

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

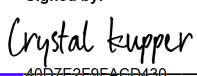
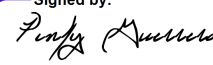
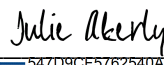
- Next meeting will take place on June 3, 2026.
- Artwork location proposal at new Police Substation for discussion next meeting.

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.

	<p>Signed by:  <small>40B7E2F9FAGD430...</small> Crystal Kupper, Chair</p>
ATTEST:	<p>Signed by:  <small>9FC2E38E5D804F2...</small> Pinky Guerrero, Arts Development Coordinator</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 December 3, 2025.</p>	
	<p>DocuSigned by:  <small>547D9CF5762540A...</small> Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager</p>