

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 Pullins 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

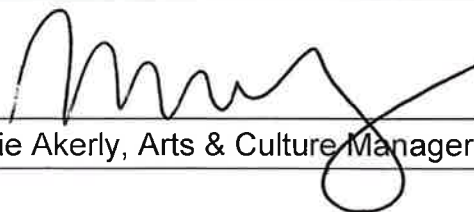
F. **Current Events and Reports**

- 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.

	 Hassan Rasul, 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 June 3, 2026.	
	 Julie Akerly, Arts & Culture Manager