

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE CITY OF PALM DESERT MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Administrative Conference Room, City Hall

73-510 Fred Waring Drive

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449, this meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting and there will be in-person access to this location.

- To participate via Zoom, use the following link: <https://palmdesert.zoom.us/j/83338542730> or call (213) 338-8477, Zoom Meeting ID: 833 3854 2730
- Written public comment may also be submitted to cityclerk@palmdesert.gov. E-mails received by 5:00 p.m. one day prior to the meeting will be distributed to the Committee. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Committee as soon as practicable and retained for the official record. **Emails will not be read aloud** except as an ADA accommodation.

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This time has been set aside for the public to address the Cultural Arts Committee on issues that are not on the agenda for up to three minutes. Because the Brown Act does not allow the Committee to act on items not listed on the agenda, members may briefly respond or refer the matter to staff for a report and recommendation at a future meeting.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one motion. The public may comment on any items on the Consent Agenda within the three-minute time limit. Individual items may be removed by the Cultural Arts Committee for a separate discussion.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Minutes of March 12, 2025.

4.b PROJECT STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

11

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file project status report for April 2025.

4.c INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON FY 2025/2026 PUBLIC ART BUDGET AND PROJECTS

13

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report on FY 2025/2026 Public Art budget and projects.

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

Items removed from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion are considered at this time.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

Items listed in this section are presented for the Committee's review and action. Public comment is allowed on each item, with a three minute time limit per speaker. The Committee may provide direction, request additional information, or take action as appropriate.

6.a DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE FY 2025-2026 WORK PLAN

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RECOMMENDATION:

Identify and establish three to five priorities for the Cultural Arts Committee's FY 2025-2026 work plan.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

7.a PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON

The liaison may provide updates on projects, activities, or other matters relevant to the committee. These are informational items with no formal action.

7.b ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION LIAISON

The liaison may provide updates on projects, activities, or other matters relevant to the committee. These are informational items with no formal action.

7.c CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

The liaison provides updates to facilitate communication between the City Council and the Committee. This is an informational item with no formal action.

7.d CITY STAFF

City staff will provide updates on relevant projects, activities, and other matters within the committee's scope. These are informational items with no formal action.

8. REQUESTS FOR ACTION

Committee members may propose future agenda items within the committee's scope. Items that receive support from at least one other member may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action. No formal action will be taken at this time.

9. ATTENDANCE REPORT

25

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be held on May 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

11. PUBLIC NOTICES

Agenda Related Materials: Pursuant to Government Code §54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with this meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, Palm Desert Civic Center, 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert. Staff reports for all agenda items considered in open session, and documents provided to a majority of the legislative bodies are available for public inspection at City Hall and on the City's website at www.palmdesert.gov.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the intention of the City of Palm Desert to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk, (760) 346-0611, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda for the Cultural Arts Committee was posted on the City Hall bulletin board and City website not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

/s/ Monique M. Lomeli, CMC
Senior Deputy Clerk

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Present: Vice Chair Carol Adney, Committee Member Lori Flint, Committee Member Thomas Mitze, Committee Member Pia Rose, Committee Member Ann Simley, Chair Elizabeth Hauer

Absent: Committee Member Maureen Boren

Staff Present: Management Analyst Erica Powell, Deputy Director of Economic Development Amy Lawrence, Recording Secretary Monique Lomeli

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Cultural Arts Committee was called to order by Chair Hauer on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Vice Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Mitze

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by: Vice Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Mitze

Approve the Minutes of December 11, 2024.

Motion Carried

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

None.

6. ACTION CALENDAR

6.a INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CITY'S POET LAUREATE

Management Analyst Erica Powell presented a staff report and narrated a PowerPoint presentation.

Poet Laureate Lori Davis provided information on the Poet Oasis Workshop and the showcase reading event scheduled for April 16, 2025.

Motion by: Vice Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Simley

Receive and file informational report on the City of Palm Desert's Poet Laureate.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

6.b PALM DESERT LIBRARY ARTS PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Library Manager Jose Garcia provided an update on Library Arts programming and responded to Committee Member inquiries.

