

**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission**  
**16089 N. Bullard Avenue**  
**Surprise, Arizona 85374**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 @ 6:30 PM  
Surprise Regional Library Programming Room  
**Meeting Minutes - FINAL**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Crystal Kupper, Vice-Chair Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Hassan Rasul, Katherine Dunphy, Margaret Lieu, Susan deJong.

Absent: None

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager, Luis Payan – Patron Services Coordinator, Pinky Guerrero – Arts Development Coordinator

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

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

- The HeART and Culture of Surprise Award program was given to recipient Sherry Aguila during Founders Day on March 28.
- Maintenance and restoration work on the City's art collection will be completed this week.
- Panelist opportunities are coming up for commissioners; staff will be reaching out to schedule.
- A discount code is available to Commissioners for Surprise Arts ticketed events.
- Surprise Arts is now live. Commissioners are encouraged to view upcoming show information, sign up for the email list, and follow on social media.

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

- Minutes
- Volunteer Program
- Advocacy Opportunities
- FY2027 Meeting Calendar

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the February 4, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.
  - Commissioner Dr. Pullins moved to approve the February 4, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner deJong 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 1 Abstained. 0 No votes. Motion carried.
2. Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Surprise Arts volunteer program.
  - Mr. Payan gave a presentation on the following:
    - Introduction of program and its importance
    - Volunteers categorized into public events and Surprise Arts presents volunteers
    - Volunteers will receive training, resources and recognition for their contribution
  - Commissioners had the following comments:
    - Praised the philosophy of mutual commitment by the City to volunteers
    - Suggested creating clear checklists for each volunteer role
    - Recommended capturing demographic data on volunteers including age and city of residence
    - Suggested exploring youth partnerships
3. Discussion and presentation pertaining to SACAC Advocacy Opportunities
  - Mrs. Guerrero gave a presentation on the following:
    - Ways to build community connections and support for Surprise Arts events
    - Methods for commissioners to serve as ambassadors, share events on social media, and connect with local businesses
    - The importance of presenting to community groups and engaging in simple conversations about Surprise arts
    - Commissioners were provided with materials to share and encouraged to introduce Mrs. Guerrero to interested community members.
  - Commissioners had the following comments:
    - Commissioners requested a follow-up presentation when the membership and sponsorship programs are live
4. Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting calendar.
  - Commissioner Dunphy moved to approve the FY27 Arts & Culture Advisory Commission meeting calendar with the following amendments:
    - Moving the meeting time from 6pm to 6:30pm
    - Cancelling the Wednesday, September 2 meeting and replacing with an all day Commissioner retreat in September.
  - Commissioner Rasul 2<sup>nd</sup>. 6 Yes votes. 0 Abstained. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

#### Other Business and Future Agenda Items


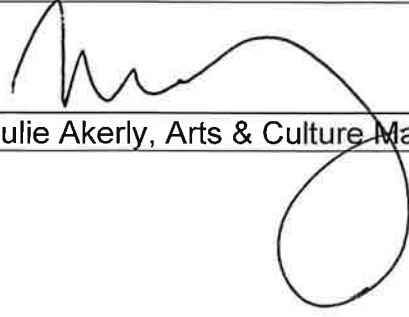
- Next meeting will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- Future commission outings will be to Surprise Arts events. Commissioners will continue to rotate responsibility of selecting the event each month.
- Commissioner Retreat to be scheduled for September 2026.

#### F. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong and Rasul reported on events they attended

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. – Commissioner Rasul motioned. Commissioner Dunphy 2<sup>nd</sup>. 6 Yes votes. 0 abstained. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	 Crystal Kupper, Chair
<b>ATTEST:</b>	 Danica Marlin, Art in Public Places Coordinator
<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 December 3, 2025.	
	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager