

CITY OF SURPRISE
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 @ 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, Kurwin Forest

Absent: Dr. Charlotte Pullins, Margaret Lieu, Susan deJong

Staff: Julie Akerly – Arts & Culture Manager, Pinky Guerrero – Arts Development Coordinator, Kendra Pettis – Director of Sports, Entertainment and Culture, and Police Commander Michael Robbins and Police Chief Evan Becher.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager and Ms. Guerrero, Art Development Coordinator, reported on the following items:

- Preseason Announcement
- Memberships Programs

E. Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Agenda

- Minutes
- Police Substation Artwork
- Arts and Culture Grant Recipients
- Musician Roster Panel

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

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

- Commissioner Hassan moved to approve the May 6, 2026, Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Dunphy 2nd. 3 Yes votes. 0 Abstained. 0 No votes. Motion carried.

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

Staff provided a presentation on the project and discussed the following with the commission:

- Location: 163rd Ave and W. San Ysidro RD
 - Commissioner Kupper and Commissioner Dunphy are excited for the animal stray unit and resources that will be provided for the community.
- 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
- Commissioners are excited for this project and were in agreement that this project aligns with arts + culture goals and should be added to the public art collection.

3. **Discussion and review pertaining to the FY27 Arts and Culture Grants Panel Recommendations**

Staff and Commissioner Kupper presented the FY27 Arts and Culture grant panel recommendations. The commission discussed the following items:

- Goals of Surprise Grants
 - Sustain and grow arts and culture organizations
 - Support and expand cultural services for residents
 - Approachable, accessible, and equitable access to City resources
- High-level Overview of the two types of grants and what's different about it?
 - Operating Support Grant
 - Arts and Culture based core mission
 - Non-profit organization
 - Over 50% programming in Surprise
 - Multi-year funding
 - Project Grant
 - Arts and Culture Programming
 - Non-profit organization or fiscal sponsorship
 - Activities are in Surprise
 - May be in partnership or use venue of operating support grant applicant
- Panel Process
 - Three ladies who made up the panels, slightly different backgrounds in the arts. And have participated in panels and have had prior experiences in serving in the panels.
 - Commissioner Kupper discussed the panels process, how they ranked applicants and how they scored. Also provided feedback for applicants.
 - Project Applicants: Café Flutes, Dysart USD, First Friday Surprise
 - Operating Support Applicants: Actors PLAYground, Honor Dance, On Stage Now, WVAC, WHAM
 - Commissioner Kupper believes that the applicants are all well deserving and provided great applications.
- Award Amounts (Budget approved yesterday, and this is the approved funding)

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

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

Staff presented the musician roster panel recommendations. The commission discussed the following items:

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
 - can 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%)
- Commission representatives was Commissioner Lieu and Commissioner DeJong who are both absent during this meeting.
- Commissioners are excited about the musician list and are looking forward to seeing them live.
- Commissioners reviewed recommended grantees and were in agreement with the panel's recommendations.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items

- No meeting in July - Recess
- Next meeting will take place on August 5, 2026

F. **Current Events and Reports**

- Commissioners enjoyed Spinphony.

- Commissioners are interested in the feedback from the community regarding Spinphony.
- Commissioners said the theater was a great vibe and enjoyed the atmosphere.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. – Commissioner Kupper motioned. Commissioner Forrest 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 0 abstained. 0 No votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> <p>Crystal Kupper, Chair</p>
ATTEST:	<hr/> <p>Danica Marlin, Art in Public Places 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 June 3, 2026.</p>	
	<hr/> <p>Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager</p>