



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

Wednesday, December 3, 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 November 5, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 2. | Citywide | Discussion and review pertaining to the City's involvement in the iHOLA! West Valley Project. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to future SACAC commissioner appointment criteria. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 4. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Surprise Arts Presenting Program and updates thereof. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 5. | Citywide | Discussion pertaining to the HeART and Culture of Surprise Award Design. | 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: Monday, November 24th, 2025 @ 2:00 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: December 3, 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 November 5, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

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

Background:

None

Objective Analysis:

None

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy

Financial Impact:

Budget Impact:

None

FTE Impact:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 110525_SACAC Meeting Minutes_DRAFT
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Wednesday, November 5, 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, Katherine Dunphy, Susan deJong, Margaret Lieu, and Dr. Charlotte Pullins

Absent: Steve Walgren

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager, Kendra Pettis – Director of Sports and Tourism, Danica Marlin – Art in Public Places Coordinator, Alexandra Giambalvo – Arts & Culture Assistant

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

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

- Introduction of the new Art in Public Places Coordinator, Danica Marlin
- The City Manager, Bob Wingenroth has announced he will be leaving the City at the end of November. Andrea Davis was voted by Council fill the role of City Manager.
- Facility Use Agreement with District for use of the Vista Center for the Arts will be on the agenda at an upcoming Council meeting

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

- Minutes
- SCRC Wall Art Design Discussion
- HeART and Culture of Surprise Award

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

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

- Commissioner Dunphy moved to approve the October 1st, 2025 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Dr. Pullins 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Abstained. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion pertaining to SCRC Gym Wall art design.

- Ms. Akerly presented the following details regarding the SCRC Gym Wall art design
 - 3 artists were invited to create design proposals, the community voted on the proposals and selected the design by Muta Vision
 - The project will be a vinyl wrap on 2 windows at the new Surprise Community and Resource Center
 - Selected artist Muta Vision led a presentation detailing the intention and symbolism behind their design
 - The shapes are warm colors and waves, echoing movement and fluctuating heartrate
 - The cacti symbolize resilience and serve as a reminder of the artist's time in Arizona
 - Translucency and transparency included in the design was intentional as safety and visibility is a priority
 - Commissioners enjoyed the desert-oriented designs, movements and waves, color pallets, and feelings the designs evoked
 - MUTA Vision asked the commissioners for their input
 - Commissioners suggested asking for feedback on the transparency from the managers of the new facility
 - There was a concern about the opaqueness and business of the design
 - There was a discussion pertaining to the spines of the cactus and the juxtaposition of the sharpness to the “calmness” of the space

3. Consideration and action pertaining to the HeART and Culture of Surprise Award

- Ms. Akerly led a discussion for the HeART and Culture of Surprise Award
 - Commissioners nominated and presented candidates
 - Commissioner's nominated Sherry Aguilar and described Sherry's contributions to the City including:
 - Initiating art in City Hall and developing the Surprise History Wall
 - Being an integral part in preserving the City's history
 - Supporting many arts and culture organizations and events throughout the City of Surprise
 - Commissioners agreed Kathy Knecht would be a good future nomination
 - Commissioners motioned to approve Sherry Aguilar. Chair Kupper moved to approve the nomination. Commissioner deJong 2nd. Motion approved.
 - Ms. Akerly presented the HeART award design proposal to the commission for review
 - Commissioners had questions regarding the rusted gear's symbolism and suggested replacing it with softer edged materials
 - Commissioners liked the prickly pear cacti in the shape of the heart as well as the White Tank Mountains
 - Commissioners suggested continuing to work with the designers to enhance the award, including the location of award name

Commissioners determined Founder’s Day to be the best event to present the award

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting will take place on December 3rd, 2025.

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong reports attending: 3 MLK meetings, Bounce and Swing ribbon cutting, WHAM Celebration event, Day of Service in Surprise, and the Silent Survivors Project show at the Ghost Light community theatre
- Commissioner Lieu reported an upcoming event: invitation to the December commissioner outing at WHAM
- November Commissioner outing: Sci-tech festival

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu thankfully motioned. Commissioner deJong 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 abstained. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Crystal Kupper, Chair
ATTEST:	<hr/> Danica Marlin, Art in Public Places Coordinator
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.	
	<hr/> Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: December 3, 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:

Discussion and review pertaining to the City's involvement in the iHOLA! West Valley Project.

Motion:

None

Background:

Surprise has the opportunity to participate in the second year of iHOLA! West Valley. 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 FY27 iHOLA! West Valley Initial Project Description for consideration to include in the FY27 budget package. The SACAC will provide any final input to the initial project 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 iHOLA!
 2. FY27 Initial Project Description - iHOLA!
-

iHOLA! West Valley

FY 27 Initial Project Description

About the Program

- Multi-City Temporary Art Program
- Goal to share resources and amplify West Valley as a place for arts
- \$15,000 Budget
- 2 Year Installation



FY27 Percent for Art Budget

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	
	\$	15,000	iHOLA! West Valley
	\$	40,000	Administration & Education
	\$	60,000	Grants
	\$	75,000	Maintenance
TOTAL BUDGET	\$	650,000	

FY27 iHOLA!