This was an informational update; no formal action was taken.

6.c 2025 STUDENT ART AND ESSAY CONTEST VINYL ART WRAP ARTWORK SELECTION

Management Analyst Powell narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Committee inquiries.

Motion by: Committee Member Flint

Seconded by: Committee Member Rose

To select and approve the McCallum artwork, created by Keira Farmer, a student from Palm Desert High School, for the 2025 Student Art and Essay Contest, to be installed as a vinyl art wrap on a traffic signal cabinet at the entrance of College of the Desert and Fred Waring Drive.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

6.d CONSIDER PURCHASE OF RISING INVERSION SCULPTURE

Management Analyst Powell narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Committee Member inquiries.

During the discussion, Committee Members provided the following comments:

- Concerns were raised about the City's sculpture selection process, particularly regarding the bypassing of Committee review.

- Members emphasized the importance of making intentional art purchases, rather than acquiring pieces out of convenience.

Motion by: Vice Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Flint

Recommend that the City Council approve expenditure in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of *Rising Inversion* by artist Cristopher Cichocki (cha-house-key), to be installed in Ironwood Park, upon approval of grant funding from the Arts in California Parks program.

NOES (3): Committee Member Mitze, Committee Member Rose, and Vice-Chair Elizabeth Hauer

Motion Fails (3 to 3)

Motion by: Vice Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Flint

Recommend that the City Council approve expenditure in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of *Rising Inversion* by artist Cristopher Cichocki (cha-house-key), to be installed in Ironwood Park, upon approval of grant funding from the Arts in California Parks program.

NOES (2): Committee Member Mitze, and Committee Member Rose

Motion Carried (4 to 2)

6.e REQUEST FOR DIRECTION ON INCREASED CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR DUELING PALMS SCULPTURE

Motion by: Committee Member Rose

Seconded by: Vice Chair Adney

Recommend that the City Council authorize an increase in the amount of \$106,267.25 to the contract with artist Kyle Absolom for *Dueling Palms* sculpture.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

7.a PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON

None.

7.b ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION LIAISON

Liaison Wallace Colvard provided an update on recent actions taken by the Architectural Review Commission and Planning Commission.

7.c CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In response to member inquiries, Management Analyst Powell provided information regarding the Student Art and Essay Contest and selection process.

Member Flint, with support from Member Mitze requested to invite a sculpture artist to provide an educational presentation regarding the production and selection of sculptures.

Members provided positive feedback regarding the Desert X exhibitions and encouraged residents to participate in the event.

7.d CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

City Council Liaison Nestande provided an update on recent City Council goal setting discussions, including the beautification of the North Sphere.

7.e CITY STAFF

Management Analyst Powell provided updates on the following:

- Successful El Paseo sculpture dedication event
- Plans to secure UCR Palm Desert Center for the 2026 Student Art & Essay Contest

7.f ATTENDANCE REPORT

Report provided; no action taken on this item.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Cultural Arts Committee adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

9. PUBLIC NOTICES

Monique M. Lomeli, Senior Deputy Clerk
Recording Secretary

Erica Powell, Management Analyst
Secretary

Cultural Arts Committee Regular Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2025

DATE APPROVED BY CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: PROJECT STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file project status report for April 2025.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

1. 2025 Desert X Exhibition

The exhibition currently features 11 large-scale, site-specific installations across the Coachella Valley, running from March 8 to May 11, 2025. In Palm Desert, visitors can experience Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams by Sarah Meyohas at Portola Avenue and Frank Sinatra Drive and Double Horizon by Raphael Hefti at Cap Homme Adams Park. For details, visit www.desertx.org.

2. Poet's Oasis Workshop

Poet's Oasis is a free, twice-monthly poetry workshop at the Palm Desert Library, welcoming both new and seasoned poets in a supportive, generative writing environment. Sessions include craft discussions, poetry prompts, dedicated writing time, and feedback. The final session of the 2025-2026 season will be held on **April 16, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**, celebrating National Poetry Month with live acoustic music and refreshments. The event is free and open to the public.

