

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 - FINAL

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

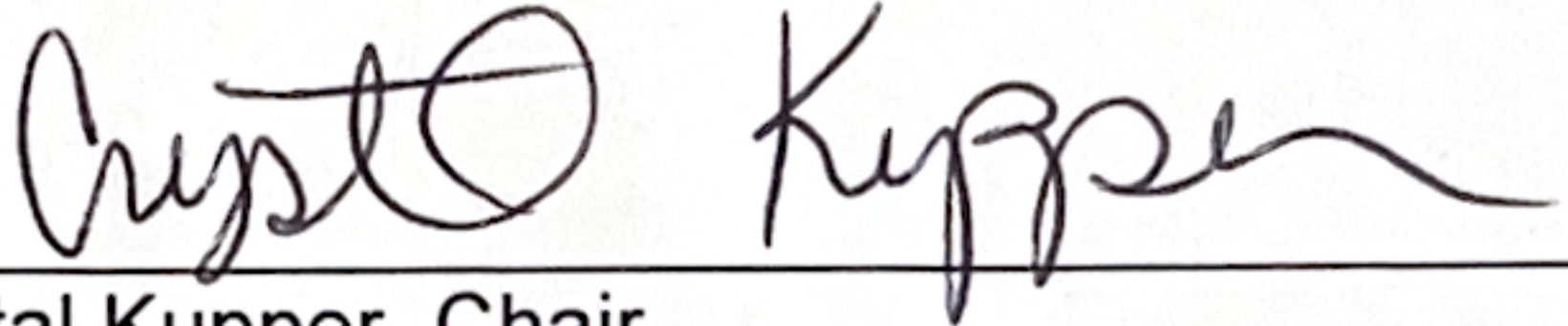
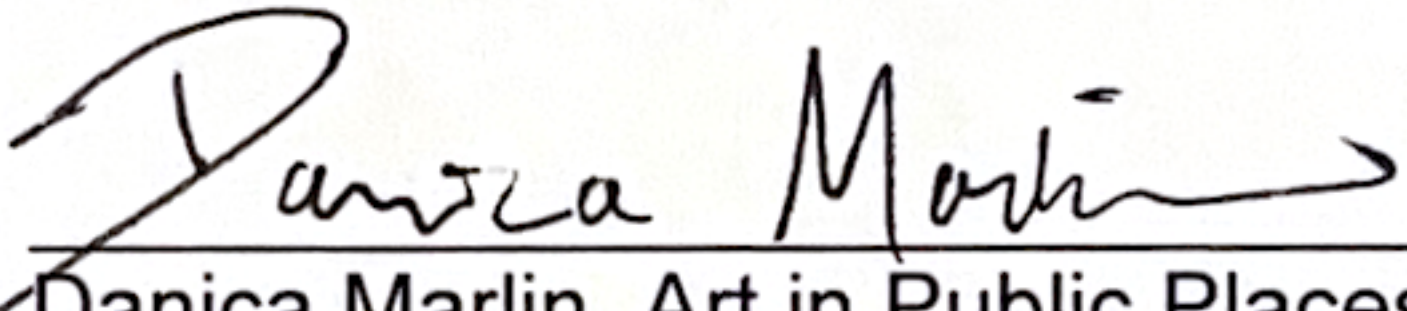
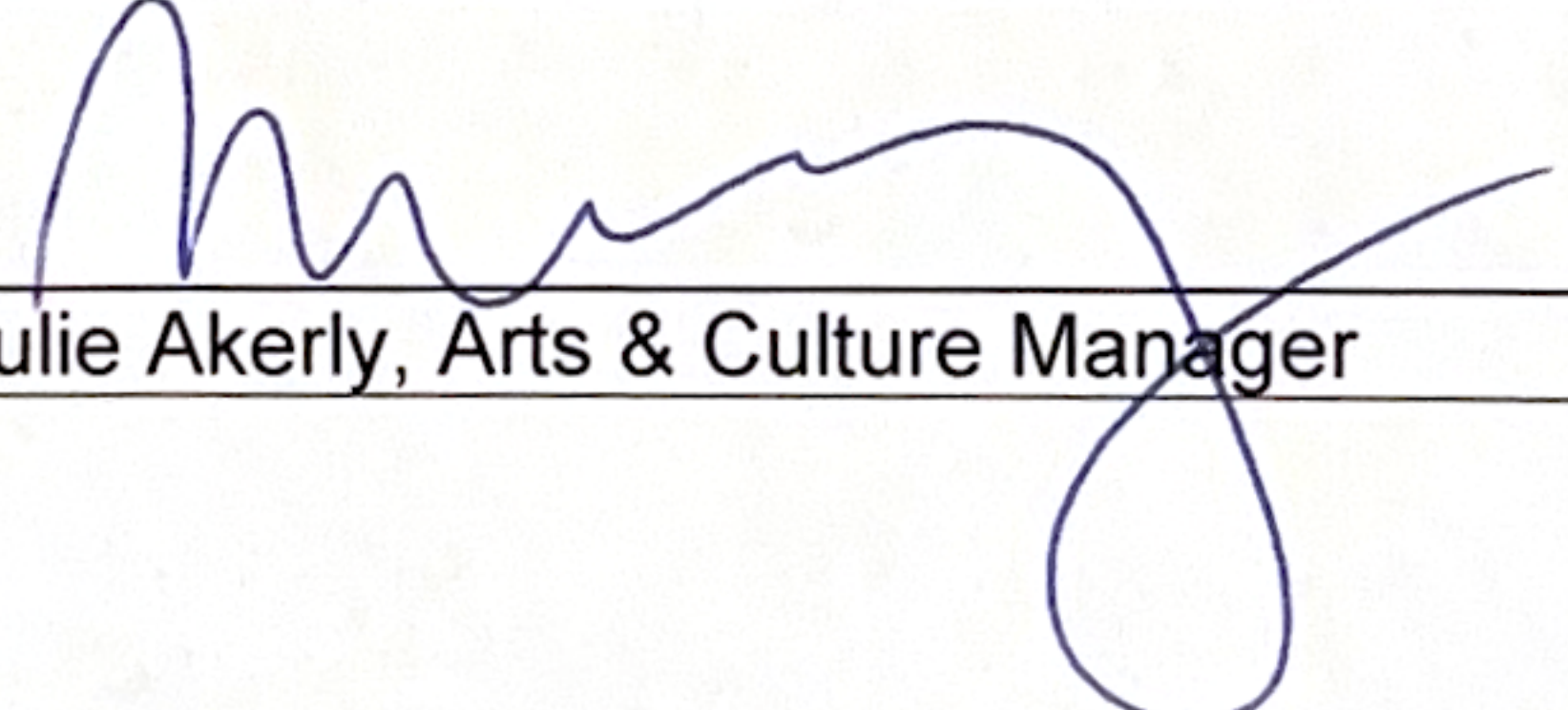
- Next meeting will take place on December 3rd, 2025.

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.

	 Crystal Kupper, Chair
ATTEST:	 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.	
	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager