



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

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 @ 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 May 6, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the initial project description for artwork at the new Police Substation. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion and review pertaining to the FY27 Arts and Culture Grants Panel Recommendations. | Sports, Entertainment, and Culture |
| 4. | Citywide | Presentation and report pertaining to panel recommendations for the Surprise Arts pre-qualified musician roster. | 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, June 1st, 2026 @ 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: June 3, 2026 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:

Consideration and action pertaining to the May 6, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the May 6, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

N/a

Objective Analysis:

N/a

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 050626_SACAC Meeting Minutes_FINAL
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 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, Margaret Lieu, Susan deJong, Kurwin Forest

Absent: Dr. Charlotte Pullins

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager, Danica Marlin, Art in Public Places Coordinator

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager and Ms. Marlin, Art in Public Places Coordinator, reported on the following items:

- Welcoming of Kurwin Forrest to the Commission
- Confluencia Sculpture Installation Update
- Muralist Pre-qualified list is now open
- Musician Pre-qualified list is now open
- Community Arts Roster Pre-qualified list is coming soon
- Memberships are coming soon

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

- Minutes
- Surprise Regional Library Mural
- Traffic Cabinet Selection Panel

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the April 1, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

- Commissioner deJong moved to approve the April 1, 2026 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Dunphy 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Abstained. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion regarding new artwork at Surprise Regional Library.

- Mr. Ramirez, the artist, presented the work drafts and reported that the lighting and color palette is complete with small details being cleaned up.
- The work is meant to be readable from each direction
- Commissioners found the work eye-catching and appealing to everyone
- Suggestions were made as he finishes up to use the floating elements to add balance and break the constraints of the panel
- The Commissioners approved of the artwork and agreed it will be a beneficial addition to the Surprise Regional Library

3. Presentation and Discussion pertaining to the FY26 Traffic Cabinet Artwork panel review.

Vice-Chair Rasul served as the Commission's representative on the 163rd Ave Traffic Cabinet Request for Qualifications panel and reported back to the commission on the panel process and recommendations.

Goals of Project

- Opportunities for local artists
- Increase access to art throughout the city
- Diversify the stories, artists, and types of artwork
- Involve community in decision-making
- Create professional development opportunities in public art for students

Eligibility & Expectations

- This call was open to West Valley Visual Artists
- 7 artists were selected from this application for 8 locations on 163rd Ave
- Artists will receive \$1000 for design
- Design Theme for the series is Family and Community

Selected artists next steps will be:

- Attend an onboarding and information session
- Develop engagement plan and connect with community
- Create two design ideas to be voted on by community
- Present designs to Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission for input at feedback
- Submit designs in a digital format to be printed and wrapped by print company

Selected Artists / Finalists:

- Karen Hugues, Anthony Eli Farias, Jyll Either-Mullen, Maria Madrid Reed, Steven Luna, Elizabeth Nilsen, Chroma

Separate Selected Student Artists for the final cabinet in the series:

- Mayven Yazzie, Mallori Yazzie

Commissioners reviewed recommended artists and were in agreement with the panel's recommendations.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting will take place on June 3, 2026.
- Artwork location proposal at new Police Substation for discussion next meeting.

F. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner deJong reports having gone to Surprise Arts' Dorsten show, West valley opening exhibition, and Ground Floor Artist Closing exhibition.
- Commissioner Kupper reports volunteering at the Vietnam Wall.
- Commissioner Rassul reports having attended Dorsten and participated on the at the Traffic Cabinet Panel.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. – Commissioner Lieu motioned. Commissioner Dunphy 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 December 3, 2025.	
	<hr/> Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2026 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:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the initial project description for artwork at the new Police Substation.

Motion:

None.

Background:

The Police Substation artwork opportunity is connected to the construction of a new Police Substation planned through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at the northwest corner of 163rd Avenue and W. San Ysidro Road. As development continues along the 163rd Avenue corridor, the project presents an opportunity to proactively integrate public art into a rapidly growing area of the city that currently has limited public art presence. The proposed artwork, envisioned for the exterior boundary wall facing 163rd Avenue, would contribute to the identity of the corridor, create a welcoming civic presence, and support the City's broader goals of incorporating arts and culture into public facilities and expanding access to public art throughout Surprise.

Objective Analysis:

Commissioners will review the Initial Project Description for this artwork, provide input, and make recommendations to City staff to facilitate future project planning and insights.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City policy.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

This budget would come from funds allocated in the Municipal Arts Fund Capital Improvement Projects Fund generated from the 1 and 1/3% for the arts ordinance. This fund may only be used toward the purchasing, administration, education, and/or maintenance of public art.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Police Substation Presentation
-

Police Substation Artwork

Discussion and Review

Strategic Plan Goals

- Include public art in future City development and publicly accessible locations
- Leverage City facilities to embed arts opportunities in every neighborhood
- Support City departments in their efforts to incorporate arts and culture



Artwork Goals

- Consider surrounding neighborhood, civic identity and role of public safety within the community
- Themes may include public service, connection, safety, resilience and community pride
- Core attributes include: service, integrity, and justice



Timeline & Budget

Phase	Timeline
Artist Selection	Fall 2026
Design Phase	Winter 2026-Summer 2027
Fabrication	Fall 2027
Installation	Winter 2028

	Budget
Artwork Budget	\$165,000
Contingency	\$50,000
Total	\$215,000



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2026 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 and review pertaining to the FY27 Arts and Culture Grants Panel Recommendations.

Motion:

None

Background:

Eight (8) eligible applicants submitted applications for the FY27 Arts and Culture grants. A representative of the SACAC served on a panel with three (3) other community members to score applicants and recommend award amounts based on available funding, programming budgets, and achievement of criteria. Eight (8) organizations have been recommended to receive grant funding in FY27.

Objective Analysis:

Commission panel representatives and staff will report back to the commission on the process, scoring, and award recommendations of the eight (8) applicants.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY27 Arts Grant Awardee List

2. FY27 Grants Panel (Final)

FY27 Arts & Culture Grant Recipients

Operating Support Grant Recipients

Available to non-profit arts and culture organizations based in Surprise who have recently participated in an organizational development training program. This grant aims to expand the cultural offerings available to the Surprise community, and to uplift and support the organizations, artists and cultural groups that provide arts and culture services in Surprise.

Actors Playground Theatre Company, Inc.

actorsplayaz.com

Actors PLAYground Theater Company offers a professional youth theater program that produces year-round educational programs and performances, including youth productions and special engagements for young adults in Surprise, AZ. Our enriching theatrical programs are tailored for three distinct groups: youth ages 5–18, homeschool youth ages 5–18, and mature teens and young adults ages 15–24. Through imaginative play and theatrical productions, students build confidence, communication skills, and leadership both on stage and in life.

Honor Dance Inc.

honordance.org

Honor Dance works to strengthen the lives of youth by increasing access to dance education. We serve Surprise by offering community-based dance classes throughout the city. Each semester, hundreds of PreK-8th grade students participate in our dance programs at no cost to their families. They have the opportunity to engage in a variety of dance genres in a welcoming environment where they can learn, grow, and express themselves.

On Stage Now

onstangenowaz.com

On Stage Now keeps art and music alive by helping new and struggling artists and entertainers promote their talents, find their way, and grow. Their goal is to become a well-known organization that offers resources and assistance to both low-income individuals, and/or young up-and-coming entertainers/entrepreneurs in the field of the arts. Ultimately, helping them in their journey to create and maintain a successful career in music, art, and live entertainment.

West Valley Arts Council

westvalleyarts.org

Founded in 1969, the West Valley Arts Council supports cities, arts organizations and local artists, providing opportunities for people throughout the region to enjoy, experience and express themselves through arts and culture. With headquarters and an extraordinary gallery in Surprise, WVAC partners with West Valley cities, companies and organizations, providing services and support, executing programs for youth, seniors and the public at large, and highlighting the important role that the arts plays in economic development.

WHAM Art Association

wham-art.org

WHAM Art Association is a community-driven 501 (c)(3) bringing the ARTS to people of all ages, race, abilities, and economic status in many of the West Valley Cities. WHAM supports, advances, and promotes artistic awareness, participation, and expression. WHAM aspires to enhance economic development and artistic collaboration for members, the community, and other organizations. Annual attendance is 6,000 through the door at WHAM Art Center, with 40,000 counting outreach and festivals in West Valley cities.

Budget Tier	Organization	Score	Award Recommendation
1	On Stage Now	Medium	\$3,000
1	Honor Dance	High	\$4,000
3	West Valley Arts Council	High	\$8,000
3	Actors PLAYground	High	\$8,000
3	WHAM Art Association	High	\$8,000
		Total	\$31,000

Project Grant Recipients

Available to non-profit organizations, schools based in Surprise and individual artists/small businesses (through fiscal sponsorship) providing arts and culture programming in Surprise. This grant funds programs that use creativity to bring people together, encourage curiosity and inquiry, cultivate and preserve culture and heritage, and/or provide welcoming and inclusive access to arts and culture services and resources.

Central Arizona Flute Ensemble

cafeflutes.com

Central Arizona Flute Ensemble (CAFE Flutes) will enrich, enlighten, and inspire Surprise residents by presenting an interactive concert that showcases the diversity of the flute family. The seven-member flute choir will perform inside the art gallery of the Surprise's WHAM Community Art Center. Featuring a wide range of musical genres played on the full range of silver flutes (including the 10-foot contrabass), the concerts will be enjoyed in person by eighty-five listeners and also live-streamed.

Dysart USD #89

dysart.org/artsfest

Dysart Festival of Arts-This event showcases the visual and performing arts programs from 25 schools in the Dysart district. This event brings in around 10,000 attendees to Surprise. The Arts Festival features performances on multiple stages including dance troops, theatre troops, choirs, bands, and visual arts showcase. We host local arts vendors and many hands-on arts experiences for the community. The purpose is to celebrate and highlight the arts within Dysart and our community.