Initial Project Description

Strategic Plan Goals

- Diversify public art collection with new types of artwork and art mediums
- Leverage city departments, resources, and facilities to embed arts and culture opportunities in every neighborhood, opening access to creative engagement and arts participation citywide
- Create programs and artist calls specifically for local artists
- Prioritize projects that support local artists and organizations that will infuse resources back into the community such as temporary art, small-sized public art and small project grants

Community Involvement

The selected artist will be expected to work with the Vista community to create an artwork design that reflects the facility and the community of patrons who access the Vista Center for the Arts.

Project Parameters

Location

The Vista Center for the Arts is located at 15660 N Parkview Pl, Surprise, AZ 85374. The arts center is owned and operated by the Dysart Unified School District, and is an important cultural center for Surprise residents. The artwork location will be in the lobby and/or main entrance of the facility, but may be modified following discussions with the district, community, staff, and artist.

Project Scale

This is a small-scale temporary artwork that will remain installed at the Vista Center for the Arts for a minimum of two years. Depending on the project, location, materials used, and interest of staff and community the artwork may be agreed upon to remain beyond one year.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to 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; artist teams may not change over the duration of the project.

Selection Process

Artists will apply to a multi-city call as part of the iHOLA! West Valley program through an RFQ process that will include 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 a member of the SACAC, facility staff, a community member, and an artist will select 1 artist and 2 alternates.

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 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 2025 – January 2027
Fabrication	January 2027 – March 2027
Installation	March/April 2027

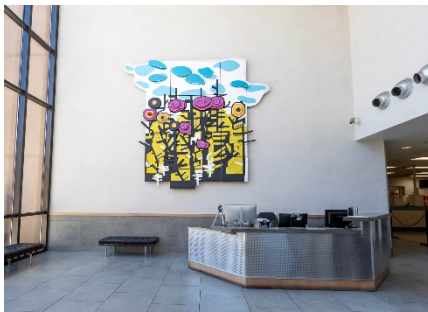
Project Budget

Description	Amount	Qty	Total
Artwork Budget	\$10,000	1	\$10,000
Contingency			\$5,000
		Total	\$15,000

Budget/Project Comparisons



Title: [Reading Rhino](#)
Location: Peoria Main Library, Peoria, AZ
Budget: \$10,000
Year: 2022



Title: [Big Wall, Big Art](#)
Location: Glendale City Hall
Budget: \$10,000
Year: 2022



Title: [Radiant Grove](#)
Location: Burton Barr Library, Phoenix, AZ
Budget: \$10,000
Year: 2019



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Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations:

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

Agenda Wording:

Discussion pertaining to future SACAC commissioner appointment criteria.

Motion:

None

Background:

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission as requested an agenda item to discuss criteria for future commissioners as they relate to the mission, mandates, powers, and duties of the Commission. Individuals interested in serving on the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission apply for the position using the general Surprise Commissions Application, and are appointed by Mayor and City Council.

Objective Analysis:

Commissioners will discuss potential questions and criteria for new commissioners that relate to the mission, powers, and duties of the commission. The discussion may lead to recommendations to City Council to be considered for future commissioner appointments.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy

Financial Impact:

None

Budget Impact:

None

FTE Impact:

None

ATTACHMENTS:



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Submitting Department: Sports, Entertainment, and District: Citywide
Culture
Staff Recommendations:

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

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Surprise Arts Presenting Program and updates thereof.

Motion:

None

Background:

The District School Board and Surprise City Council approved a Facility Use Agreement for the City to rent the Vista Center for the Arts to support the City's presenting programming. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission's duties include advising on and advocating for arts and culture programming in the City.

Objective Analysis:

Staff will provide an update and overview of the Facility Use Agreement between the City and District for Use of the Vista Center for the Arts and hold a discussion with Commissioners regarding roles and processes for the Commission to fulfill their duties in advising on and advocating for arts and culture programming in the City.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Vista Update

Surprise Arts

Updates and Discussion

Existing Programs

- City Hall Gallery
- Art in Public Places
- Art Tours
- LIVE at Asante
- Speaker Series
- Arts & Culture Grants
- Roots of Creation Festival



Vista Center for the Arts Facility Use Agreement

Background



Partner Roles & Responsibilities

DUSD	City	Foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Owns and operates• Manages calendar and rentals• Maintains facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish new Presenting Division• Rent facility from District• CIP investment for presenting programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on fundraising and engagement• City to provide fundraising and board development consultant

What is Presenting?

How it operates & Who is involved

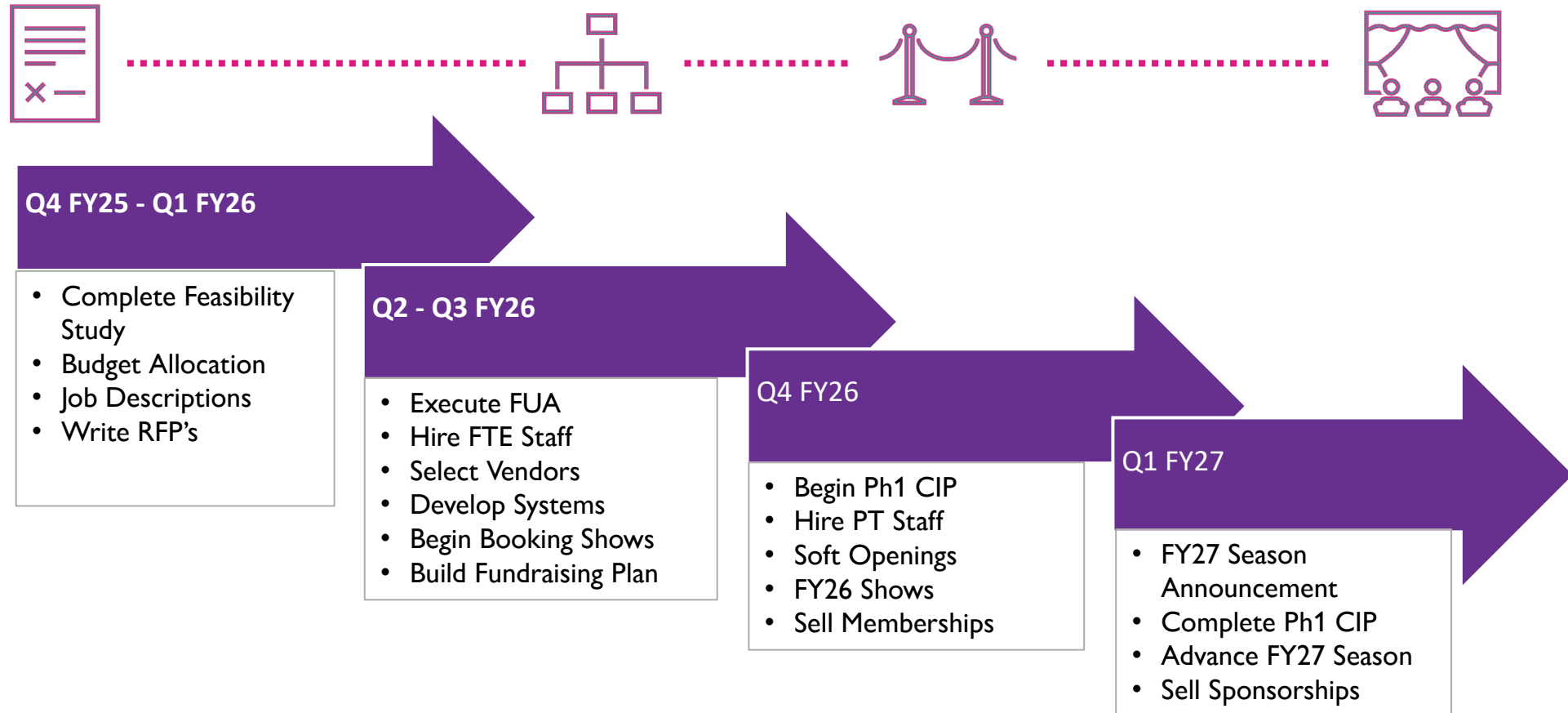
- **Presenters** curate, book and contract professional artists, market & sell tickets
- **Agents/Managers** represent artists, negotiate terms, manage artist calendars
- **Venues** manage and rent the facility
- Programming is planned **12-18 months**
- Expensive to present, supplemented funders
- Community **engagement & arts education** is essential component



Overview of Agreement

- District continues to own and operate facility
- District responsible for 3rd party rentals (including City)
- City Rental Rate = \$6830 per day
- Eligible CIP facility improvements may be used towards rental waiver
- District provides 25 weekends per fiscal year for City programming
- City confirms or releases dates at least 9 months in advance
- District to employ a full-time Theater Manager for facility operations
- City to provide all front and back of house personnel

Timeline



SACAC Role

Advising on Presenting Programs

Goals

- Provide unique experiences
- Connect with community
- Build welcoming spaces

What else???

Process for Advising

- Collect feedback from community
- Review annually and advise on plan
- Provide input throughout year on community-building recommendations

What Else???



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Culture
Staff Recommendations:

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

Agenda Wording:

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

Motion:

None.

Background:

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission is planning to commission an artist to create a custom art sculpture as an award for the HeART and Culture of Surprise Award.

Objective Analysis:

Commissioners will review and provide input on the award design proposal.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy

Financial Impact:

May result in future financial impact, but none on this agenda item

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 1000017910

