lizard Interactive Sculptures
Mountainview, CA
Year: 2023
Budget: \$41,000



Sprout
New York, NY
Year: 2024
Budget: \$50,000



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: October 1, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations: None

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

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to the Arts HQ Mural.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The SACAC is responsible for reviewing all artwork donated or acquired to be part of the City's art collection. There is a mural currently located on a City facility that may be considered in the future to be acquired by the City and added to the City's art collection.

Objective Analysis:

Commissioners will discuss their interest and the value of potential acquisition of the mural to the City's art collection. If the Commission recommends moving forward, staff will prepare the formal process and return to the commission for final review.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. WVAC Mural Addition 2
-

Arts HQ Mural

Collection Addition Discussion

Arts HQ Mural

- If added
 - City responsible for maintenance
 - Vinyl wrap = easy to replace
- If not added
 - WVAC would need to remove if they vacate premises
 - Cannot include on public art map or website
- Next Steps
 - Official process for commission to review and accept donations of artwork