First Friday Surprise

firstfridaysurprise.com

Dysart Festival of Arts-This event showcases the visual and performing arts programs from 25 schools in the Dysart district. This event brings in around 10,000 attendees to Surprise. The Arts Festival features performances on multiple stages including dance troops, theatre troops, choirs, bands, and visual arts showcase. We host local arts vendors and many hands-on arts experiences for the community. The purpose is to celebrate and highlight the arts within Dysart and our community.

Budget Tier	Organization	Score	Award Recommendation
3	Dysart USD #87	High	\$5,000
1	Central Flute Ensemble	Low	\$500
3	First Friday Surprise	Low	\$2,000
		Total	\$7,500

Panel Update

— FY27 Arts and Culture Grants —

Goals of Surprise FY27 A+C Grant

- Sustain and grow arts and culture organizations
- Support and expand cultural services for residents
- Approachable, accessible, and equitable access to City resources

Grant Categories Eligibility

Operating Support Grant (\$2000-\$8000)

- Arts and culture based core mission
- Non-profit organization
- Over 50% of programming in Surprise
- Funds can be used for personnel, production, or administrative expenses for programming in Surprise
- One per year per applicant
- Completed organizational development program or recent strategic plan
- Multi-year funding

Project Grant (\$500-\$5000)

- Arts and Culture Programming
- Non-Profit or Fiscal Sponsorship
- Activities in Surprise
- Start-up projects accepted
- Funds can be used for personnel, production, or administrative expenses for programming in Surprise
- One per year per applicant, may be in partnership or use venue of Operating Support Grant applicant

Panel Process

Review Process

- Panel of community members
- Attended an onboarding training
- Reviewed and scored applications based on criteria
 - Intentionality, community, impact, resourcefulness
- Met to discuss applications, provide feedback for applicants, and final score



A+C Project Grantees



Café Flutes



Dysart USD



First Friday Surprise

A+C Project Grant Rec. Award Amounts

Level	Organization	Score	Award Rec.
1	Café Flutes	Low	\$500
3	Dysart USD	High	\$5,000
3	First Friday Surprise	Low	\$2,000
		Total	\$7,500

A+C Operating Support Grantees



Actors PLAYground



Honor Dance



On Stage Now



WVAC



WHAM

A+C Operating Support Grant Rec. Award Amounts

Level	Organization	Score	Award Rec.
3	Actors PLAYground (Alt.)	High	\$8,000
1	Honor Dance	High	\$4,000
1	On Stage Now	Medium	\$3,000
3	West Valley Arts Council (Alt.)	High	\$8,000
3	WHAM Art Association	High	\$8,000
		Total	\$31,000

Next Steps

- Approval by ACL Director
- FY27 budget adoption by Council
- Send award letters
- Final reports due June 2027



CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2026 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:

Presentation and report pertaining to panel recommendations for the Surprise Arts pre-qualified musician roster.

Motion:

None.

Background:

Thirty-two (32) eligible applicants submitted applications for Surprise Arts pre-qualified musician roster. Two (2) representatives of the SACAC served on a panel with three (3) other community members to review and score applicants based on published criteria. Twenty-six (26) musicians have been recommended by the panel to join the roster.

Objective Analysis:

Commission panel representatives and staff will report back to the commission on the process, scoring, and award recommendations of the twenty-six (26) applicants.

Policy Compliant:

Aligns with City Policy.

Financial Impact:

None.

Budget Impact:

None.

FTE Impact:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation Musician Roster Selection Panel



Musician Roster Panel

Presentation & Review

Goals of Project

- increasing access to paid performance opportunities for local and regional musicians
- diversifying the genres, styles and cultural representation of musical performances at City events
- supporting professional artistic practice through transparent and equitable selection processes
- creating memorable, high-quality experiences for residents and visitors

Eligibility & Expectations

- This opportunity is open to solo musicians, musical groups and music organizations working in all genres and performance formats who:
 - are based in Arizona
 - have experience performing live for public audiences
 - are able to provide content appropriate for family-friendly and public settings
 - demonstrate professionalism, reliability and readiness to perform at City events
- Placing on the roster does not guarantee a minimum number of bookings or income

Panel Review

- 32 applications received
- Applicants were scored based on the following criteria:
 - artistic quality and musicianship (25%)
 - demonstrated performance experience and qualifications (25%)
 - professionalism and readiness for public events (25%)
 - contribution to a diverse and balanced roster of genres and styles (25%)

Recommended Musicians

- AZ Swing Kings
- Bad Cactus Brass Band
- BJ Tan & The B♭ Band
- Café Flutes
- Christie Huff
- Desert Brass Inc
- Eric Ramsey
- Glenn Gardner
- Groove Providers
- Jacome Flamenco
- Jake Williams
- Jeff and Jessie
- Jukebox Generations Band
- Little Chef Klezmer Band
- Mark Bishop Evans
- Michael Scott Band
- People Who Could Fly
- Random Jam
- Scott Ko
- Serena Nicolle
- Sticks and Tones
- Teri Tobin
- The PhilosoRaptors
- The Taide Band
- The Thomas James Band
- Traveler