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON FY 2025/2026 PUBLIC ART BUDGET
AND PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report on FY 2025/2026 Public Art budget and projects.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Listed below is the proposed FY 2025/2026 Public Art budget that will be presented to the City Council in May 2025.

- Professional Services: \$100,000
 - o Public Art signage (QR signposts and plaques for artworks), utility cabinet beautification project, community art projects, on-call graphic design services for public art collateral, scanning of public art files, photography services
- Repair & Maintenance: \$140,000
 - o Annual artwork maintenance, phased restoration work, and contingency for unanticipated repairs/removals
- Supplies: \$2,000
 - o Miscellaneous supplies for Cultural Arts Committee, Student Art and Essay Contest, etc.
- Local Meetings, Conferences, and Mileage: \$8,500
 - o Staff reimbursement to attend public art related meetings and conferences
- Other: \$23,620
 - o Advertising and promotion, printing and duplicating, subscriptions and publications, dues, and postage/freight
- Capital Projects: \$310,000
 - o San Pablo Phase II roundabout sculpture and misc. public art projects
- Capital Outlay: \$0
 - o Amount decreased as it is an off year for the El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition
- **Total: \$584,120**

Cultural Arts Committee
City of Palm Desert
(FY 2025/2026 Public Art Budget and Projects)

Listed below are proposed/scheduled projects for FY 2025/2026:

- San Pablo Phase II roundabout fabrication and installation
- 2026 Student Art and Essay Contest
- Poet Laureate Program
- Repair and restoration of *Desert Dessert*
- Replace palm fronds and maintenance of *Baja Palapa*
- Restoration of other artworks (TBD)
- 2027-2028 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition Call for Artists and selection
- Update Public Art Municipal Code and all developer policies
- Design Public Art developer brochure
- Library Deaccession Plan
- Utility Box Beautification Project
- ARTS in California Parks, *Rising Inversion* by Cristopher Cichocki

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total proposed Public Art budget for FY 2025/2026 is \$584,120 and is subject to City Council approval.

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE FY 2025-2026
WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Identify and establish three to five priorities for the Cultural Arts Committee's FY 2025-2026 work plan.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

For FY 2024-2025, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) established a comprehensive work plan to focus its efforts for the year. The three priorities included in the work plan included:

- **2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition**
- **San Pablo Phase II Roundabout Sculpture: *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom**
- **2025 Desert X Sponsorship**

Next Steps

Staff is proposing the following three priorities for inclusion in the FY 2025-2026 workplan. CAC members are encouraged to review these proposed priorities and present their individual FY 2025-2026 priorities during the meeting for discussion. Proposed priorities should take staff time and budget into consideration. During the meeting, members will select three to five priorities for the 2025-2026 work plan which will be forwarded to the City Council for review and final approval.

1. San Pablo Phase II Roundabout: *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom

Dueling Palms sculpture by Kyle Absolom is planned for installation at the San Pablo Avenue and College of the Desert roundabout. Originally proposed in the 2021 Call for Entries, this artwork was highly regarded, leading the City Council to request its installation at this location. Staff is working with the artist, and the project is in the final design phase.

2. Public Art Programming Subcommittee

Establish a subcommittee of up to three Committee members, to develop initiatives that increase community engagement with public art. This subcommittee will identify programming opportunities and explore partnerships and outreach strategies to expand public participation. Recommendations will be presented to the full committee for review and approval.

3. Utility Cabinet Beautification Review and Refresh

Assess existing utility cabinet artwork to determine necessary removals, replacements, or maintenance. A strategic plan will ensure equitable distribution of art-wrapped cabinets while attracting diverse artists. This plan will outline priority locations, artist selection processes, and budget requirements, with a phased implementation balancing maintenance and new installations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for the CAC's FY 2025-2026 Work Plan priorities will be included in the FY 2025-2026 Public Art Budget for the City Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Palm Desert City Council Approved Cultural Arts Committee FY 2024-2025 Work Plan

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2024

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

REQUEST: APPROVE CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2024/25
WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Cultural Arts Committee's Fiscal Year 2024/25 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On February 14, 2024, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) established the following priorities for the FY 2024/25 Work Plan.

- **2025/26 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition** - Located in the median on El Paseo between Hwy 74 and Portola, eighteen (18) sculptures are displayed for two (2) years. A \$5,000 honorarium is awarded to each artist. One (1) year preparation from the Call for Entries to Installation. From July 2024 to early 2025, staff will be working with the new artists on contracting and plans for installation, as well as the current artists on plans for deinstallation and pick up of sculptures.
- **San Pablo Phase II Roundabout Sculpture: *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom** - After the Call for Entries was released in early 2021 for a sculpture to be installed in the roundabout at San Pablo Avenue and San Gorgonio Way, the top two (2) finalists were selected by the City Council and the community voted on their favorite. The runner up, *Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom, was so well received by the community that the Cultural Arts Committee and the City Council suggested it be considered for installation in the San Pablo Phase II roundabout located at the entrance of the Civic Center and College of the Desert. Staff will bring this forward for review in the next few months and if approved, work will commence in FY 2024/2025.
- **2025 Desert X Sponsorship** – Desert X is an internationally renowned contemporary art exhibition that runs biannually each spring throughout the Coachella Valley. Since its inception in 2017, the City has provided sponsorship funding and hosted at least two exhibition sites for each Desert X exhibition. Funds are normally used towards exhibition support and the creation of free public programming. This exhibition engages the local community and has worked to develop educational programming for the local school districts. If funding for the 2025 exhibition is approved, staff will work with the organizer on a sponsorship agreement and permitting for at least two (2) exhibition sites.

Strategic Plan:

The Cultural Arts Committee’s FY 2024/25 Work Plan is in line with the Arts & Culture Mini-Vision contained in the Strategic Plan, which states:

“Arts and culture give a community its soul. Palm Desert is the cultural core of the Coachella Valley. Cultural tourism drives economic growth in Palm Desert. The community is host to internationally recognized cultural events that bring significant economic benefits to the City. Palm Desert is a leader in arts and education, ensuring a well-rounded population that possesses high levels of creativity and critical thinking skills.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for the priorities listed in the CAC’s FY 2024/25 Work Plan will be included in the FY 2024/25 Public Art Budget for the City Council’s consideration.

ATTACHMENT:

1. CAC Priorities FY 2024/2025 – Power Point Presentation



2024/2025 WORKPLAN GOALS

Palm Desert Cultural Arts Committee

February 14, 2024 – Regular Meeting

BACKGROUND – WHY ARE WE HERE?

- Receive Committee Input and Direction pertaining to goals and priorities for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025
- Select three (3) priorities as a Committee
- Present items in the form of a workplan to Council for approval

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Ranking	Priority	Justification
1	El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exhibition is in the central shopping district and receives frequent foot traffic. • Exhibition adds elegance and style to El Paseo.
2	San Pablo Roundabout Phase II – <i>Dueling Palms</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received community’s involvement and support of the City Council.
3	Desert X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in an internationally recognized contemporary art exhibition in associated with the other communities in the Coachella Valley. • The exhibition puts Palm Desert on the map as a significant art and cultural destination. • Attracts locals and tourists.
4	Temporary Installation at the southeast corner of Fred Waring and San Pablo Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly visible location.
5	Community Art Gallery, establish new location and action plan	



DISCUSSION

- Select three (3) top priorities

Cultural Arts Committee

	Year	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	Total Absences	
	Month	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	July	Jun	May	Unexcused	Excused
	Day	12	12	8	11	13	9	11		10	12	8		
Adney, Carol		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	0	0
Boren, Maureen		A	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	E	E	P	1	2
Flint, Lori		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	0	1
Hauer, Liz		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	0	0
Mitze, Tom		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	0	0
Rose, Pia		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	0	1
Simley, Ann		P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	0	0

Palm Desert Municipal Code 2.34.010

Monthly: Three unexcused absences from regular meeting in any twelve-month period shall constitute an automatic resignation of members holding office on boards that meet bimonthly.

Please contact the Recording Secretary to discuss any attendance concerns.

- P Present
- P** Remote
- A Absent
- E Excused
- No Meeting
- ████████ Resigned/Not Yet Appointed